



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for March 13, 2011
Released on Wednesday, March 9, 2011**

"God's Rules for Leaders"

Lesson Text: 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Background Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Memory Verse: "If a man desire the office of a bishop (elder), he desireth a good work" (1 Timothy 3:1).

1 Timothy 3:1-13

- 1 This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.
- 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;
- 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;
- 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;
- 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)
- 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.
- 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
- 8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;
- 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
- 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.
- 11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.
- 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.
- 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Help the children understand that it is important to have a Christian attitude at home as well as at school or in church.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

- 1.** Help the children see that they are leaders wherever they are. People will imitate what they do.
- 2.** Teach them that it is just as important to be good leaders at home as it is at school or in church.
- 3.** Help the children compare Paul's list of good works with their own attitudes. Are they patient, kind, honest, loving, and generous at home?

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, find a picture of a cookie, or bring a real one to introduce the story.

For Telling the Lesson, find pictures of Timothy and of a Bible family or a contemporary family. Make a scroll using half a sheet of white paper. Pinch small pieces off the four edges of the scroll to make it look aged. Inside, write the words: "PATIENT," "KIND," "HONEST," "LOVING" and "GENEROUS." Use a pencil to roll the paper from both ends to the middle. Remove the pencil and tie with a ribbon. Save this scroll for use next week. Have your Bible with you.

For Helping to Remember, give each child a half sheet of white or manila paper. Provide pencils, markers, and pieces of ribbon to tie around their scrolls.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: A.D. 62

Place: unknown

This week's lesson is again based on Paul's first letter to Timothy. It is believed that this letter was written during a missionary trip that Paul took between his first and second imprisonment in Rome.

Paul not only knew a great deal about pastoring, he also knew the congregation at Ephesus well. In fact, Paul had founded the church and left it in Timothy's care.

Of course, Paul wanted his young friend to be a successful pastor. He did not want Timothy to think that he had to do this alone. Paul advised Timothy to look for good leaders who would help him in his pastorate.

Paul advised Timothy to look for leaders who had a good reputation in the community so that no one would accuse them of being hypocrites. Paul gave him some specific qualifications that he should look for as he chose his leaders. He told Timothy to look for men who were blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, given to hospitality, able to teach, patient, honest, and generous.

Beginning the Lesson offers a compelling story of a young man who forgot how important it is to be helpful and kind at home. Use this story to teach the children that it is just as important to be Christians at home as it is in school or church.

In Telling How to Live, refer back to the opening story as you lead the children to think about their attitudes at home.

Take time to pray with the children about their attitudes at home, asking themselves whether they are patient, kind, honest, loving, and generous. A prayer is written out for you, but it is always best to pray as God leads you.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Kara came through the kitchen as her brother, Matt, was sweeping up cookie crumbs. (Show a picture of a cookie, or hold up a real one.) "What are you doing?" she asked, surprised to see her little brother with a broom in his hand.

"Scram!" Matt growled. "Who asked you to stick your nose in?"

"Excuse me!" his sister said. "Mom told us not to eat any of those cookies. Besides, I came to tell you that your coach from school called today. He wants you to do some yard work for him. Oh, and he also told me to tell Mom he appreciated your good attitude at school! What a laugh!"

"I will have you know that I try hard to show that I am a Christian at school," Matt said.

"Well," retorted Kara, "if you brought any of your friends or teachers home, they would see the real you!"

After Kara left, Matt began to think.

Could Kara be right? At school he tried very hard to be helpful and kind to others, but now that he thought about it, he realized his attitude at home was not so good.

He had always thought his family would love him no matter how he acted at home. Now, Matt knew he was wrong.

He bowed his head to pray. "Lord, help me behave like a Christian all the time, especially with the people who love me the most." Then he went to apologize to his sister.

TELLING THE LESSON:

Paul, Timothy's friend, knew how important it is to be a Christian at home as well as at work and in the church. In fact, he told Timothy to find some men in his church who were good husbands and fathers because they would make good leaders.

