

FURTHER STUDY GUIDE

ROOTED IN TRUTH—MARKED BY GODLINESS

Historical Background

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to Titus around AD 62–64, likely between his first and second imprisonments in Rome. Titus was a trusted Gentile convert, companion, and experienced problem-solver for Paul's missionary team. Paul had left Titus on the island of Crete, a key Mediterranean trade center known in ancient times for its unruly, independent, and morally troubled culture. The Cretan church was just starting out, lacking structure and struggling with the confusion caused by false teachers. Paul wrote this letter to guide Titus in bringing order, choosing godly leaders, and protecting the young church from spiritual deception.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

The island of Crete had a pretty wild reputation in the ancient world. What is something unique, quirky, or funny that your hometown or the place you grew up is 'famous' for?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE FOUNDATION OF LEADERSHIP (Titus 1:1–4)

Paul begins by stating his spiritual authority and reminding Titus of the eternal hope that supports their shared ministry.

Read Titus 1:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:9, Numbers 23:19, Galatians 2:3

1. Paul identifies himself first as a "servant" (bondslave) and second as an "apostle."
How does this order shape our view of Christian leadership?

2. What does it mean that God, "who never lies," promised eternal life "before the ages began"? How does God's character reinforce your faith?

3. Paul calls Titus "my true child in a common faith." What does this tell us about the importance of spiritual mentorship in the church today?

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHURCH LEADERS (Titus 1:5–9)

Read Titus 1:5-9, 1 Timothy 3:1–7, 1 Peter 5:1–3, Philippians 1:1

Paul tells Titus to appoint elders in every town and gives clear moral and spiritual requirements for those who will lead.

4. Why does Paul place such a heavy emphasis on a leader's home life (marriage and children) as a prerequisite for church leadership?

5. Verse 7 states an overseer must not be arrogant, quick-tempered, a drunkard, violent, or greedy. Which of these traps do you think modern leaders face most often?

6. According to verse 9, a leader must "hold firm to the trustworthy word." Why is doctrinal stability mandatory for protecting a community?

REBUKING FALSE TEACHERS (Titus 1:10–16)

Read Titus 1:10-16, Romans 16:17–18, Matthew 7:15–20, Isaiah 29:13

Paul is very direct when describing the deceptive people entering the Cretan house churches, and he urges Titus to respond with strong, clear action.

7. Paul quotes a Cretan prophet ("Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons"). How does a culture's prevailing sins creep into the church if left unchecked?

8. What is the difference between an honest struggle with sin and those described in verse 16, who "profess to know God, but they deny him by their works"?

9. Verse 13 commands Titus to "rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith." How can the church practice accountability that aims for restoration rather than destruction?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

"To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled." — Titus 1:15

It is easy to focus on outward checklists. The false teachers in Crete liked these lists. They focused on human rules, genealogies, and ritual washings to look holy. But Paul points out an important truth: outward religious actions cannot fix an unclean heart. When unbelief affects our minds and consciences, even our "good deeds" are empty and meaningless.

True spiritual leadership and Christian living start from within. Godliness is not something we put on just for Sundays; it comes naturally from a heart changed by the gospel. If we want our lives to match what we say we believe, we need to let the Holy Spirit clean our thoughts, motivations, and private habits.

QUESTIONS | REFLECTIONS | OBSERVATIONS
