Growth Group Leader Guide

This "growth group leader guide" is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group's dynamics.

Also, don't feel pressured to cover every question.

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

1 Timothy 3:1-13

I. The Office of Elder

- What attributes does the world view (perhaps erroneously) as indispensable for leadership?

- What do you feel are the marks of a good leader?

- What qualities should be present in the lives of the elders who lead the church? Read the following verses to help answer this question.

    o Phil. 3:17
    o 2 Tim. 2:15
    o 2 Tim. 2:24
    o Titus 1:6-9

- What actions or character flaws disqualify one from being a leader in the church? Read the following verses to help answer this question.

    o Matt. 6:24
    o 2 Tim. 2:24-25
    o Titus 1:7

- What are the dangers of a church minister who doesn't have a good reputation outside of the church?

- **Read 1 Peter 5:1-3** What added insight does this passage reveal about the right motives for those who lead God's Church? Other verses to consider:

    o 2 Cor. 4:1-7
    o 1 Thess. 1:5

- Read the following verses and discuss why it is important to have a plurality of elders.

    - James 5:14
    - Acts 14:23
    - Philippians 1:1
    - 1 Peter 5:1-2
    - Titus 1:5

- What is the responsibility of the members of the church to its leadership? Read Hebrews 13:17 to help answer this question.

- **Read Titus 1:4-9** As you read through the list of leadership qualities found in Ch. 3, which positive one(s) would you like to see more of in your life? What negative traits do you need to put behind you?

II. The Office of Deacon

- What does it tell you that there is way more about the character of a deacon in the Bible than what a deacon does? Read the following quote to help answer this question.

    - *Biblically speaking, the emphasis of the office of deacon is not on organizational structure (what he does) but on the moral integrity, spiritual maturity, and doctrinal purity of those who serve in an official capacity.* **– Richard Mayhue**

- **Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13.** How is the qualification for deacon similar to the qualifications of an elder? How are they different?

- What is a deacon and what is expected of one?

- What kinds of things are revealed by the way a man manages his family and marriage?

- Paul writes that a deacon should not be double-tongued. What are the consequences of someone in church leadership who gossips or cannot keep a confidence?

- Paul writes that a deacon should be tested and proved. What are the risks of letting a new Christian assume leadership too soon?

- In what ways does the local church function as a family – the members as brothers and sisters? Read the following quote to help answer this question.

- *A deacon must prove his character by being faithful to his own wife and, by extension, to the rest of his family. If a man loves his wife and disciplines his children and leads his home, he evidences that he is filled with the Spirit. Here again the home is the proving ground for ministry.* – Alexander Strauch

- **Read Acts 6:1-3 and answer the following questions.**

- What was the conflict found in verse 1 and why was it a big deal?

- What were the requirements for the men chosen to lead the church in serving ministries? Why would these qualities be needed?

- What is important about each of the qualifications for selecting the seven?

Spend some time praying for the Elders and Deacons of Country Oaks Baptist Church.

- **Closing Prayer -** *Grant, O most merciful Father, a willing mind to give every man his duty; tribute to whom tribute belongs, custom to whom custom is due, fear to whom fear belongs, honor to whom honor pertains; and above all things to pray without ceasing for all them that be in authority, that we may live a peaceable and quiet life in all godliness and honesty, unto the glory of your blessed name.* **– Thomas Becon**