

Warm-up Questions

Choose one and discuss as a group.

1. Pair up (mix it up, don't just keep spouses together): Describe to the other person an important role you contribute in life, using only details of what you do, but never actually saying what it is you do. How easy or difficult is it for the other person to determine your role?
2. Discuss as a group, which is right?
 - When putting on socks, left foot first or right foot?
 - When making a sandwich, peanut butter first or jelly?
 - When crossing your arms, left on top or right on top?
 - When showering, shampoo first, or soap first?

Engage God's Word

- *Invite each person to open their Bible to Titus 1*
- *Share the name of someone who they consider to be a parent in the faith and why.*

Lead a time of prayer, thanking God for spiritual disciplers...people who pour their lives into others, and for giving us the opportunity to do that for others as well.

Share a summary introduction of Titus:

- This brief book is a personal letter written by the Apostle Paul to his young disciple Titus.
 - This letter (divided into 3 chapters) is immensely practical, written to encourage and instruct Titus regarding doctrinal matters of leading the church in Crete.
 - The letter also served as written authorization that Titus' ministry was authoritative, a valid expression of the Apostolic faith.
 - The letter provided insight into Paul's plans; in this, it was uniquely personal to Titus.

Read Titus 1:1-3

Discuss God's Word

Paul shares the **designation** of his office (bondservant/apostle), the **nature** of his office (for the faith...and knowledge...), the **basis** of his office (in hope of eternal life...at the proper time manifested in his word) and the **function** of his office (the preaching with which I have been entrusted...)

1. What stands out to you personally in Paul's salutation? Why?
2. How do you think that this comprehensive scope of Paul's office affects everything else written in this letter?

3. What questions does this passage lead you to ask...about God? About Paul? About yourself?

Applying God's Truth

Exercise: Jot down your own responses to these four questions

1. What spiritual "office" do you see yourself serving in follower of Jesus? (designation)
 2. For what purpose do you occupy this office? (nature)
 3. From what ground or authority do you serve in this office? (basis)
 4. What does it look like to do the work of this office day-to-day? (function)
- How does it change or challenge your thinking of your role as a Christ follower to consider it so comprehensively?

Discuss God's Word

Read Titus 1:4; Galatians 2:3; 2 Corinthians 7:6-7; 13-16

1. How do these background passages of Galatians, and 2 Corinthians help you appreciate how Paul addresses Titus?
2. What questions does this passage lead you to ask...about God? about people?

Applying God's Truth

1. How do you think discipling relationships are mutually beneficial, as modeled by Paul and Titus?
2. How have you experienced a mutually beneficial discipling relationship?
3. How has someone's discipleship been spiritual parenting to you?

Discuss God's Word

Read Titus 1:5

1. What stands out to you in this verse?
2. What questions does this verse lead you to ask?

Applying God's Truth

There is no getting around that Paul entrusted to Titus a *tough* assignment – to put the church in order on this rowdy, notorious island by putting elders in every town.

1. What do you think the assignment said about what Paul thought about Titus? What do you think the assignment said about what Paul thought about God?
2. Why do you think it was a priority of Paul's to have Titus set the church in order in this way? Why do you think this was necessary?
3. What is your understanding of the role of elders and how elders are important to the function of bringing order like what was needed in Crete?

Closing

Explain: God inspired Paul to encourage, instruct, and inform his friend and disciple Titus with this letter. As we explore it together, may the Lord similarly encourage, instruct, and inform us through the enlightenment of his Holy Spirit.

1. What will you do new or different in response to God's word?
2. Who will you tell about what you've discovered from His Word?
3. Based on this time together, what can we pray about?