

Week 1: Overview of Titus

Scripture Passage: Titus 1-3

Theme: *Read through the book, discussing themes and questions.*

Icebreaker:

If you were to write a letter to someone in your field of expertise, who would you write? What is one piece of advice would you give them?

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen

Introduction:

In Titus, Paul is giving a vision of life that touches people in small but decisive ways – A life that has eternal consequences. He is setting out the truly good life. Paul knows that truth is what produces goodness and godliness. The truth that creates a good life is the gospel. That is the truth that brings life and changes life. This good life overflows into other's lives. This good life is a missional force. (Tim Chester)

Over the next seven weeks we will be diving into Paul's letter to his friend and "true son," Titus. Paul left Titus on the island of Crete in the Mediterranean Sea and has encouraged him to raise us church leaders and train them in how to lead Godly lives, devoted to doing good.

This week we will be reading through the entire book of Titus, only three chapters. As we read through this letter you will look for the purpose, major themes, the overall tone (mood or feeling), repeated words or ideas, and questions that the letter raises.

Quote: Tim Chester

Paul is writing to encourage Titus to ensure the gospel permeates throughout the church, especially its leaders. Chapter one is about keeping the gospel central. Paul warns that those who depart from the Gospel become unfit for doing anything good. (1:16). Chapter two is about ensuring the gospel is central to everyday life. Paul underlines that the grace of God teaches us to live godly lives (2:11-12). Chapter three is about ensuring the gospel is central for the sake of the mission. Paul tells Titus to stress the gospel that so that people may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good (3:8). Living the good life of the Gospel is always challenging when we live in a wider culture that defines the good life in other ways.

Discuss:

- Why is it important that the gospel permeate through church leaders?
- How might this letter be important, not only for Titus, but for Christians today?
- How is the gospel equivalent to living the good life? How is a gospel centered good life different than how the wider culture defines the good life?

Challenge: AS a group read through Titus together, either using the manuscript provided, or your own bibles. As you read through the letter look for the overall tone, major themes, and repeated words or phrases. Feel free to mark up the text, highlighting themes, underlining important words or phrases, recording thoughts or ideas in the margins. Writing down questions or concerns you have with this letter.

Review: Take some time to individually gather your thoughts before discussing these questions with your group.

- How would you describe the tone of the letter? Does the mood of the letter change?
- Repetition is a clue to what the author considers most important. What words, phrases, or ideas are repeated throughout the letter?
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Questions: In this initial reading you may have come across concepts you'd like clarified or questions you'd like answered.

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GROUP QUESTIONS:

As a group, brainstorm a list of questions you have about Titus. Bring this list of questions with you each week and review them as you study this letter. Over the rest of this study, see if your group can discover the answers together.

Summary

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- **As a group:** develop a summary sentence for Titus. Review this summary each week to see if any it needs and adjustments or additions.

Wrap-up: Now that you have read and discussed this letter answer the following questions:

- Why did Paul write this letter? What did he want Titus to take away from this letter?

- Paul wrote this letter to Titus nearly 2000 years ago, but the word of God is still living and active.
 - How can you learn from this letter?

 - How do you hope to grow spiritually though studying Titus?

Conclusion:

Our study is subtitled, Devoted to Good, which is a repeated theme that Paul raises to Titus. He wants “those who have believed God might be careful to devote themselves to good works (3:8)” and for the people to “learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.” As we journey through Titus together, continually ask God to reveal to you how you can be devoted to good. Invite Jesus to work through you and guide you so that you will not be unfruitful.

Close in Prayer: Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

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Close in Prayer: Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

Week 1: Overview of Titus

Scripture Passage: Titus 1-3

Theme: *Read through the book, discussing themes and questions.*

Icebreaker:

If you were to write a letter to someone in your field of expertise, who would you write? What is one piece of advice would you give them?

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Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen

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In Titus, Paul is giving a vision of life that touches people in small but decisive ways – A life that has eternal consequences. He is setting out the truly good life. Paul knows that truth is what produces goodness and godliness. The truth that creates a good life is the gospel. That is the truth that brings life and changes life. This good life overflows into other's lives. This good life is a missional force. (Tim Chester)

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Discuss:

- Why is it important that the gospel permeate through church leaders?
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