

Lads to Leaders

Service Awards

What does it mean to be a leader in the Lord's church? There are many different answers to that, just as there are many different types of leaders in the church. A grandmother who isn't physically able to leave her home can bake bread for the needy, send cards, and call or email people to encourage them. Young people who are physically able to do strenuous work can be involved in many meaningful projects in the church. They are able to physically make a real difference by conducting Bible studies or teaching at mission trips, VBS and Bible classes. They can feed people during disasters and do many wonderful works. However, the important thing is to focus on what you can do, not what you can't do!

There are so many examples from God's Word that discuss what motivates people's behavior. Luke 6:45 tells us, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks." Don't be mistaken; if you have good in your heart, it will show in the things you do for others, but if you have evil in your heart, that will show as well.

The participants, who are real winners in Lads to Leaders, are those who pursue growth and maturity. These young men and women seek to develop the skills necessary to be a blessing to the church from the time they are new Christians until they are old. Like the grandmother, they encourage people in whatever way they can. The Leadership Awards are a great part of that development. Each area of the Leadership Awards provides activities that produce the skills needed to be a well-rounded soldier for Christ.

Each of these awards, unless otherwise stated, has a time allowance of one month and is worth 100 points for completion. The Leadership Awards are a non-competitive, year-round event. The congregation leadership will determine when recognition for achieving the awards takes place. However, the real reward for learning these skills will be obtained in heaven!

Achievement Awards

The Achievement Award is general in nature and used to reward students who, in many different ways, show exemplary leadership skills among their peers. Some examples are as follows:

- A student plans and conducts a special banquet such as the Parent's Appreciation Banquet.
- A student excels in individual preparation for Bible Bowl and/or shows leadership in helping others to prepare, too.
- A student shows vision by creating and helping implement a new idea in their church, school, community, or Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes program.
- A student designs and leads his or her peers in the completion of a special service project.

1. Volunteer Spirit

Because Christianity is a system of grace and not of law, Christians are not driven to serve like slaves, but rather learn to volunteer their services gladly and freely. One who always has to be told what to do can never be a leader. A true leader keeps his or her eyes open, so that they may see what needs to be done and immediately move to do it. He or she has the attitude that *if it is to be, it is up to me!*

Requirements

- Sign a "statement of intent" to pursue the award.
- Attend all class sessions and complete all assignments.
- Learn and relate Biblical and historical stories of men and women who were volunteers (David, Isaiah, Esther, Ruth, etc.).
- Read a book about someone who excelled in their volunteer spirit

Classroom Activities

- Identify and study lives or stories of men and women from the Bible, history or fiction, who were volunteers.
- Identify volunteers in the church, school or community that make an impact on the lives of others.
- Prepare an extensive list of things students can do as a group or individually to demonstrate the volunteer spirit, whether in the church, home or school or community.

Group Activities

- Volunteer service projects, such as: Hospital or nursing home, children's homes, mission work, social service groups, cancer societies, soup kitchens and service projects of clubs.

Individual Activities

- Volunteer to plan and lead a home devotional.
- Volunteer to raise and lower the flag at school for a week or month (this requires two students).
- Learn five scriptures that discuss being a doer.

2. *Bible Knowledge*

A soldier must know everything about his or her role in the army. A Christian soldier must understand and gain knowledge of the Bible. Students who seek Bible knowledge are to be commended. Remember, Bible study is a life-long process. Lads to Leaders encourages young people to establish good habits like daily Bible study that they carry into adulthood. This award is not intended for completion in one month.

Requirements

- Sign a “declaration of intent” to pursue the award.
- Attend all “Lads” class sessions and complete satisfactorily all assignments.
- Research what the Bible says about the importance of Bible knowledge and memorize five of these scriptures; Romans 10:2, 11:33, 15:14; 2 Corinthians 2:14, 4:6, 6:6; Ephesians 3:19; Philippians 1:9; Colossians 1:10, 2:2-3; I Timothy 2:4; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 10:26 and 2 Peter 1:3, 3:18
- Earn a Centurion of Scripture award. If you have earned an award in the past, earn a higher one. For example, if you completed the bronze level, complete the silver or gold level to meet this requirement.
- Earn the Know the Books award. If you have earned an award in the past, earn a higher one.
- Earn the Parade of Winners award. This award is for reading the Old or New Testament in a single convention year. If you have previously earned this award, continue to do so each year.
- Participate in the Bible Bowl competition at the National Convention. Remember, your aim is to increase your Bible knowledge, not just to win a trophy. All students who study the scriptures in the detail required to compete in Bible Bowl are winners, because they have increased their knowledge of God’s word.
- Participate in regular daily Bible study. Set a goal to study a certain number of chapters per day, every day for a month. Make it your goal NOT to skip a day during this timeframe. After the month has concluded, write an essay and if you wish, read it in class about the benefits you reaped from your daily Bible study. Make it a goal to make daily Bible study part of your everyday life, just as you do eating and brushing your teeth. Encourage your family to participate in daily Bible study as well.
- Make it your goal to study your Bible class lesson during the week for the next Bible class prior to class time. Make your goal to do this each week for a month and do not skip a week during this timeframe. If you have a workbook, complete the questions section. If the class is a scriptural study, read the Bible text for the next class and jot down your thoughts, so that you can share them with the class.
- Take notes in the Worship service. Jot down the Scriptures and points of the preacher and study the topic further at home in your regular daily Bible study, also using the research skills you have developed during the Bible class study on Bible research.

