

Motherhood as a Model for Leadership

Four leadership roles: 1) Teacher, 2) Counselor, 3) Judge, 4) Spokesperson.

Consider how each of these leadership roles is fulfilled by a mother, and consider how they are also applicable to the spiritual leadership of the church. Supply scriptural support.

1. Define teacher:

- a) How do mothers fulfill the role of a teacher?
- b) What kinds of things are mothers responsible for teaching?
- c) Consider such things as work skills, acceptable behavior, values, social interaction, and ability to organize or fit into an organization. How are these things taught by a mother?
- d) Consider the same things as above, but in the context of the church and spiritual life. How are these things taught by a church leader, such as an elder?
- e) What guidelines do the scriptures give us in these areas?

2. Define counselor:

- a) How do mothers fulfill the role of a counselor?
- b) What does a willingness to be a counselor demonstrate to a child about his (her) mother?
- c) What are the limitations of being a counselor?
- d) How does a church leader fulfill this same role?
- e) Do the same limitations apply?
- f) What advantages are found in having church leaders fill the role of counselors?
- g) What guidelines do the scriptures give us in these areas?

3. Define judge:

- a) How do mothers fulfill the role of a judge?
- b) Why is it important for a mother to occupy such a role?
- c) Consider the multiple roles and responsibilities of a judge; which is most commonly thought of and which are really most important in everyday affairs?
- d) How does a church leader have a role as a judge?
- e) Why is it important for the church and each Christian that church leaders occupy such a role?
- f) What kind of skills are important in this role?

4. Define spokesperson:

- a) When do mothers fulfill the role of spokespersons?
- b) Why is it important for children to have a spokesperson?
- c) What will being a spokesperson sometimes cost a mother?
- d) When do church leaders have the role of spokesperson?
- e) Why is it important for church members to have a spokesperson?
- f) What will being a spokesperson sometimes cost a leader?
- g) What guidelines do the scriptures give for this role of leadership?

5. For people to stand behind a leader they need:

1. Understanding (of what the leader expects of them and wants to accomplish)
2. Trust (in the leader, his ability to accomplish goals, and his concern for them)
3. Participation (in shaping plans and accomplishing goals)

- a) How does a good mother achieve each of these things with her children?
- b) How does a church leader achieve these things within the church (really before becoming a leader, but also as ongoing reinforcement)?