

Faith Trek Training Centers: Leadership Lab I & II

This activity is designed to nurture a knowledge and understanding of God's provisions for those who are led to lead. Leadership Labs I & II will invite children, youth and adults to explore some practical and age-appropriate ways to they might be called to strengthen God's mission and ministry in their own congregations.

Leadership Lab I provides an electronic listing of age-appropriate roles and responsibilities that may be custom-designed for easy reference and response.

Leadership lab II gives participants a more interactive introduction to the various ministries in your congregation. Presentations may be led by the children, youth or adults who are currently involved in them.

The Faith Trek Travel Packs introduced and distributed in the First Steps gathering activity will be used to highlight the key learning for each activity and integrate the overall theme and content for future reference. The Faith Trek theme design is provided for you to make a banner, poster or PowerPoint slide to display in your gathering area. A Faith trek sign design is also available for you to identify the title and location of each activity.

The Leaders Notes for this activity, along with the necessary preparations, equipment and supplies are outlined below. A Program Planning Grid (PDF file) is available to assist you in coordinating some of the details and tasks involved.

Scan through the activity outline and adapt it to honor your own schedule and intent. You might also consider using this activity to enrich other intergenerational or age specific events throughout the year.

Approximate time: Leadership Lab I 10 minutes
Leadership Lab II 10 minutes rotations

Equipment and Supplies:

- [Opportunities for Leadership & Service for Adults](#) (PDF file)
- [Opportunities for Leadership & Service for Youth](#) (PDF file)
- [Opportunities for Leadership & Service for Children](#) (PDF file)
- [Travel Tip #8 reference sheet](#) (PDF file)
- [Faith Trek Travel Pack and Travel Tips](#) (PDF file)
- [Faith trek sign design](#) (PDF file)
- A Bible and an LBW - A Lutheran Book of Worship
- The Want-Ads from a recent newspaper

Leader's Notes:

Leadership I & II are very similar. Either one will help your participants become familiar with opportunities you have for leadership and service in your congregation and community.

Leadership Lab I is dependant upon someone to facilitate an overview of the specific roles and opportunities you have available for children, youth and adults in your congregation and surrounding community.

Leadership Lab II invites you to engage leaders from various areas of ministry to offer brief orientations to the services they provide. This event might include hands-on demonstrations and active participation.

Whichever lab you choose to offer, a generic list of [Opportunities for Leadership and Service](#) may be helpful. Separate lists of possible roles for children, youth and adults are provided. Please feel free to download, change and adapt the lists to reflect your own context for ministry.

Locate the Offertory Prayer in the Lutheran Book of Worship. You may wish to write it in large print so that you can pray the prayer altogether.

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Activity:

Note: The first part of this outline may be used by both Leadership Lab I and II.

Display the Want-Ads and engage participants in a brief discussion. Invite them to respond to some of the following questions.

- Who has ever read through the Want-Ads?
- How have jobs changed over the last 50 -100 years? Name some opportunities for leadership and service in your community.
- Does the church have a Want-Ad section? Name some of the jobs children, youth and adults doing in your congregation. Do you think these jobs have changed over the years?

Point out that God equipped us with many talents, interests and abilities that we will spend the rest of our lives nurturing and engaging. In and through our baptisms, we are also called to embrace specific passions for ministry. The Gift Discovery Center provides three age-appropriate tools for identifying these gifts as they emerge.

Take a moment to express your thanks and praise for all that God has given you. Refer to the large print version of the Offertory Prayer as you invite them to pray it with you.

Tasks are publicized within the church for reasons beyond their mere accomplishment.

- Individual passions and gifts will begin to emerge as they are given opportunities for expression.
- A sense of belonging, purpose and significance will be strengthened as people engage in opportunities for involvement in their congregations and faith communities.
- Meaningful opportunities for leadership and service will deepen and widen a person's understanding and commitment to a lifelong journey in faith.

At this point, you may proceed to focus on the intent of the first lab or expand it to include the interactive components of the second lab.

Distribute copies of your custom-designed lists of opportunities for children, youth and adults to become involved in leadership and service. Encourage participants to talk with people who can help them get involved in specific opportunities of ministry.

Refer to the Travel Tip #8 reference sheet and the Travel Tip #8 in the Faith Trek Travel Pack as you identify Galatians 6:10 as the key learning to retain for inspiration and support as they journey in faith.

So, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially those of the family of faith. Galatians 6:10

Be sure to take a moment to celebrate the work God is doing in and through your people of all ages in your faith community, knowing that every congregation has its unique realities and challenges and strengths for ministry.

Pray for God's blessing on each one of your participants as they grow in their confidence and commitment to follow God's lead as they journey in faith.