

resources for women leaders

This download contains suggested reading on aspects of leadership. The books are divided into the following sections:

- [Business books on leadership](#) – general interest books.
- [Christian books on leadership](#) – books on aspects of church or other Christian leadership.
- [Women in leadership](#) – books from a business or Christian perspective on such issues as women's style as leaders, challenges to women leaders, role models for women leaders.
- [Biblical and theological studies](#) – books which explore biblical material on women leaders, including passages used to restrict women's leadership and studies of biblical women leaders.
- [Mentoring](#).

Business books on leadership

Buckingham, Marcus, and D. Clifton, **Now Discover Your Strengths** (Simon and Schuster, 2001).

A guide to understanding and developing talents based on Gallup research. It includes an access code to the Strengthsfinder inventory on the web. Other *Strengthsfinder* books include Tom Rath and Barry Conchie, **Strengths-based Leadership** (Gallup Press, 2008), an excellent book on aspects of leadership, why people follow leaders, and teamwork ([Reviewed June 09](#)).

Buckingham, Marcus, **The One Thing You Need to Know** (Simon and Schuster, 2005).

Fascinating insights into great managing, great leading, and sustained individual success.

Collins, Jim, **Good to Great** (Random House, 2001).

Insights into what makes great leaders: beyond 'charisma' to 'level five leadership'.

Covey, Stephen R, **The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People** (Summit Books, 1989).

A practical model for leading oneself and relating to others.

Forster, Mark, **Do It Tomorrow - and Other Secrets of Time Management** (Hodder & Stoughton, 2006).

Not 'manyana', but a useful technique on abolishing the 'to-do' list and having a 'closed' list instead. Full of great ideas designed to help leaders function more efficiently, this book has been transformative for a number of clergy. ([Reviewed August 08](#)).

Goleman, Daniel, **The New Leaders: Transforming the Art of Leadership into the Science of Results** (Time Warner, 2002).

Develops and applies Goleman's groundbreaking *Emotional Intelligence* (1996).

Lencioni, Patrick, **The Five Dysfunctions of a Team** (Jossey Bass, 2002).

Lencioni, Patrick, **Death by Meeting** (Jossey Bass, 2004).

Two excellent books, on teamwork and meetings respectively, using a 'fable' format to convey deceptively simple but compelling insights.

Ortberg, Nancy, **Unleashing the Power of Rubber Bands: lessons in non-linear leadership** (Tyndale, 2008). An intriguing book, which happens to be by a Christian leader, on aspects of leadership.

Lively, honest and thought-provoking. ([Reviewed November 08](#)).

Christian books on leadership

Allender, Dan, **To be told: know your story, shape your future** (WaterBrook Press, 2005).
How looking at the story of our life can help us co-author with God the rest of our story.

Banks, Robert, and Bernice Ledbetter, **Reviewing Leadership: a Christian evaluation of current approaches** (Baker Academic, 2004)

An evaluation of Christian and faith-based approaches to leadership. [\(Reviewed Sept 2010\)](#)

Cottrell, Stephen, **Hit the Ground Kneeling: seeing leadership differently** (CHP, 2008).

A short pithy book which turns a number of proverbs and axioms on their head. The book challenges leaders to be contemplative rather than hurried. [\(Reviewed July 09\)](#)

Edmondson, Chris, **Fit to Lead** (DLT, 2002).

A reflective and practical guide to ministry, with particular focus on self-care and personal growth.

Evans, Pamela, **Driven Beyond the Call of God** (BRF, 1999).

A powerful book on the damage of 'drivenness', and how to avoid burn-out.

Fernando, Ajith, **Jesus-Driven Ministry** (IVP, 2002).

Reflections on Jesus as a leader from Mark's Gospel, written from a non-western perspective.

Hybels, Bill, **Courageous Leadership** (Zondervan, 2002).

Distilled wisdom from thirty years as a leader from the pastor of Willow Creek church.

Lawrence, James, **Growing Leaders** (BRF, 2004).

Reflections on life, leadership and Jesus, exploring how we can continue to grow as leaders.

Nouwen, Henri, **In the Name of Jesus** (DLT, 1989).

81 pages of profound radical reflection on the nature of Christian leadership.

Seidel, Andrew, **Charting a Bold Course** (Moody, 2006).