Classroom Activities

- Study what the Bible says about the importance of increasing one’s knowledge of God’s Word.
- Help each student learn about the resources helpful to Bible study (concordances, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, etc.)
- Spend as much time in class as needed to teach students about proper Bible study. Assign each student a Biblical topic to research and present in class.
- Help each student learn the various resources they can use to research a Bible topic using online Bible programs. There are many good ones, some of which will allow comparison of different versions side by side and study of commentaries and concordances.
- Show students how to look up a passage online and/or do a search for a particular word or phrase in a reputable online Bible program.
- Teach students how to use a concordance or reputable commentary and discuss with them the difference between a reputable Bible version and a paraphrase version.
- Allow each student the opportunity to share in class their progress as they become more skilled at research on Bible subjects and increase their Bible knowledge.

Group Activities

- Visit the church library or a Christian University library. Have the person in charge explain what books are available and how they may be helpful.
- Visit with someone who is very knowledgeable about the bible or have them visit the classroom. Make notes on what they did to increase their knowledge. Then make a list of things class members can use in their effort to become more knowledgeable in the Bible.

Individual Activities

- Memory work.
- Implement a program of daily Bible study. Give a talk or write an essay on the importance of growing in Bible knowledge as a continuing process.

3. Character Improvement

A leader must have good character or else he will be a selfish leader and will not have the best interest of the followers. A leader who has good character must set a good example. A leader without character is worse than no leader, because they will be leading others down a wrong path. No one has a perfect character. There is always room for growth. One who is unwilling to grow is unfit for a leadership role.

Requirements

- Sign a “declaration of intent” to pursue the award.
- Attend all class sessions and complete all assignments satisfactorily.
- Complete an appropriate reading assignment. For example: Have the class select two of the following Bible “characters” to study. Have them list and discuss in class, the good character qualities of the two they chose. Choose from the following or the teacher can suggest other appropriate characters: Esther, Ruth, Boaz, Samuel Joshua, Solomon, Job, or Elijah.
- Memorize five scriptures relating to character.
- Prepare and present a talk on one Bible character (example: Joseph).

Classroom Activities:

- Complete a checklist and determine three character traits in which each student would like to grow.
- With the help of the adult leader, list ways a person may practice “action guides: (one week for each item).
- Student reports to the class each week on what happened when he/she practiced the action guides. Other students give encouragement and support.
- Use case studies of situations where decisions must be made which demonstrate a character trait.
- Have students watch movies that teach character lessons. Afterwards, have the class review the character lessons learned.

Group Activities

- List as many character traits, negative and positive, as possible (including synonyms) and list Bible characters who exemplified each of these traits.

Individual Activity

- Memory work.
- Notebook log of character related decisions.
- Prepare and deliver a speech (alternate activity might be a poem, essay or drawing if more appropriate to the student’s interests and talents).

4. Christian Graces

The eight qualities mentioned in 2 Peter 1:5-7 are ways in which all Christians are challenged to grow and are especially important for leaders. There is always room for growth in each of the areas. This award is designed to challenge and encourage participants to develop these graces.

Requirements

- Sign a “statement of intent” to pursue the award.
- Attend all class sessions and complete all assignments.
- Memorize 2 Peter 1:5-7 and be able to explain the meaning of each “grace”.
- Prepare and deliver a three-to-five minute talk on one or more of the “graces”.
- Maintain a growth chart or a log of activities showing growth in the graces.

Class Activities

- Let each student rate themselves on each of the eight graces and determine three in which they would most like to grow.
- Help each student to set appropriate growth activities to practice each week.
- Have each student to share each week with the group giving support and encouragement.

