

Servant Leadership

Nurses serve patients in the basest of ways, with ADLs or cleaning up messes from sick patients. Yet nurses are also in positions of leadership by supervising staff, planning patient care, teaching, etc. How do we balance these extreme roles in our profession while honoring the Lord?

Read Psalm 23:

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

For discussion and reflection:

1. The author of the psalm, David, is writing about how the Lord relates to him. Put yourself in his place and read this again with your name for every "me" and "my". How does the Lord meet your needs by how he relates to you?
2. Re-read the Psalm, underlining the verbs and descriptions of leadership qualities.
3. Read it again, circling the verbs and descriptions of servant qualities.
4. Now think of yourself in the role of nurse:
 - How do you use leadership qualities in your role?
 - How do you use servant qualities in your role?
 - How do these qualities affect the spiritual care you give your patients?

Thank the Lord for being the Good Shepherd who deeply cares for you. Ask him to show you how you can care for others by serving or leading them.