



# PWOC

*Protestant Women of the Chapel*

## WORKSHOP: SERVANT LEADERSHIP

by Kim Worrell

### PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

**RELEVANCE:** Jesus is our model in leadership, and what He modeled was *servant* leadership. In the midst of a world that exalts self-promotion and self-absorption, following Christ's example requires that a leader's focus fix first on those she serves, not herself.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Read the following thoughts on leadership and underline what strikes you as important. You will have an opportunity to share these insights with the whole group.

*Have you ever wondered how important is my life? Have you considered that you have a significant role of partnering with God in His work? Scripture makes it clear that God's actions are imbedded in human feet and hands, and that He has called us to be His mouthpiece to the world. We are surrounded by serious needs and participating in the Leadership Training of women—but not just any women. PWOC is uniquely positioned to help women around the world know God and make Him known. PWOC will corporately realize that potential as each PWOC woman, through God's strength, steps out as a servant leader in her community and moves others towards God's purposes.*

*God wants, and PWOC wants, your feet, hands and voice, your personality, your talents and your spiritual gifts. You are important! We will do everything we can to assist you in becoming a Christian woman leader for this hour.*



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 444 Castro Street, Suite 900, Mountain View, California, 94041.

*Why are we compelled to do this? In August 2005, Newsweek and BeliefNet surveyed 1004 Americans, asking how they worship and what they believe. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of those surveyed described themselves as spiritual, and 84% felt spirituality is important in their daily lives.*

*Despite the strong interest in spirituality indicated by those surveyed, the church is having less impact. According to George Barna, "The American church is dying due to a lack of strong leadership. In this time of unprecedented opportunity and plentiful resources, the church is actually losing influence. The primary reason is the lack of leadership. Nothing is more important than leadership."<sup>1</sup>*

*What is needed at this critical hour is the strong spiritual leadership Christ modeled for us—servant leadership. He listened closely to the Master's voice and did His bidding. Servant leadership demands an active relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. It also requires the humility and self-awareness Christ exhibited in submitting Himself to God's will; "...I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." (John 5:19; NIV)*

*As a servant leader Christ was also attentive to the needs of those He served. He performed ministry in "context," meeting people at a point of practical need and speaking spiritual truth into their lives. He fed the hungry and later said, "I am the bread of life." (John 6:35, 48) To the woman at the well, He offered "living water" (John 4:10). He resurrected a dead brother and then told his sister, "I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11:25)*

*Servant leadership in PWOC does not merely involve meeting needs in our communities; many relief organizations and support groups have that aim. The word "ministry" quite literally means "useful service." In PWOC our goal is first to prayerfully prioritize which needs to meet. It will be helpful to ask, "What real needs aren't yet met on our installation? What gifts and talents do we have this year in our PWOC chapter?" Having prioritized those needs, our job then is to follow God's lead closely. As we seek God's guidance and power every step of the way, He reveals Himself both in us and through us.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Barna, George, ed. Leaders on Leadership: Wisdom, Advice, and Encouragement on the Art of Leading God's People. Ventura: Regal Books, 1997.



## **ACTIVITY 1: A BIBLICAL VIEW OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP**

Form a small group of 3-4 and examine the following scriptures. List the Servant Leadership characteristics stated or implied in these texts in the space below.

1. *Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.'* (Mark 9:35; NIV)
2. *God has given us the task of telling everyone what He is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ Himself now: Become friends with God; He's already a friend with you.* (2 Corinthians 5:19b-20; The Message)
3. *You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.* (John 13:13-17; NIV)
4. *Then He said to them all: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'* (Luke 9:23; NIV)

The characteristics of a servant leader represented in these passages are:

## **ACTIVITY 2: WALKING OUT SERVANT LEADERSHIP**

In your same small group of 3 or 4, read the following scenarios. Based on what you have learned in the previous two segments, discuss how Servant Leadership is being displayed. You will have the opportunities to share your findings to the larger group.



*This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 444 Castro Street, Suite 900, Mountain View, California, 94041.*

**Scenario #1:** Megan is the Programs Vice President of her local PWOC. The board has put out a "Needs Survey" in her PWOC and, in light of the multiple deployments the installation has experienced, the needs are numerous. She forms a prayer team and they spend several weeks praying over which specific needs should be addressed through that year's monthly Programs.

**Scenario #2:** Kristen is the Spiritual Life Vice President for her local PWOC. She has a tremendous gift of exhortation and loves to open each board meeting with a devotional thought about leadership. Instead of presenting every month's devotion herself, however, she chooses to ask a different board member to reflect on a specific scripture and share each month. She feels this is an important way she can model empowering others in service.

**Scenario #3:** Shannon is the President for her local PWOC. She is dismayed when the hospitality chairperson informs her she can no longer stay after PWOC each week to help vacuum the area where they have fellowship. Knowing it is important to return the chapel to its original state before they leave each week, Shannon immediately posts a FACEBOOK service invitation to anyone who could help. She quietly assumes the duty herself until someone steps forward.

## **APPLY IT TO LIFE: OUR NEW DEFINITION OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP**

Form a new small group of 3 or 4. Consider everything you've learned about servant leadership and discuss the following:

Two ways servant leadership could impact how I fulfill my responsibilities:

- 1.
- 2.



*This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 444 Castro Street, Suite 900, Mountain View, California, 94041.*