Group Activities

- Name individuals from the Bible, history or personal acquaintances who exemplify these qualities. Prepare a chart and add names to it from week to week.

Individual Activities

- Memory work.
- Practice “graces” through planned activities.

5. Citizenship

A democracy continues to function properly only if its citizens act responsibly. While God has ordained civil government and Christ taught that we are to give back to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, in a free society, all subjects must contribute toward the maintenance of our freedoms (Matthew 22:21). Righteousness exalts a nation (Proverbs 14:34). Righteous leaders can help avert wars and other major problems and secure blessings that few people of the earth enjoy.

Requirements

- Sign a “declaration of intent” statement.
- Commit to pray daily for our nation (2 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Learn ten qualities of a good citizen.
- Prepare and deliver a three-to-five minute talk on some aspect of citizenship.
- Memorize the “Bill of Rights” or the Preamble of the Constitution (or teacher may select other key documents).
- Memorize five scriptures on Christians’ attitude toward their country.

Classroom Activities

- Study Bible teaching on citizenship.
- Learn to appreciate government structure and services.
- Study ways to be obedient to and supportive of government functions.
- Invite guest speakers to discuss the roles of some departments of government (law enforcement, judicial system, utilities, mental health etc.).
- Have a prayer session for specific government officials.

Group Activities

- Visit a court in session.
- Visit a legislature in session (if feasible).
- Learn how to properly care for and display the American flag.
- Compose a letter or email to an editor, lawmaker, or other public official about a community concern.
- Role play various situations where individuals are required to make responsible decisions relative to good citizenship.

6. *Conduct*

Conduct can be one of those invisible Christian characteristics. When a Christian has good conduct, it can lead others to Christ. When he or she does not have good conduct, it can drive people away from Christ. We should all strive to have good conduct, so that we are seen as Christians who live lives worthy of the name we wear!

Requirements

- Sign a “declaration of intent” to pursue the award.
- Attend all class sessions and complete all assignments.
- Give a talk or write an essay on Christian conduct in several situations (social events that involve non-Christians, visiting sick, hosting guests, school, church, etc.).

Class Activities

- Invite several people to form a panel for discussion on conduct in various situations.
- Make a poster for the classroom, an article for the bulletin, or prepare a bulletin board at church on conduct.

Individual Activities

- Give a talk or write an essay on appropriate conduct at a school event, at test time, in a discussion session, at a worship service, etc.
- Research and memorize five scriptures on the proper conduct of a Christian. The scriptures could also include those which speak of behavior unbecoming of Christians.

7. *Dependability*

Dependability is a characteristic of every successful leader, whether in school, church, family, government or business. A Christian should always be dependable!

Requirements

- Sign a “declaration of intent” to pursue the award.
- Attend all class sessions and successfully complete all written and oral assignments.
- Prepare and deliver a three-to five –minute speech on dependability.
- Participate in one related group activity.
- Keep a log of your “dependability” achievements.

Class Activities

- Discuss the meaning of dependability, list synonyms antonyms (dictionaries, necessary).
- Study Bible characters known for dependability.
- Practice and act out a play depicting dependability.
- Look up, read, study and memorize scriptures on dependability.
- Learn the qualities of a dependable leader.

Group Activities

- Have an elder or elder church leader share his views on dependability (interview).
- Visit a large bridge (or other structure) and discuss what might happen if the designer and builders had not been dependable.
- Visit a fire station and ask the chief to explain the importance of every fireman being dependable at a fire
- Discuss the role of dependability on a football team. Specifically discuss the roll o the quarterback, offensive line, defensive line and punter/kicker. In what specific way would it affect the team if anyone of these did not do their assigned job?

Individual Activities

- Read a book about someone who was dependable.
- Prepare and deliver a speech on dependability.
- Keep a log for the month of one's own dependability, such as: doing assigned home chores without being reminded, completing homework every day, putting things up, keeping the room clean. (A checklist should be developed and handed out at the beginning of the project.)
- Interview an adult, regarding dependability and how their choices have affected their lives' work.

8. *Family Relationships*

Have you ever thought it strange that sometimes those we love the most-our family members-are those we treat the worst? The family unit is God's plan. Among our greatest blessings are those that we enjoy in a strong family setting. Good families don't just happen. They are the result of good leadership.

Requirements

- Sign a "declaration of intent" to meet the requirements.
- Attend all class sessions and complete all written and oral assignments.
- Memorize five scriptures related to the family.
- Prepare and deliver a three-to-five-minute speech on "What My Family (or a member of the family) Means to Me."
- Maintain a log of contributions for the month toward improving family relationships.
- Help plan and participate in a family attended awards ceremony (perhaps a covered dish luncheon).

