

Growth Group Lesson
October 29-30
1 Timothy 3

Recap: Paul reveals the importance of authority structure within the church and works to correct the effect of the false teachers in this area. Authoritative teaching of the Bible in the church is reserved for elders alone (men with good character and reputation). Any others who would teach in the church gathering fall under the authority of the elders, men or women.

Spend some time praying with your group asking God to help us to hear and learn from his word today. Ask for help in understanding and applying his truth to your lives this week.

Get to know one another:

1. What is one of your favorite memories at Good Shepherd? What was God doing in your life at that time?

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Here Paul describes the qualifications of the role of an overseer, or elder. Paul offers encouragement to men who aspire to be overseers, telling them it is “a noble task.” Paul also recognizes that the task of overseer is not meant for everyone, as he also provides a list of qualifications for overseers in the church.

2. Why is it a “noble task” to be an overseer (elder)? **Verse 1**
3. What is an elder called to do? **Titus 1:5-9, Acts 20:26-31, 1 Peter 5:1-4**
4. Take a moment to reflect on the qualifications listed in verses 2-3. Why is it important that elders have these character and reputation qualifications?
5. Not all of us will be elders, but the character requirements are something we should all aspire to. How are you working toward those character traits in your life?
6. Why do we work to grow toward these qualities? **2 Peter 1:3-11, John 17:20-23**
7. How can you invite the Holy Spirit to change your character this week?
8. Why is it important for the overseer to “be well thought of by outsiders”? Does this mean we should care about what people think of us?

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Paul describes the qualifications for deacons. Where the role of elder is reserved for only men, the role of deacon is for both men and women (**verse 11** refers to women who are likewise deacons).

9. What are deacons called to do? **Acts 6:1-4**
10. Why do deacons have similar qualifications to elders?

Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16

Paul reveals his intent in writing this letter to Timothy, so they “will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God.”

11. Why does Paul use the image of a household when talking about the church? **John 1:9-13, 1 John 3:1-3, Eph. 2:11-22**
12. According to the Bible, how does the household of God act toward one another? **John 13:34-35, Eph. 5:15-21**
 - a. Are there any others verses that you can think of?
13. Take a moment to evaluate what this looks like in your life. Share what is going well and what you would like to work on.
 - a. How will you continue or begin to practice that this week?
 - b. How can this group help you do that?
14. Who do you know that needs to see and join this household of God?
 - a. What conversations would you like to have with them this week?

Spend time praying, asking for God to lead your group in loving Him, one another, and your neighbors.

- Pray for our Good Shepherd elders.
- Pray for our Good Shepherd deacons.
- Pray for soft and humble hearts to submit to and trust our elders leadership.
- Ask God for motivated and empowered hearts to reach and serve the people who God is leading you to share your faith with. Ask God for specific people to share the Gospel with this week.
- Ask God for love and unity in your group, so that the world may see a clear picture of who Jesus is.
- Pray for one another for anything going on in your lives.