If you can't get onto a leadership programme, let one come to you! A leadership workbook with twenty chapters exploring leadership under five headings: personal pilgrimage, character, vision, relationships, skills. Written by an American pastor, each chapter includes questions for personal reflection or use with a group. To be worked through slowly rather than read as a book.

Tidball, Derek, **Builders and Fools: Leadership the Bible Way** (IVP, 1999).

Explores New Testament images associated with leadership: builder, fool, ambassador, athlete, parent, pilot, scum, shepherd.

Wright, Walter, **Relational Leadership** (Paternoster, 2000).

A biblical model for leadership combining the best of the corporate world with excellent study of Jude, Philemon and Colossians.

Women in leadership

Beach, Nancy, **Gifted to Lead: the Art of Leading as a Woman in the Church** (Zondervan/Willow, 2008).

Readable book by a member of Willow Creek's leadership team, exploring some of the challenges of being a woman leader in the Church. ([Reviewed December 08](#))

Cameron, Deborah, **The Myth of Mars and Venus** (OUP, 2007).

An exploration of the concept of 'difference' and how it affects assumptions about men and women, including in leadership. ([Reviewed July 08](#)).

Eagly, Alice H and Linda L Carli, **Through the Labyrinth: the truth about how women become leaders** (Harvard Business School Press, 2007).

Excellent comprehensive exploration of why women are excluded from leadership.

Jamieson, Penny, **Living at the Edge: Sacrament and Solidarity in Leadership** (Mowbray, 1997).

Reflections on leadership and ministry by the first woman in the Anglican Communion to become a diocesan bishop.

Porter, Jeanne, **Leading Ladies: Transformative Biblical Images for Women's Leadership** (Innisfree Press, 2000).

Puah and Shiprah, Miriam, Deborah and Esther: four female archetypes from the Bible who represent women's experiences and perspectives.

Porter, Jeanne, **Leading Lessons: Insights on Leadership from Women of the Bible** (Augsberg, 2005).

Eight scripturally-based studies of women leaders.

Stead, Valerie, and Carole Elliott, **Women's Leadership** (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009)

A comprehensive exploration of women's leadership: why women are often not perceived as leaders, stereotypes and barriers, and how progress might be made. ([Reviewed April 2010](#))

Thomson, Peninah, and Jacey Graham, **A Woman's Place is in the Board Room** (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).

Research-based study of why so few women make it to senior executive positions in business, and how the situation might be changed. Followed up with **A Woman's Place is in the Boardroom: the Roadmap** (2008) which gives more 'how-to' for aspiring women.

Ward, Rosie, **Growing Women Leaders** (BRF/CPAS, 2008).

An exploration of Scripture, history and the contemporary experience of women as leaders in the Church. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Warner, Pauline, **Women's Icons of Ministry** (Grove Books, 1994).

An intriguing study of images from Scripture of women who provide insight into the nature of Christian living and ministry.

Willhauck, Susan, **Backtalk! Women Leaders Changing the Church** (Pilgrim Press, 2005).

Stories of change and strategies for change in the Church, drawing on feminist and womanist theology.

Biblical and theological studies

Bauckham, Richard, **Is the Bible Male? The Book of Ruth and biblical narrative** (Grove, 1996).
A response to feminist challenge on the male perspective of Scripture; useful introduction to some of the issues, and looks at the book's distinctive women's perspective.

Bauckham, Richard, **Gospel Women: Studies of the Named Women in the Gospels** (T & T Clark, 2002).

In-depth study of Ruth, Elizabeth and Mary, Anna, Joanna, Mary of Clopas and others.

Belleville, Linda L, **Women Leaders and the Church: Three Crucial Questions** (Baker Books, 2000).
Belleville answers the following three questions: 'In which ministries can women be involved? What roles can women play in society? Can women hold positions of authority?' In answering these, the author deals with Bible passages which have been used to limit the ministry of women.

Bilezikian, Gilbert, **Community 101: Reclaiming the Local Church as Community of Oneness** (Zondervan, 1997).

A biblical foundation for the call to community, including discussions of ministry and leadership which affirm the equality of women and men as leaders.

Edwards, Ruth B, **The Case for Women's Ministry** (SPCK, 1989).

Excellent book covering New Testament and early Church 'Foundations', and issues of 'development' – how these insights may be worked out in the Church today.

