

LESSON 1

LEADERSHIP LETTERS

1 TIMOTHY INTRODUCTION



1 List three well-known leaders in each of these areas:

Government/Politics

Business

Sports/Entertainment

Religion

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2 What qualities do you appreciate most in your leaders?



Read the two-page introduction to 1 Timothy, "Vital Statistics" from both the introduction to Titus and the introduction to 2 Timothy, and the following notes:

☐ 1:1 ☐ 1:3, 4

3 Who was Timothy? Why did Paul write this letter to him?

4 What does the term *pastoral letters* mean?

5 What was happening in these churches that made preserving right teaching so important?

6 What are some of the advantages of studying these three books in a different order than that in which they appear in the Bible?



The New Testament books 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus are letters from Paul to two young pastors whom he sent to provide leadership for the churches in teaching. They were churches in crisis. The practical topics that Paul addressed in these personal letters are also helpful for church leaders today. Right teaching, public worship, and selection of leaders remain central areas of concern for both new and established churches. The letters contain solutions to solving the leadership crisis faced by many churches today. Whether you currently are a leader in your church, aspire to leadership, or are a new believer, you can take these letters personally. No matter what your position in your church, you have an important part in resolving the leadership crisis.

7 How are you a leader in your church? How can a person be a leader even though all he or she does is help out?

8 Paul told Timothy to teach right teaching and to live right. How are we in danger of mishandling these assignments today?



9 Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy to give him practical advice for the ministry. In what ministry areas do you need practical advice at this time?

10 Which is most difficult for you: knowing what to believe, understanding your role in the church, or knowing how to lead with compassion? Why?

11 Who has been a mentor for you in your spiritual growth and ministry? Who have you mentored? How did you learn what you know about serving in the local church?

12 Think of a time when you were young, inexperienced, or afraid that others would look down on you. Who or what helped you find strength and courage to handle the situation?

13 In which of your responsibilities at church or in another area of ministry do you feel inadequate or afraid? How is your situation similar to what Timothy and Titus were facing?

14 If Paul were to write a personal letter to you at this point in your life, what areas of concern would you want him to address? What questions would you have for him?

15 What do you most need from a study of Timothy and Titus? In what areas of your life or ministry do you need wise advice at this time? List your personal goals for this study.



A What was happening in Ephesus that worried Paul? Why did he send Timothy? What was Timothy's mission? What would Paul ask Timothy to do in your church?

B Why would public worship be an area that Paul might address in this letter? What concerns you about worship in churches today?

C Paul lists important qualities for leaders. Why are these qualities important for our leaders today? What are some of the common mistakes we make in selecting leaders for our churches?

D For what groups of believers do these books contain important advice? To which of these groups do you belong?

E What do these books tell us about the importance of personal relationships between leaders and followers? What impresses you about the relationship between Timothy and Paul?

F At what point in the book of Acts was each of these letters most likely written?

G Who does the work of overseeing and strengthening the churches today? Where can a church in trouble turn for help?

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