

Nurses Leading the Way

What does leadership look like in nursing? What are the characteristics of good leaders? No matter what your role in nursing, you are a leader. In this New Testament letter, Peter urges church leaders to remember a few basic principles and encourages them to be guided by Jesus' example. Use the questions below for group discussion during National Nurses Week.

Read 1 Peter 5:1-11 from *The Message*:

¹⁻³ I have a special concern for you church leaders. I know what it's like to be a leader, in on Christ's sufferings as well as the coming glory. Here's my concern: that you care for God's flock with all the diligence of a shepherd. Not because you have to, but because you want to please God. Not calculating what you can get out of it, but acting spontaneously. Not bossily telling others what to do, but tenderly showing them the way.

⁴⁻⁵ When God, who is the best shepherd of all, comes out in the open with his rule, he'll see that you've done it right and commend you lavishly. And you who are younger must follow your leaders. But all of you, leaders and followers alike, are to be down to earth with each other, for—

God has had it with the proud,
But takes delight in just plain people.

⁶⁻⁷ So be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time. Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you.

For discussion and reflection:

1. What qualities does Peter encourage leaders to cultivate?
2. What leadership responsibilities do you have? Who are you in a position to influence in your personal and professional life?
3. If you applied these leadership qualities in your workplace, what effect might this have?
4. How does the image of Christ as a shepherd impact you as a leader? Looking at vs. 6-7, what do we learn about how God relates to us? How does his care for us allow us to live differently?
5. If God has a vision for our potential, how can we also unlock the potential in those around us? What steps can you take to strengthen the leadership characteristics found in this passage as you lead the way for others?