Paul had wanted to visit Timothy for a long time, but he was busy traveling to all the churches. So Paul sent Timothy a letter written on a scroll. (Show picture of Timothy.) Timothy, the young pastor at Ephesus, must have been very glad to receive a letter from his friend.

Paul had been a pastor for a long time and knew how to do it well. Also, he was well acquainted with the people in Timothy's church because he had been their first pastor.

In his letter, Paul told Timothy that pastors always need help from the people in their church. He advised the young pastor to look for good leaders.

He wrote, "If a man desires to be a leader in the church, he desires a good work." Paul told Timothy to look for leaders who also wanted to do good works everywhere they went, especially at home.

(Show picture of family.) "Good husbands and fathers usually make good leaders," wrote Paul. "If a man does not know how to lead his family, how will he be able to lead the church family?" Paul asked.

"Besides that, people outside the church will watch how they treat their families," wrote Paul. Paul told Timothy that he should look for men who were well liked in the community and who did good works everywhere they went.

He said that they should be patient, kind, and honest. They should love people and be willing to invite them to their homes. "And everyone should be generous," he said.

While you boys and girls are not yet old enough to teach, you are still an important part of this church. (Show Bible open to 1 Timothy.) Paul's letter in Timothy was written for you too.

All who know Jesus as their Saviour can be leaders, no matter how young or old they are. As people at church and school see you doing things that are pleasing to the Lord, they may decide to imitate what you do.

Matt had the right idea. He worked so hard at being helpful and kind in school that his coach made a special phone call to hire him for a job. Then he praised Matt for his good attitude.

Perhaps Matt should have read Paul's letter, though. Then he would have realized how important it is to be helpful and kind at home with those who love us the most.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

How is your attitude at home? Do you act like a Christian at home as well as at school?

Timothy looked for people in his church who had good attitudes, people who wanted to do good works. Can you remember any of the good works that Timothy was looking for?

As we open our scroll, we will find some of them. (Open scroll slowly to show the words "PATIENT," "KIND," "HONEST," "LOVING," "GENEROUS.") Can you read these words with me?

These good works are very important at home as well as at school and church. Today we are going to pray together. As we bow our heads in prayer, we are going to quietly ask God to show us what our attitude is like at home.

"Father, please show us what we are like at home. Are we patient, kind, honest, loving, and generous? Please help us do better this week. In Jesus' name. Amen."

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Help the children make a scroll using white or manila paper. Help them write the following words on the scroll: "At home I will be PATIENT, KIND, HONEST, LOVING, and GENEROUS." Have them sign their names at the bottom.

Then help them pinch pieces of paper from the edges of their scroll and roll each end to the middle on a pencil. Give them pieces of ribbon to tie their scroll. Tell them to give their scrolls to their parents.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"If a man desire the office of a bishop (elder), he desireth a good work" (1 Timothy 3:1).

There is a word in parentheses -"elder" - that was added to the golden text so that we might understand the word "bishop" better. Both words describe men who are leaders in the church. Paul was telling Timothy that it is a good thing to want to be a leader. It is a good thing when boys and girls realize that they are leaders too. We should try hard to be good leaders everywhere we go.

CONCLUSION:

Spiritual leaders are important in the church. These leaders must have good character, seasoned faith, integrity, and good family lives. While Paul had a long list of traits for Timothy to look for in a leader, his best advice was to look for men who were good husbands and fathers. Paul reasoned that if a man took good care of his own house, then he would be able to take care of the church of God.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for showing us how to be good leaders. Help us to be patient, kind, honest, loving, and generous wherever we may be, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "Getting Ready to Lead" and teaches that you are never too young for God to use you. Study 1 Timothy 4:6-16.

LESSON SUMMARIZED:

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books

Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers

WORD SEARCH

"God's Rules for Leaders" (1 Timothy 3:1-13)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

PAUL	COMMUNITY	GENEROUS	CHURCH
HONEST	LEADERS	FAMILY	PASTORS
LOVING	TIMOTHY	KIND	PATIENT
TEACH	REPUTATION	EPHESUS	DEACONS

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SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

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