

CBC YOUTH MINISTRY GUIDE

February 2017 ISSUE

Howdy!

Glad you could join us for our third edition of the CBC Youth Ministry Guide!

To reiterate the purpose of this guide, our hope is that it can be used by a wide variety of people from, students to leaders, to help grow, disciple and lead discussions. So if you are looking for new ways to grow, this guide might help!

For this month we're going through 1 Timothy 3: 1-13. The words behind the verses hold a great deal of importance to leadership within the church. We will be discussing what makes leaders important as well as describing different aspects of what a leader should look like and their qualifications.

We pray that these messages would speak to you, even if they don't directly apply to you. These lessons are necessary for any stage of the believer, young and old. T's and G's!

Week 1 - "Respect"

(January 29 - February 4)

Read

Romans 13:1-2; Ephesians 6:1-3

Before we delve into Timothy we will take a look at why we should listen and respect authority. The passage in Romans touches on leaders in governing positions and people in high power while Ephesians informs us about parental authority.

In Romans, Paul addresses submission to governing rulers, rulers that God has placed specifically. There is no ruler, state, or government, that God does not allow to be in power. While at times it may be hard to realize this, God is ultimately sovereign over everything and wants what's best for us, to listen to his authority and worship him. By rejecting and rebelling "against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted". A more personal authority can be found in the verse from Ephesians. Parents are the most personal people that have authority over us. While we can at times think they are unreasonable, like God they

love us and want what's best for us. Correcting us in a loving matter so that "you may enjoy long life on the earth".

Middle School

Name 3 people who have authority over you? Do you feel about each of them? Do you respect them? Why? Why not? Share these thoughts with your CG member. What's one truth from these verses that challenge you?

High School

Just as God places others in authority he also places us in different authority. Who are you in authority over at this current moment? Think about those you lead or even those younger than you at church, school, clubs, etc. Do you embody God when you are in a position of authority? Have you been neglecting your role as leader for them? Where do you go from here? Do you need to step up as a leader? Do you need to ask for help in order to grow as one?

Parent/College

What are some ways you can show God's character in your leadership with the people around you? How can you be firm yet loving in your interactions with people you have authority over?

Pray

Take some time and pray that you will listen and respect to those who have authority over you.

Grow

Be open to listen and respect people who you may not agree with. Pray for them that they may reflect God's character. Who are 3 groups of people in authority that you need to be praying for?

Week 2 - "Roles"

(February 5 - February 11)

Read

1 Timothy 3:1-13

Last week we talked about why we should respect authority and leaders. This week we will take a look at the leaders in the church and how God calls them in different ways. After the resurrection, many people began to believe in Jesus and the church began to grow. Because of the growth of the Christian community, the apostles needed more help in their ministry. As a result they called on seven men to help them in any way they needed. These seven men would later become what we call deacons and the apostles became the earliest pastors.

From Timothy, it may seem like pastors and deacons are more or less similar. While that may be true for their character, their roles in the church are quite different. Unlike pastors, deacons are not called to be “able to teach”. Where as pastors are called to “care for the God’s church” like their children in a more intimate way, deacons are to maintain the church in a more logistical manner. Both pastors and deacons play an important part in church leadership. While they each have their different skills, they both share the heart to serve God and his people. Many pastors and deacons usually get criticized for doing something “wrong” but they never get praised for leading and shepherding. Why is that?

Middle School

Who are some leaders in your life? What are some jobs that your leaders do? Do you ever thank them for serving you?

High School

What are some characteristic traits that belong to pastors and deacons that stand out to you? Why are they important? Would you ever consider being a pastor or deacon? Why? Why not? What are some ways you can show your love for your leaders?

Parent/College

How do we teach the youth to listen, pray. When we serve, are we serving out of love? Do we take time out of our day to pray for our church leaders, pastors and deacons? How can we serve and encourage them?

Pray

While we may not see it, our church leaders constantly pray for our growth. Pray for your leader’s growth and that God may show you all that they do for you.

Grow

When you see a pastor or deacon, thank them for their service and ask how you can pray for them.

Week 3 - "Prayer"

(February 12 - February 18)

Read

1 Timothy 2:1-2; Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 21:1; Jeremiah 29:7

As we saw in last week's passage, our church leaders go through a number of temptations to serve the church. And just like our church leaders, our world leaders face similar temptations. We as humans are not perfect by any means, we are all broken and sinful people. For those in power, they not only have to worry about how their actions affect themselves but also how they affect those who trust and follow them. With many trials, leaders need to rely on a holy God that was also tempted but lived a sinless life.