Class Activities

Note: The entire family should be involved in this month's project. A letter explaining the activity should be sent to the parents. The entire family should be invited to the first class session.

- Teach family relationships from the scriptures, memory work.
- Role play family planning sessions (vacations, budget, etc.).
- Teach roles of the father and the mother in the family (be sensitive to and provide for children from single-parent homes).

Group Activities

- Prepare a mural or poster of good family activities.
- Plan an outing where families are invited and some of the activities require each family to participate as a unit.
- Invite a professional family counselor to talk with the group about contributions they can make toward strong families.
- Write a poem, essay or “thank you” letter to parents (may be given to parents at the awards ceremony).

9. Friendship

True friends are essential to successful living. Friendships have to be developed. Solomon said that “he who would have friends must show himself friendly”. There are some characteristics which a true friend possesses.

Requirements

- Sign a “declaration of intent” to pursue this award.
- Attend all class sessions and complete all assignments.
- Learn ten characteristics of a friend.
- Keep a log and report on friendship activities.
- Write an essay or speech on “My Best Friend”.

Classroom Activities

- Study Biblical friendships: David and Jonathan, Paul and Timothy, Job and friends, Jesus and Lazarus.
- Discuss qualities of friendship with students determining which qualities they wish to work on (by means of a checklist).
- Group work on outlining and preparing a talk on friendship.

Group Activities

- Plan an outing with activities designed to develop friendship qualities of trust worthiness, closeness, dependability, etc.

Individual Activities

- Read a book that discusses friendships.
- Prepare a talk on “My Best Friend” (or essay or poem).
- Keep a log on friendship activities.
- Memorize five scriptures regarding friendship.

10. Health

The purpose of this award is to form the basis of lifelong habits which promote good health. It will also help students realize that decisions they make when young, will have lasting effects on their health.

Requirements

- Sign a “declaration of intent” to pursue this award.
- Research scriptures on the body in the Bible. Memorize five of these.
- Work with other students to host a seminar or panel discussion on drug abuse.

Class Activities

- Invite a former addict (smoker, alcoholic, etc.) to speak about his or her addiction.
- Invite a police officer to discuss substance abuse.
- Invite a health expert to discuss the symptoms of substance abuse in teens.

Individual Activities

- Memorize scriptures from requirements.
- Give a talk or write an essay on proper attitudes toward our bodies.

11. Industriousness

The purpose of this award is to give motivation to students who will learn to do some practical jobs. Students should be taught to value honest work as a way of life.

Requirements

- Sign a “declaration of intent” to pursue the award.
- Attend all class sessions and complete all written and oral assignments.
- Prepare and deliver a three-to-five-minute talk on the relationship of hard work and success.
- Engage in work to earn money for a leadership trip or other worthy projects.

Class Activities

- Study scriptures relating to work and memorize five of these: Proverbs 10:4-5, 14:23, 21:25; Ecclesiastes 10:18; Nehemiah 4:3-6; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:8; 1 Corinthians 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11.
- Discuss appropriate and inappropriate attitudes toward work.
- Have someone who has been unemployed discuss the problems that happen to a family when they are unable to work due to disability or due to the economy.
- Brainstorm ways youth may work – to earn money or just help others.

Group Activities

- Volunteer to work by doing yard work or house cleaning for a shut-in, or cleaning church grounds, school or park.
- Schedule a tour of a factory or work place where work may be observed to learn about teamwork and work specialization.

Individual Activities

- Learn how three adults earned their first dollar, and tell the stories to the leadership class.
- List the blessings that come to a family because of work.
- Memorize five Bible scriptures relating to work.
- Set a goal to earn and pay for your expenses to the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes convention.
- Make a three-minute talk to your class on the relationship of hard work and success.

12. Peace Leadership

There is a need for establishing and maintaining peaceful relationships in every aspect of human existence: international, national, local, family, and personal. Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers...” (Matthew 5:9). Let’s learn to love peace and to be leaders in promoting it.

Requirements

- Sign a “statement in intent” to pursue the award.
- Attend all class sessions and complete all assignments
- Complete appropriate reading assignments
- Memorize five scriptures relative to peace.
- Provide a weekly report on your instances of peacemaking at home and school.
- Be able to list the enemies of peace.

Classroom Activities

- Study peacemakers of the Bible and of history.
- Have students report on “peace action guides” practiced the previous week with group support and encouragement.
- Have a veteran or “peace officer” visit to talk about the price of peace.

