



Developed for the
Synod of Alberta
and the Territories
and adapted for the
Learning-Leadership
Development
Committee by
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Council Devotions

Angry at the ‘no’ answer?

Read Luke 9:51 - 56

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, ‘Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?’ But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

Ponder: [In pairs or in groups of 3, discuss what you hear from the reading.]

Recall, but don’t share, when a really good idea of yours got shot down.

How can we avoid reacting like James and John?

How do we avoid being a ‘Samaritan Village’?

Summarize: [Hear from the other groups.]

Pray:

‘**P**’ – **praise** the qualities of Christ.

[You may include grace, mercy, patience ...]

‘**R**’ – **remember** the things God has given you.

[Salvation, life ...]

‘**A**’ – **ask** for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your deliberations.

[Include those items under consideration at this meeting.]

‘**Y**’ – **yield** to God’s will.

[Not my will, but yours be done.]

This devotional outline is intended to help you create your own opening devotion for your council meeting. The focus is on some aspect of leadership. It should promote discussion about Jesus and how he worked with his followers. Devotions in this style encourage council members to share their thinking about the role of leadership. This is a guide only and should be adapted to the time available and to your group. This opening devotion may take 5 – 10 minutes to conduct, but it will take a little preparation on your part. You may focus on a theme like: constructive use of power, gaining a common purpose, planning and preparation.