

Skill: Being a Servant Leader at a Retreat

We have different roles when we attend a retreat as a bible study leader than as a bible study member. This week we will be discussing how you as a leader can be the best servant to your members so they can get the most out of the retreat.

1) Help your bible study member prepare for the retreat

- Be sure they know where it is and how they will be getting there.
- Be sure they have everything they need for the retreat.
- If there is a costumed event, let them know that there is a theme and a majority of attendees will bring costumes. Consider having a group outing to get pieces to somewhere like Good Will.

2) Anticipate Needs

Inevitably, someone will have forgotten something and we can bless him or her with our preparation. Consider packing a few spare things such as costume pieces to share, Advil, allergy medicine, a flashlight, a bible, a blanket, or other toiletries. You can always leave them in your car.

3) Be Intentional In The Car

Be prepared ahead of time with questions. Feel free to Google unique conversation starting questions. They could be fun or deep. If you have a single gender group, it could be a good time to share testimonies. In this time, lay the foundation for the retreat.

4) Pray For The Retreat

Pray for your members who are attending. Pray that everyone will get there safely. Pray for safety at the retreat. Pray that we will all learn and grow. Pray for good rest. Pray for yourself. Pray for the speaker. Pray for those who have test on Monday or Tuesday. (You get the idea.)

5) Give The Gift Of Going Second

This is an important skill to develop for a leader. We should bless people by paving the way and letting them follow even if this requires us to get out of our comfort zone. Do not make someone else be the first to get out on the dance floor. Initiate conversations. Ask the first question. We know more people and are most likely more comfortable than new students in our ministry.

6) Do Things With People

Whether you are walking to the cabin, riding horses, or listening to a message have a buddy. Plan activities with your bible study members. Sit with in them in sessions. If you are going to study during the free time, invite others to join you. If you are an introvert this can make the retreat even more tiring, but you can a huge blessing to the first time attendees and other introverts. Also if you know that you have introverted bible study members, be sure to go out of your way to help them get involved.

7) Be On The Lookout For The Loners

Nothing is worse than going on a retreat and being ignored. If you see someone alone, go talk to him or her. You will be a blessing to that person and to whoever invited that person.

8) **Talk To New People**

At the retreat, go out of your way to meet new people. Also, eat meals with different people. This could be a good time to use the conversation stack or your unique conversation starting question.

9) **Be Cheerful**

Do not be the complainer. One complainer can bring down the whole group. If you stayed out dancing until late, do not be grumpy in the morning. Set an example of joyfulness.

10) **Discuss The Message After The Session**

Ask your members what they thought about it. What stuck out to them? What did they like?

11) **Be Prepared To Be Flexible**

Retreats can be busy. We all need to be open to things changing. Also, be open to new activities outside of your comfort zone. Even if you did not intend to go to ride the horses, maybe you could bless someone by accompanying them. (This example would require you to have clothes for horseback riding ahead of time!)

12) **Be Aware That Retreat Can Be Emotional**

When we get away from the chaos of school and work, the Lord can speak more clearly. Sometimes this can cause conviction or other intense emotions.

13) **Follow the Holy Spirit**

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will prompt us to go talk to someone after a session. Follow that prompting even if it cuts into another activity.

14) **Be Gracious To The Sleepers**

Do not be that person who comes back late making noise, laughing, tripping over things, or turning on lights. Be the example of respect for those sleeping.

15) **Let Your Bible Study Share At The Upcoming Study**

Ask the people who attended the retreat to share with the rest of the bible study what they learned at the retreat. Hopefully they will be fired up and want to share. Also, see if your bible study can hold them accountable to any new convictions!

16) **Lastly, Don't Forget Your Own Spiritually Growth!**

You know why on airplanes they always instruct flyers to place the mask on themselves first before helping anyone else with theirs? Because it's a parent's natural inclination to get the masks on their children and then help themselves. However, if the parent blacks out before getting the child's mask on, they have accomplished nothing and helped no one. In the same vein, we must take care of ourselves, so we can better serve others. This sounds simple, but it's counterintuitive for some leaders who put others' needs before their own. You will be less helpful to those you serve without your own "oxygen mask" of quiet times and personal reflection. If you are running low on the goodness, you will not be serving our team optimally. This is also your escape from school and work and daily stresses so take advantage of it.