One of the most simplest and powerful actions we as individuals can do to help our leaders is by praying for guidance. As a king's heart is "like the rivers of water," the sovereign God can change the hearts of leaders at any time. The Bible commands us to pray for authorities, because all authority has been established by Him to accomplish His purposes. When the prophet Jeremiah wrote to the Jews who were in Babylonian captivity, he urged them not to rebel, but to pray for them. "For in peace you will have peace". Even in the middle of a wicked land, Jeremiah guided the Hebrews to pray for God's blessing. As we pray for our leaders, the ultimate reason we pray is so they may come to know God, leading to a "quiet and peaceable life".

Middle School

Who are some of our world leaders? How about people who are just your leader? I would suggest praying for your CG leaders, your teachers, the principal, and our President.

High School

If you were in a leadership position, in what ways would you thrive? In what ways would you struggle? Whatever you believe and feel about those in leadership, the bible is clear on how

we ought to treat them and pray for them. Spend some time praying for them this month by name. If you feel your heart pushes against this spend time praying for yourself to have a right heart first.

Parent/College

Talk to your students about times when it was hard to follow leaders (current events?). How can we live in a place where our leaders have different viewpoints than ours? How can we follow them?

Pray

Pray that our leaders would follow Jesus example of selfless service and that they would come to know him as their savior.

Grow

Know that everyone has their faults. Find ways to love on them in difficult times. Read up on current events as well!

Week 4 - "Future"

(February 19 - February 25)

Read

Luke 10:1-3; Hebrews 5:8-10; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Proverbs 27:17

Over the past month, leadership has been the focus of our study. We talked about why it is important to listen to leaders and authority and that God is the ultimate authority. We saw the difference between church leaders and while they have varying gifts and callings, they all play an important part in God's church. And while people have the title of leaders, they are still ultimately human and need our prayer for encouragement and guidance. Now, As we conclude with this last part of the study guide we will discuss developing new leaders for the future.

Every church needs leaders. But new leaders don't appear from nowhere. They need to be trained and developed. Jesus , being the most effective leader ever, clearly demonstrates to us how we can equip and develop future leaders.

From the start, Jesus came to earth to fulfill God's, spreading his good news to all nations. But along with him were twelve men who left everything to follow Him. From the beginning God's plan was to involve others in building his kingdom. In fact no one person in the Bible comes to faith without the work of another. Jesus actively involve the twelve and others in his ministry so that He could model how to minister and train them well in biblical leadership. For leadership to be passed on, it must be modeled.

While Jesus was the son of God, he still humbly came down to earth and obediently submitted himself to His Father's plan. Through this He became a faithful servant through pain and persecution. This attitude of submission and obedience for God's will can not be easily followed. As human we are tempted each and every day to stray away from God. But Jesus would not ask this of us if he had not been tempted first. A God who knows what it's like to be human, was tempted as we are tempted now. Because of this, we are able to relate to Him and build a foundation for spiritual growth.

Finally, leadership development is not a short term project but a long one. Here in the present and for those who will succeed them. To develop an effective leader it not only takes someone to model after, but instead someone to be mentored by. Leaders need more than just systematic training, they require trusted counseling and support outside of their leadership. Jesus not only was an intelligent preacher to his disciples but also a compassionate and loving friend who encouraged them in difficult times and challenged them outside of biblical preaching, walking with them through life. A mentor bolsters others up so that they may be even greater leader than themselves. An absolute necessity to leadership. "As iron sharpen iron, so one man sharpens another".

Middle School

What are some ways you encourage other? How can you submit yourself to God? What are some other qualities of a mentor?

High School

Do you see yourself as leaders? How so? What does it look like to start a mentorship? Maybe you know that as an older student your role is to mentor others. Have you been able to do that? Why? Why not? What's holding you back from starting today?

Parent/College

How do you continually challenge and mentor those around you? What does it look like to model a Christ centered leader in today's world?

Pray

Pray for continued development of gospel centered leaders. Ask God to see opportunities to grow in faith and leadership.

Grow

There are many more areas develop future leaders not covered in this guide. Research for yourself other opportunities that develop leaders.

Thanks for reading!

We sadly come to the conclusion of this month's guide. Take some time to meditate on what God's been showing you this past month.

With the recent events that happened, we hope you would pray for our world leaders and the future of our nation. We love you guys and pray you may be continually challenged and blessed. Thanks and Gig'em!