



Developed for the  
Synod of Alberta  
and the Territories  
and adapted for the  
Learning-Leadership  
Development  
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# *Council Devotions*

## *Servant leadership*

**Read John 13:12-17**

**After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.**

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

How do we show great respect to honoured guests?

How should we behave so as to imitate the example Jesus sets?

How might our councils, boards and committees reflect this teaching?

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

**Pray:**

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

[You may include teacher and model, grace, healing.]

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

[Salvation, an example to follow, servant leaders.]

**‘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 your will 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 wish to focus on themes such as being host, Jesus giving regular traditions a deeper meaning, our relationships, worthiness, witnessing by example or roles of Lord and Teacher.