



LESSON 2: WHAT A GOOD LEADER LOOKS LIKE | TITUS 1: 1-9

Greetings Leaders, my prayer for you, as we jump into the first nine verses of this letter from the Apostle Paul, is that you would be encouraged to help students understand what a good, godly leader looks like. Paul starts this letter to a young pastor named Titus with a greeting, his longest of any letter and a challenge of the job he left Titus to do: to straighten out the mess that was left on Crete, and to appoint new leaders of the church. Sounds rather straightforward, yet it was two massive jobs for a young pastor to accomplish on a Greek island, in the first century Roman empire, known for being a place with no morals.

Leadership is an important concept and one that gets talked about a lot...and not just at churches, but at schools, and jobs, and organizations, pretty much everywhere. The world puts a high value on leadership, one of the very few values that the world and God share. However, their definitions of leadership couldn't be further apart. This week we are going to look at what God has to say about being a leader and what is required of those who seek leadership in a christian community.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

In this lesson, we want students to examine what makes a good, godly leader. From Paul's example of a church elder we want to spotlight how we should live our lives above reproach. It's not always easy and we are never going to be perfect, but how do we strive to be "good"?

LESSON OVERVIEW

In this lesson, we will look at the introduction of Paul's letter to Titus and the two things that Paul wants Titus to do on the island of Crete. Paul's reason for leaving Titus on Crete was to straighten out what was left unfinished and to appoint elders in every town. It is in Paul's qualifications of an elder that we see the blueprint of what a godly leader looks like and how they should live.

BIBLE PASSAGES

The following passages will be covered in this lesson. Read through them, and use the margin to take notes.

Teaching Group 1: Isaiah 5: 20 (MES)

Doom to you who call evil good and good evil,
Who put darkness in place of light and light in place of darkness,
Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Teaching Group 2: Romans 12: 17-21 (MES)

Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it." Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

Small Group Passage: Titus 1: 1-9 (NLT)

This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives.² This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began.³ And now at just the right time he has revealed this message, which we announce to everyone. It is by the command of God our Savior that I have been entrusted with this work for him.

⁴I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share.

May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you grace and peace.

⁵I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you.⁶ An elder must live a blameless life. He must be faithful to his wife and his children must be believers who don't have a reputation for being wild or rebellious.⁷ A church leader is a manager of God's household, so he must live a blameless life. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered; he must not be a heavy drinker, violent, or dishonest with money.

⁸Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must love what is good. He must live wisely and be just. He must live a devout and disciplined life.⁹ He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.

PAUSE AND REFLECT

TEACHING FROM THE HEART

After reading these passages, I feel God is teaching me, challenging me, convicting me...

Teaching Group 1: Isaiah 5: 20 (MES)

Teaching Group 2: Romans 12: 17-21 (MES)

Small Group Passage: Titus 1: 1-9 (NLT)

Is your heart ready to teach this lesson? If no, what will it take to get your heart right to teach?

Now that you're done, look through your above thoughts and make which ones you feel may be appropriate (should the opportunity arise) to teach, communicate or share with your small group.

TEACHING GUIDE

Starting Out

Begin the lesson by helping your students generate some thoughts about the theme of the lesson. Use the following fill-ins to assist you. Feel free to allow some discussion.

What does being a **leader** mean to you? Is there a good way to be a leader? Is there a bad way to lead? Even **the world** puts a high value on leadership. Can you name a few great leaders according to the world's standards?

In this first lesson on the book of Titus we are going to look at Paul's instructions for a **godly leader**.

Teaching Groups "Study"

This is the time for you to break your C-group into two different groups. Make the groups "random" and see to it that these groups change each week. Give the following instructions to your C-Group:

As you break into groups, don't sit with the groups - LET YOUR STUDENTS DEAL WITH THE PASSAGE ON THEIR OWN. After a couple of minutes, you should walk around to check on and help each group.

Teaching Groups "Teach"

Have each group give their "presentation" and summary; don't let the other students in the group be disruptive. Since you may experience a degree of CHAOS once the TEACHING GROUPS are done sharing. I suggest you take a few moments to wrap up each passage (you can either do this after each group is done, or after both of them have finished). This will allow you to highlight the important points from each passage and relate them to the theme of the night's lesson.

SMALL GROUP TIME

Use your small group time to a) discuss the Bible passage and answer any questions, b) make personal applications, and c) share prayer requests and pray.

Bible Study and Discussion

Read Small Group Passage: Titus 1: 1-9 (NLT)

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⁸Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must love what is good. He must live wisely and be just. He must live a devout and disciplined life.⁹ He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Does anything in this passage seem weird or doesn't make sense?
2. How does Paul introduce himself? Do you think that has any significance?
3. What title does Paul give Titus? What does he call him?
4. What are the 3 things Paul says he was sent to do? (verse 1)
5. According to Paul, what shows us how to live Godly lives?
6. What does truth give, according to Paul in verse two?
7. According to the text, why did Paul leave Titus on Crete?
8. What do you think "complete our work there" means?
9. What is an elder? How would you describe it? Do we have church elders now?
10. According to Paul, how must an elder live?

. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think Titus was prepared to do the two things Paul asked him to do? Straighten up what was left unfinished or complete their work on the island and appoint leaders in every town.
2. Look back at that list of elder qualifications, which one of those would be the hardest for you? Which one(s) do you think you do a pretty good job of?
3. Paul's qualities of a good leader seem to be written about an older man. You probably don't have a wife that you need to stay faithful to, or kids to whip into shape, how might some of these standards apply or take shape as a junior high or high school student?
4. Is it funny that one of the qualifications for an elder is they must enjoy having guests in their home? Do you find that weird? How does that make a good leader in your eyes?
5. A good leader must "encourage others with wholesome teaching"; what does that mean to you? Is that something you think you could do or are doing? Why?
6. Why do you think an elder of the church must live a blameless life? Can you describe what living a blameless life would look like to you? Is that even possible?
7. Lastly, do you think everyone is called to be a godly leader?