

## **Leadership Qualities, Skills, and Resources**

Giving young people the opportunity to lead their peers or those younger than them is an awesome way to give them ownership in a ministry. Here's a list

*Prayer:* When determining who will be leaders within your ministry, discernment is hugely important. Asking the Lord who should be invited to lead and how you can help to develop their skills is critical to success.

*Defining their role:* Make sure you know what you're asking them to do and give clear expectations. Young people will rise to the expectations given to them, but they must first be clear. Hold them accountable to these expectations after they are given. Consider having the teens help to create these expectations so there is buy in.

*Servant Leadership:* The most important quality of any youth leader is that of servant leadership. The best example we have of leadership is that of Jesus washing the apostles' feet. He encouraged them to do what he did, to wash one another's feet and to serve. This is important for us as adults to model for those who we lead and for them in turn to serve their peers.

*Ownership:* Give teens the opportunity to have ownership over the events and activities you host. Even if it's not every aspect of the session, it will give them the opportunity to learn and flex some of their skills.

*Continue to Grow Them Spiritually:* Help them to grow deeper in their prayer life. If we are asking them to be servant leaders, we need to give them the opportunity to continue to grow spiritually.

*Affirmation:* Give your leaders affirmation for a job well done and help them to fail gracefully when needed.

*Challenge:* Holding your teens, especially your teen leaders to a high standard is important. You're asking them to live differently and to give them the chance to say yes to what the Lord has in store for them even when it's difficult to follow Christ.

*Evaluate:* Give your teen leaders a chance to evaluate how they're doing, give them feedback, help them to learn.

### *Practical Application:*

After discerning who you believe would fit the above qualities well, consider doing a retreat with your adult team and your teen leadership team for training and planning. Some topics can include planning youth nights/youth groupings, how to lead prayer sessions, how to give a witness (then have them prepare their witness talk. Open the retreat with a prayer session reading from John 13:1-15, then wash one of each person's feet, then the person in turn washes the other foot of the person next to them. Have a discussion with the leadership team about why you did this prayer session as well as what it teaches us. Discuss their reactions afterwards (Was this uncomfortable

for someone else to wash your feet? Why do you think Jesus did this? In what ways are we called to serve others?)

Leading your young people by example and being a servant leader will help you to raise up leaders after the heart of God! Keep praying for them. Ask the Lord to show you who needs to help lead your ministry.

Works Cited:

<https://lifeteen.com/cym/blog/cym-blog/investment-required-developing-teen-leaders/>

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