

Leader's Life Group Homework Guide

For the week of November 11, 2018

(This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing & leading your group in discussion)

DIGGING DEEPER (Don't feel like you have to cover all the questions or thoughts. Be sensitive to the needs of the group and where the Holy Spirit may be directing you as you walk through the material)

The Book of Titus Main Idea: Right living Through Sound Doctrine

Key Questions:

- What do you believe the Mission of the Church should be according to Titus 1:1-2.
 1. Where people come to know who Jesus Christ is. For "God's Elect"
 2. Grow up in Christ. To nurture their knowledge of the truth so that their outward behavior reflected their inward belief.
 - Learning is said to take place when a person's behavior changes as a result of gaining new information.
 - Illustration: a person who genuinely understands the law of gravity should behave accordingly when standing on the ledge of a skyscraper. **"Knowledge"** experiential knowledge or practical wisdom. Someone can believe a truth yet lack the practical skills to apply it effectively.
 - Illustration: I understand perfectly well how a piano works. That each key I hit will respond with a note. I know how it works but lack the practical skills to make beautiful music come out of it.
 3. Finish Well. Help them understand their eternal destiny.
 - Paul is showing us what the church should be about. What our starting point is, what we should be doing now and then how do we finish.

Become a Follower of Jesus
Grow in your Faith
Finish Well

- Agree or disagree with this statement. **"If the truth that you have does not lead to a godly life, there is something radically wrong with your faith."**
 - Paul saw his role as more than just getting people to accept Jesus. He longed to have them understand the complexities of grace and to help them skillfully apply it to every aspect of their lives. DISCIPLESHIP.
 - "Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is not alone. John Calvin"
- Read Titus 1:6-9. Why is it so important to have Good strong servant leadership in the Church?
 - As go the leaders, so goes the Church
 - A health church must have qualified leaders to accomplish its primary purpose
 - It is easy to veer off course
 - While corporations want shrewd business people, full of charisma and wielding powerful influence, the church needs men who will conform to a different standard.
 - A church needs servant leaders who bear the same qualities that Jesus demonstrated – he came to serve rather than be served.
 - Elder must be a good coach who knows when to push and when to comfort. Who is able to show people their sins, errors and summon them to repentance and change.
 - The danger of those who 'contradict the truth' – "false teachers" is in their ability to spread their corrupt behavior like a cancer.
 - "A pastor needs two voices, one for gathering the sheep and the other for driving away wolves and thieves. . . . They much know the truth, live the truth, teach the truth, and defend the truth against the clever ruthless enemy." John Calvin
 - Talent and intelligence are fine qualities of a leader, but the essential quality is courage. "Fear not" the most commanded thing in the bible, why? Because the realm of truth is not a playground, it is a battleground.
 - Every community of believers will encounter opposition – sometimes from the outside but guaranteed from the inside.
 - Evil always had been and always will be a threat to the church and it must be dealt with.
 - Satan's role – master deceiver, to kill, steal and destroy.
- Read Titus 1:10-12. Why is Paul so adamant that these people must be "Silenced"?
 - As go the leaders, so goes the Church

- Means they must be muzzled. S.W.A.T needs to be sent out – Spiritual Whoop Ass Team. Means stuffing something in their mouths – to SHUT THEM UP. Why do this without delay? **Because it will tear churches apart.**
 - This is not about someone on the outside having a different opinion from mine. They can think anything they want . . . but within the church, heck no. I am the Shepherd of the Sheep but I am also the Hunter of the Wolves.
 - Why do these people exist? – To take advantage of the week \$ gain. Nothing has changed over time.
 - You know, the Bible is never very nice when it identifies false teachers. Have you noticed that? It doesn't say, "Oh, we certainly want to accept them. They do have another view, but we want to be..." It doesn't accept them that way. There is no "Political Correctness here." Paul calls them as they are.
- Read Titus 1:13-14. Paul says to rebuke them sharply, how does that work in our Politically Correct Culture? What is the motivation for Paul saying these words?
 - "rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith." Reprove, rebuke all of this has a purpose and the is to hopeful bring them to redemption. Restoration is the motivation but not usually the outcome.
 - You want to go after them, not for the sake of just damning them, but for the sake of rescuing them
 - **Restoration is the Motivation but not usually the Outcome.**
 - "severely" - a strong word, apotomōs. It comes from two words: temnō, "to cut," you know, "with a knife or an axe"; apo, "off, cut off." "Cut them off severely." It's used for one who cuts off the branch of a tree with one blow of an axe, just severs it. "Cut off their opportunity; silence them." Very strong language. Obviously you want to do it with patience; you want to do it with kindness.
 - Rebellious men and woman almost always thrive and multiply unless confronted.
 - Read Titus 1:15-16, Matthew 15:11. What do you think Paul is telling Titus here? Can you change the inside by first changing the outside?
 - Now remember the context is Jewish and they believed that if you did all the ceremonies and kept all the traditions, fulfilled all the "commandments of men" - everything that you were supposed to do - you would purify yourself. In other words, they were working from the outside in.
 - They were fine with thinking that they need to become a Jew but they still wanted to do what they wanted to do where their behavior didn't change.
 - Purification is about the internal rather than the external. But the truth is when you are PURE on the inside then that affects the outside.
 - If you're pure on the inside and you're right with God, everything you do is pure, everything you touch is purified
 - "minds and consciences are corrupted". Not just in how they think but who they think they are to the very core.
 - Since the inside is defiled and filthy, everything they touch is defiled. In fact, they're so defiled on the inside, he says in verse 15, "both their mind and their conscience are defiled."
 - Practical atheism: You live as if there were no God.

NEXT STEPS:

- How are you doing in the area of Growing in your faith? Do you just have "Knowledge" or is it more experiential knowledge which translates as practical wisdom. Someone can believe a truth yet lack the practical skills to apply it effectively.
- Pray for the Leadership of the Church as they are forever on a battleground not a playground.

PRAYER REQUESTS