

Read the Word: 1 Timothy 3:1-16

Disciple Your Family: Discuss godly characteristics to look for in church leaders, and ones they should build into their own lives.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



Key Truth: Godly Leaders Display Worthy Character, Heart, and Skill (1 Timothy 3:1-16)

APPLY: Recognize both godly and ungodly leaders by the fruit they produce—their behavior, character, and the impact and consequences of their teachings.

- *What characteristics indicate godly leadership? What characteristics indicate ungodly leadership?*

APPLY: Choose and follow the example of pastors and elders who display and are growing in the characteristics given in 1 Timothy 3:2-7.

- *How do these qualifications help us better understand the role of a pastor?*

APPLY: Choose and follow the example of deacons who display and are growing in the characteristics given in 1 Timothy 3:8-12.

- *How do these qualifications help us better understand the role of a deacon?*
- *Is it necessary for every leader to possess these qualities in equal amounts? To what extent do spiritual gifting and personality come into consideration?*

APPLY: Everyone in the church is to live out godly characteristics so the lost can see the difference it makes to know Christ.

- *Why is it important that everyone in the church pursue holiness by putting godly characteristics into action?*
- *How does the private life of a believer (family life, habits, attitudes) affect their public witness? Why is this important for every follower of Jesus?*



Key Truth: Godly Leaders Model Godly Characteristics Within the Unique Context of Their Ministry (Titus 1:5-16)

- *How does a person gain leadership? Why is leadership more than just a title?*
- *Why do you think Paul emphasized character traits over ministry skill when giving qualifications to both Timothy and Titus?*

APPLY: Help godly spiritual leaders by honoring them, following their leadership, and putting their teaching into practice.

- *How do the different contexts of Timothy and Titus remind us that ministry leadership is not “one size fits all”?*
- *When you consider your own context (family, workplace, or church) what qualities from these lists are most important for you to develop?*
- *What does it look like for a church to support leaders who are faithfully pursuing these qualities, even as they face difficult ministry challenges?*
- *In what ways are all Christians called to lead, even if they don’t have a specific title?*

Build a foundation: Discussion questions for elementary age students.

- Why is it important for the leadership of a church to represent both the Church and Christ well?
- Why is it important to pray for your church leadership?
- How can you be a godly leader to other believers?
- Do you think being a godly leader can affect how an unbeliever views the Church?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **2 Peter 3:18.**



Discuss This Week’s Building Block:

The early church appointed two offices for church government: deacons and pastors (or elders).

Everyday Extras:

Holding a leadership position in the church, whether it’s being a pastor, deacon, on the church staff, or a Sunday School teacher, can be challenging at times. Talk about how Satan will try to tempt these people to go against the qualities for leaders in God’s Word. Write the names of the pastors, church staff members, deacons, and teachers in your church on small pieces of paper. Place the names in a basket. Each day, choose several from the basket and pray for those leaders.

Preschool Highlights

Today your child learned Everyone Needs Jesus. God told Philip to go to a man traveling in a chariot, and Philip obeyed. The man was reading God’s Word. Philip asked the man if he understood what he was reading. The man did not. Philip helped the man learn about Jesus. The man chose to follow Jesus and Philip baptized him.

We can tell others about Jesus too.