Group Activities

- Make wall plaques or posters on peace for the classroom or home.
- Plan and conduct a devotional on peacemaking.

Individual Activities

- Read a book on the life of a great peacemaker.
- Set goals for self in peacemaking activities.
- Memorize scriptures.

13. Pioneer

Great leaders are pioneers. Not all frontiers are on uncharted seas or unexplored lands. There are frontiers challenging pioneers in every field of human endeavor including spiritual growth, human relationships, science, art, music, literature, psychology and all the rest. The purpose of this award is to make youth aware of many great things yet to be dreamed of and accomplished.

- Sign a “declaration of intent” to pursue the award.
- Attend all class sessions and successfully complete all written and oral assignments.
- Prepare and deliver a three-to-five-minute speech on the importance of pioneers in history and for the future.
- Complete an appropriate reading assignment.
- Participate in group activities, such as an awards ceremony and field trips.
- Select appropriate local sites to visit (such as the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala., Disney World in Orlando, Fla., Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC).

Class Activities

- Discuss contributions of pioneers in our country’s development.
- Name and study Bible pioneers –learn to tell the story of Abraham from Genesis or the “missionary journeys of Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13.
- Discuss characteristics of a pioneer: vision, perseverance, overcoming opposition or ridicule, enduring hardships.

Group Activities

- Find out and write an essay on the pioneers who settled your community.
- Who are some modern pioneers in your community?
- List as many areas as possible where pioneers are needed in today’s world (especially in your own community).

Individual Activities

- Read a book regarding a pioneer that you admire
- Prepare and deliver a speech.
- Identify an area in which you would like to be a pioneer.

14. Second-Mile Service

Jesus taught “second-mile service” (Matthew 5:41); that is, doing more than the minimum required of us. The very concept of leadership implies going beyond the minimum of the “getting by” lever. Great leaders gladly shoulder the load for the second mile.

Requirements

- Sign a “declaration of intent” to meet the requirements.
- Memorize Matthew 5:41 and be able to relate the historical significance of “whoever compels you to go one mile”.
- Read a book about someone who is known for second mile service.
- Prepare and deliver a three-to-five-minute speech on second mile service.
- Participate in a group service project that promotes second mile service.
- Attend all class sessions and complete all assignments.
- Keep a personal log for one month on your activity that went beyond minimum requirements at home and school.

Classroom Activities

- Study Bible examples of those who give second mile service (example; Genesis 5, Hebrews 11).
- Study characters in a secular history or fictional writings who did more than the minimum.
- Teach the concept that the greatest in the Kingdom is the greatest servant.

Group Activities

- Visit a “hall of fame” to find some ways in which individuals have excelled in their lives. (Note: “Halls of Fame” can be found in most communities in the form of public statues, plaques, universities, hospitals, corporate boardrooms, state capitals, county courthouses, etc.).
- Invite (or go to the office of) an outstanding person in the community to have him/her share with the group.
 - Compile a list of Second Mile Servants with whom the students are acquainted.
 - Individual Activities
 - Keep a log of second mile services rendered.
 - Prepare and deliver a speech on second mile service.

15. Self-Starter

Set your own alarm clock, get up, and dress for school and church services without being called by anyone else, for one month. This shows students can be responsible for taking care of self and is the first step towards self-discipline.

16. Social Graces

In order to be a leader one must learn to flow well with others, thus earning their respect and desire to follow his lead. The purpose of this award is to develop awareness and skills in proper social behavior. A Christian must always be the first to be mannerly in every situation.

Requirements

- Sign a “declaration of intent” to pursue the award.
- Attend all class sessions and complete all assignments.
- Prepare and deliver a short talk on the value of good manners.
- Complete an appropriate reading assignment.
- Maintain a log of special efforts of polite behavior at home, school, church, etc.

Class Activities

- Study and memorize appropriate scriptures (example: Luke 2:42).
- Learn some principles of good manners toward peers, younger children, parents, ladies, elderly, and people with special needs.
- Start a “courtesy club”.

Group Activities

- Have an expert in telephone etiquette visit the class and discuss the right and wrong ways to converse on the phone. Have the class act out the different types of behavior discussed.
- Have someone visit with groups to discuss the value of proper dress, grooming, and personal hygiene.
- Have a “Social” dinner where everyone dresses up, the dinner table is set appropriately and all rules of etiquette are followed.

Individual Activities

- Complete appropriate reading assignment.
- Interview your “most admires” adult and bring your facts to class to discuss how he or she learned social graces.