



## How to be a “Pillar” in Your Group

*1 Peter 4:11 says, If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen (NIV).*

St. Peter is often called a pillar of the church. He gives us some great advice in the previous passage to help us define how we, too, can be pillars. A pillar is an object used to support a structure. In organizations such as the LWML, “pillars” are members who are prominent supporters that set an example for the others in their group to follow. Strong groups need strong members. Here are some ways you can help build up your LWML and support the work God has given them to do:

- **Be in the Word.** God’s Word is our strength. Servants need to be nourished by the Word in order to be strong. Being in the Word as a group and as an individual will strengthen your bond as sisters in Christ.
- **Connect.** Find ways to connect personally with others. Ask questions and identify common areas of interest. Do something outrageously kind for a sister in Christ with no expectation of anything in return. Your positive, genuine efforts will have a lasting impact.
- **Pray.** Praying is a bit like blogging. With blogging we pour our hearts out in online entries, which in itself is cleansing. We then hope someone will read the entry, and may even look to see if anyone has offered advice. With prayer, we don't need to wonder if anyone is listening; we know God always hears us, and He offers us direction and guidance in His Word to inspire us with ways to address our problems. He of course delights when we share our joys with Him!
- **Collaborate.** Your sisters in Christ are an excellent support system. Ask for their opinions and listen to what they have to say. Incorporate their input into your decision making. Work on inclusion and resist exclusion.
- **Put yourself out there.** Go out of your way to greet a sister you haven't talked to in a while. Never ignore someone because you think she ignored you first; she probably never even noticed you were there because she was trying to decide whether the oven had been left turned on or not. And that's the way it starts – once you begin to do it, others try it too, because they see it's safe and enjoyable.
- **Do the right thing because it's the right thing to do.** Demonstrate integrity and stand up to unethical comments or decisions. Often all it takes is one brave soul to ask a sensible question, "Do we all really believe that this is the right thing to do ... that this is what God would have us do?" Then more people will feel strong enough to say that they, too, don't agree. That one brave soul can be anyone. With God’s help, it can be you.
- **Be Confident in God.** God doesn’t send the equipped ... He equips those He sends!