Providence
Presbyterian Church

Leadership in the Church: Elders
Titus 1:5-9
August 16, 2026

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

Question: If a friend was introducing you to their parents, which of your credentials do you think they'd mention?

- ❑ My credit score
- ❑ That I won the state championship in 1993.
- ❑ They would definitely mention that I am the reigning champion of the state fair's hot dog eating contest - 31 dogs in 30 minutes!
- ❑ They'd probably mention that I have a shady history in professional wrestling.
- ❑ They'd mention my profession.
- ❑ Other: _____

Titus 1:5–9
[5] This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—[6] if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. [7] For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, [8] but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. [9] He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. (ESV)

The Character of Elders

Question: In your opinion, are leaders made or born?

_____

Also in your opinion, what makes a good leader?

_____

Read verses 6-7 again.
Notice that verse 6 identifies qualities we should avoid in an elder and verse 7 gives us things we should look for in an elder.

Question: Why do you think Paul gives Titus a list of leadership qualifications?

_____

Question: How would you summarize the list of qualifications that Paul gives to Titus?

_____

For Reflection: As you look at this list of qualifications, would you fit the criteria? Why or why not? Do you think think these qualifications are required for all believers or for only elders? Why or why not?

The Work of Elders

Question: In your opinion, what do congregations tend to think elders should do?

- ❑ Fix the toilets and mop the floors
- ❑ Make important decisions about staffing
- ❑ Make announcements on Sunday morning
- ❑ Stand in the lobby on Sunday's and welcome everyone
- ❑ Other: _____

1 Peter 5:1–7
*[1] So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: [2] shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; [3] not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. [4] And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. [5] Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
[6] Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, [7] casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. (ESV)*

What is the metaphor that Peter uses for an elder?

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Question: What are the good and bad motivations that Peter gives for being in leadership?

_____

Question:What connections do you see between submission, humility, and anxiety? What kind of anxiety do you think an elder might have?

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Question: Who is the Chief Shepherd? Why is it important for all of us to remember who is the Chief Shepherd? How is this related to humility?

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Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:

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