

# COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2024 - Trained By The Gospel - "Titus 1:5-9"

Monday, Nov. 18 - Sunday, Nov. 24 (Week 11)

**EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH:** **Ending Strong** 🏆 - As we are in the final stretch of the semester, let's keep pouring into our groups with the same energy and love we've shown all along. You've done an amazing job connecting and caring for each person—let's finish strong! Remind your group members of our purpose and encourage them to stay engaged.

**ICE BREAKER:** If you could choose one biblical figure to mentor you in your spiritual journey, who would it be and why? How do you think they would help you "step up" or "raise up" in your life?

## CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. All BergenKIDS Families are invited to join us on Friday, December 13 from 7-8:30 PM for a Happy Birthday Jesus Party! There will be games, crafts, story time and cookies to enjoy! Wear your favorite Christmas pajamas and be ready to celebrate Jesus. Sign up in our Monday email newsletter or by emailing [barbara.krieger@churchatbergen.org](mailto:barbara.krieger@churchatbergen.org) and please be sure to bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share!
2. We are looking for 5-10 volunteers on Monday, November 25 at 5 PM, to help us decorate for Christmas. No skills required - just an interest in helping us hang lights, garland, and set up some Christmas trees! Sign up in our Monday email newsletter or email [info@churchatbergen.org](mailto:info@churchatbergen.org) to let us know you'll be there. Pizza will be provided for all volunteers!
3. Every Tuesday night we meet for prayer at 6:30 PM. We invite you to join us tomorrow night, Tuesday, November 19, as we pray together as a church body.
4. Our next Young-ish Gathering is a night out at Go-Low Golf right here in Paramus, on Saturday, December 7 at 7 PM. The cost is \$10 per person. Come to golf, or just to hang! Registration is required for this event! Please sign up in our Monday email newsletter or email [info@churchatbergen.org](mailto:info@churchatbergen.org) no later than Friday, November 29.

**PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION:** Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that the The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

**SERMON DISCUSSION TIME:** Have someone read the passage: Titus 1:5-9, and then read this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

*In this sermon, Pastor McKinney continued our exploration of the qualifications of elders / pastors as outlined in the Book of Titus. The central theme of this week's message centers on the responsibilities that men of God must embrace, specifically the importance of "raising up" other men to lead alongside them. Pastor Mike emphasizes that while it's crucial for men to step up to the responsibilities placed upon them, they must also actively seek out and mentor other qualified men to ensure the strength and order of the church community. Using the example of Titus, who was tasked by Paul to appoint elders in every town, he underscores that men need to engage in relationships that build one another up and*



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*provide mutual support in their spiritual journeys. Pastor Mike delves into the essential traits of pastors / elders, highlighting their integrity and relationships with family, themselves, and the Word of God. He elaborates on the need for these men to be above reproach, self-aware, and faithful in their duties, while also ensuring they hold firm to sound doctrine. Throughout the sermon, he addresses cultural perceptions of masculinity, urging men not to shy away from their God-given roles due to fear of societal judgment. By casting a vision for what it truly means to be a man of God, rooted in the teachings of Christ, he invites all men to seek empowerment through faith, leading to a transformative impact in their lives and those around them. Ultimately, Pastor McKinney's sermon calls for renewal and courage among men, emphasizing the importance of accountability, mentorship, and reliance on the Word of God as the foundation for a fruitful life in service to others.*

**QUESTION #1:** Why do you think it is important for men to raise up other men (and for women to raise up other women), as discussed in the sermon? How have you seen this play out in your own life or community?

**QUESTION #2:** The sermon emphasized the importance of integrity. How do you define integrity, and why is it crucial for a man or woman of God?

**QUESTION #3:** How does your relationship with the Word of God influence your daily decisions and interactions with others?

**QUESTION #4:** The sermon mentioned cultural pressures that can deter men from stepping into their God-given roles. What are some of these pressures, and how can they be overcome?

**QUESTION #5:** In what areas do you feel most vulnerable or in need of growth as a man or woman of God? How can the group support you in this?

**PRAY TOGETHER:** Spend time taking **and recording** prayer requests and then pray together as a group (*I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives*).

