



Developed for the  
Synod of Alberta  
and the Territories  
and adapted for the  
Learning-Leadership  
Development  
Committee by  
Allyn Langager

Contact:  
Sharon Villetard  
10014– 81 Avenue,  
Edmonton, AB  
T6E 1W8  
Ph: 780 439 2636  
Fax: 780 433 6623  
[SVilletard@elc.ca](mailto:SVilletard@elc.ca)  
[www.albertasynod.ca](http://www.albertasynod.ca)

# *Council Devotions*

## *First or Last?*

**Read Mark 9:35 and 10:42 - 45**

**He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’ ...**

**So Jesus called them and said to them, ‘You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.’**

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

How can we be ‘servant and slave of all’ AND be leader?

How do we apply this teaching here?

**Summarize:** [Hear from the other groups.]

**Pray:**

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

[You may include Christ’s obedience to death, sacrifice ...]

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

[Freedom, salvation, fair leaders, good government ...]

**‘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. Possible themes may be: power vs servitude, leadership in the world vs leadership in God’s kingdom, self-centeredness vs other-centeredness, ‘recognized’ leaders vs servant leaders or model leadership. Check into the context of Jesus’ words.