

Cultivating Leaders: Look to the Bible

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Here are some characteristics to have (as a priest or adult lay leader) if you want to attract younger (or, really, any) leaders. Of course, having the Fruits of the Spirit go without saying.

1. **Be authentic.** Do not conform to the pattern of this world. (Romans 12:2) Young people appreciate someone who is not like everyone else, but is authentic and “keeping it real.” Young people are often criticized for being “different” not realizing we are trying to find ourselves. Let the mission and vision of the Church reflect what you are really trying to do and walk the walk – lead by example.
2. **Be humble.** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves. (Philippians 2:3) The media bombards us with people who are arrogant and look down on others. We are looking for people who, although they may know more than we do, make us feel like our opinion matters.
3. **Be flexible and open to change.** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28) We have ideas: Some might work, others might not. If we don’t try them, we will never know.
4. **Be committed.** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord. (Colossians 3:23) We can tell when you’re doing things halfway and not with complete commitment. We know if you will follow through with your promises. Your commitment will be contagious.
5. **Collaborate.** For just as each of us has one body with many parts, and these parts do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Romans 12:4-5) We have grown up doing group work in school. We know what it’s like to share responsibility and we enjoy it. You might be surprised at all we can do when we work together.
6. **Delegate responsibility.** And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2) All of us are gifted in different areas and are able to work hard. However, some adults make young people “wait in line” until we are old enough or have more experience. Guide us into our experience.
7. **Be passionate.** So ... whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31) Your enthusiasm is infectious. When we see your sincere love for God and people we will wonder why you have that smile and energy all the time. God’s love is palpable. And we will be drawn to Christ and God’s ministry because of you.