Evans, Mary, **Woman in the Bible** (Paternoster Press, 1983 and reprints).

A valuable treatment of Old and New Testament texts and their cultural background.

Giles, Kevin, **The Trinity and Subordinationism: the doctrine of the Trinity and the contemporary gender debate** (IVP, 2002).

Explores whether an orthodox view of the Trinity teaches the eternal subordination of the Son of God, and the related question of whether women are created to be subordinated to men.

Goddard, Lis, and Clare Hendry, **The Gender Agenda:** (IVP, 2010)

An excellent and readable introduction to the debate, written in the form of an email conversation between 2 women with different views. Surveys texts from Genesis to the Pastorals. [\(Reviewed March 2011\)](#)

Keener, Craig S, **Paul, Women and Wives: Marriage and Women's Ministry in the Letters of Paul** (Hendrickson, 1992).

Careful examination of key passages about relationships and women in ministry.

Osiek, Carolyn, and Margaret MacDonald, **A Woman's Place** (Augsberg Fortress, 2006).

Excellent recent book outlining research into women and 'households' in the early church, with implications for women as leaders.

Payne, Philip, **Man and Woman, One in Christ: an exegetical and theological study of Paul's Letters** (Zondervan, 2009)

A substantial but readable book examining key passages relating to the ministry of women and concluding that Paul does not restrict women's ministry.

Perrin, Ruth, **Inspiring Women: discovering biblical role models** (Grove B52, 2009).

Excellent short study of the importance of role models, and some minor biblical characters [\(Reviewed November 2009\)](#)

Pierce, Ronald W, and Rebecca Merrill Groothuis (ed), **Discovering Biblical Equality: complementarity without hierarchy** (IVP, 2005).

Articles on biblical, theological and practical dimensions of gender issues, from an evangelical perspective which affirms the complementarity of the sexes without hierarchy of roles.

Stackhouse, John, **Finally Feminist** (Baker Academic, 2005).

Excellent: egalitarian viewpoint, but the author challenges existing arguments on both 'sides' of the debate about women leaders, arguing for a more nuanced approach.

Storkey, Elaine, **Created or Constructed? The Great Gender Debate** (Paternoster, 2000).

In what ways are women and men really different, and where do these differences come from? An excellent introduction to issues of psychology, sociology, philosophy and theology.

Van Leeuwen, Mary Stewart, **Gender and Grace** (IVP, 1990).

A thorough and readable examination of gender issues by a psychologist with insights from biology, sociology, theology and history. Challenges the traditionalist view of gender roles.

Mentoring

Helm, Nick and Philip Allin (ed), **Finding Support in Ministry** (Grove P90, 2002).

An excellent collection of short articles on mentoring, ministerial review, learning partnerships, spiritual direction, supervision, etc. 4 pages of practical wisdom on aspects of mentoring.

Hopkins, Bob, and Freddy Hedley, **Coaching Missional Leaders** (ACPI Books, 2008)

A readable book, designed for mentoring/coaching pioneer leaders, but with useful insights into developing as a missional leader.

Hughes, Bryn, Discipling, **Coaching, mentoring: discovering the hallmarks of Jesus' discipling** (Kingsway, 2003).

A useful book from UK context on mentoring and coaching as tools of disciple-making.

Kline, Nancy, **Time to Think: Listening to ignite the human mind** (Cassell, 1999).

An introduction to 10 behaviours which form a system called a 'Thinking Environment'. This book is a step by step guide to how to achieve this in any situation.

Leimon, Averil, Francois Moscovici and Helen Goodier, **Coaching Women to Lead** (Routledge, 2011)

An excellent book on coaching/mentoring, written from a business perspective but with excellent insights into how mentoring can help women leaders. The case for a separate approach, insights into what helps women succeed and questions and models for mentors to use. (Reviewed December 2010)

Mallison, John, **Mentoring to Develop Disciples and Leaders** (Open Book Publishers, 1998).

Practical guide to effective mentoring, including a good section on tools and skills for mentoring.

Pue, Carson, **Mentoring Leaders: Wisdom for Developing Character, Calling and Competency** (Baker, 2005).

Practical guidance on the spiritual aspects of Christian leadership development.

Stanley, Paul D, and Robert Clinton, **Connecting** (Navpress, 1992).

An introduction to mentoring, exploring a variety of models of mentoring relationship.