



## **LESSON 4: HOW TO LIVE | TITUS 2: 1-10**

Tonight we are going to look at Titus Chapter 2 and what the Apostle Paul has to say about how we should live. Paul is writing to his young apprentice pastor Titus and instructing him how to help the Christ followers in Crete live out their faith. Cretans were known for lack of morals and being wild people, yet Paul gives five different people group's instructions for how to live. To live a life that points to Jesus, to live a life that shows outwardly the life change that has taken place. As students jump into this text we will focus on Paul's instructions for young women and young men.

### **LESSON OBJECTIVE**

In this lesson, we want students to unpack what it means to be a Christ follower. As a young man or woman, to look at Paul's instructions and ask questions about our own lives and how we are living.

### **LESSON OVERVIEW**

In this lesson, we will look at Paul's instructions for right living and what he has to say to five different groups of Christians. How to live the way God wants us to no matter what stage of life we are in, whether we are free or owned by someone. We will study what Paul has to say to older men, and older women, to young men and young women and lastly slaves.

## BIBLE PASSAGES

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

### Teaching Group 1: Colossians 3: 22-24 (NLT)

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. 23 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. 24 Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.

### Teaching Group 2: Matthew 6: 1-4 (NLT)

“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. 2 When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. 3 But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. 4 Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

### Small Group Passage: Titus 2: 1-10 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup>As for you, Titus, promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching. <sup>2</sup>Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely. They must have sound faith and be filled with love and patience.

<sup>3</sup>Similarly, teach the older women to live in a way that honors God. They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers. Instead, they should teach others what is good. <sup>4</sup>These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, <sup>5</sup>to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the word of God.

<sup>6</sup>In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely. <sup>7</sup>And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. <sup>8</sup>Teach the truth so that your teaching can’t be criticized. Then those who oppose us will be ashamed and have nothing bad to say about us.

<sup>9</sup>Slaves must always obey their masters and do their best to please them. They must not talk back <sup>10</sup>or steal, but must show themselves to be entirely trustworthy and good. Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way.

## PAUSE AND REFLECT

### TEACHING FROM THE HEART

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

#### Teaching Group 1: Colossians 3: 22-24 (NLT)

#### Teaching Group 2: Matthew 6: 1-4 (NLT)

#### Small Group Passage: Titus 2: 1-10 (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.

Have you ever been on a long trip? If you travel a long distance, be it by boat, walking or plane, it matters what path you take. Anyone who pilots could tell you the smallest degree off-course can make a giant difference. The same is true about our lives, so it matters how you live. Tonight we are going to look at how we should live, as Christians in an imperfect world, what should we do and not do, because how we live and treat others matters.

## 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 2: 1-10 (NLT)

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<sup>3</sup> Similarly, teach the older women to live in a way that honors God. They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers. Instead, they should teach others what is good. <sup>4</sup> These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, <sup>5</sup> to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the word of God.

<sup>6</sup> In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely. <sup>7</sup> And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. <sup>8</sup> Teach the truth so that your teaching can't be criticized. Then those who oppose us will be ashamed and have nothing bad to say about us.

<sup>9</sup> Slaves must always obey their masters and do their best to please them. They must not talk back <sup>10</sup> or steal, but must show themselves to be entirely trustworthy and good. Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way.

## CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Does anything in this passage seem weird or doesn't make sense?
2. What instructions does Paul give to older men? How should they live?
3. According to Paul, how should older women live? What do you think that means?
4. What does "Slander others" mean to you?
5. According to the text, we should teach others what is good, how do you do that?
6. What instructions does Paul give to young men? Other translations use the words self-disciplined or controlled as a way to live, how do you think we are to simply live wisely? What does that mean to you?
7. According to the text, what type of teaching can't be criticized?
8. How should slaves live? In verses 9 & 10 how should slaves live?

## .APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think it means to be filled with love and patience? What does that look like to you?
2. According to the text, how does one develop “sound faith”? Is this something you can do?
3. Why do you think Paul cares so much about not “slandering others”? Have you ever seen this? The destruction of slander. How do you not participate or stop it in your life?
4. For young women, what do you think it means to you to live wisely and pure? What would that look like in your life?
5. Why do you think Paul give instructions for right living to slaves? What does he have to say to them? Why do you think these are important?
6. Do you think it is right or wrong to apply Paul’s instructions for slaves to anyone who is an employee? Like you could swap out the word slave for worker, try it... does that change your actions? How should you act at work?
7. According to Paul, how do we make the teachings about God attractive in every way? Are you doing this in your life now?
8. In your own words, why do you think it matters how you live your life? Does the way you live matter? Do you think God has a way he would like you to live?
9. Lastly, in your opinion, how do we change our lives? If someone wanted to change the way they acted or how they were living, what would you say to them? How would you tell them to live? How would you say those words to yourself?