

ELDERS DEACONS PREACHERS SAINTS

MIKE MAZZALONGO

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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Elders, Deacons, Preachers, Saints

Mike Mazzalongo

This series describes in detail the various biblical leadership roles in the church and examines how these can be exercised in order to promote individual as well as the corporate growth of the church.



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*Elder/Deacon Selection Worksheets can be found
in the back of the guide.*

Overall Teaching Strategy

It is recommended that teachers use a combination of informal lecture and guided discussion to present these lessons. There are discussion questions associated with each lesson that teachers may use and/or supplement with their own questions.

It is recommended that teachers have students view the associated video or read the text for the lesson. This helps students come to the class ready to discuss the lesson and to formulate questions of their own. Teachers should begin the class with a review of key points from the video/text before starting the discussion.

Begin each lesson with appropriate introductory statements that help students focus on the lesson. Teachers should also provide a brief summary of the previous lesson and an overview of key points of the new lesson. This helps students see the ongoing narrative of scripture.

Conclude the lesson by summarizing or having students summarize the information from their notes. It is also helpful to ask questions from the lesson to determine that students grasp the concepts. Asking questions in this manner serves as an assessment to ensure objectives are met.

Challenge students with a call to action by applying this information to their lives in order to help them grow spiritually and help others to do so as well. This can be accomplished by asking students how this information relates to their spiritual development at this time and moving forward.

For more information on teaching adults, please visit:
<https://bibletalk.tv/101/teaching>

A student workbook is also available for this series:
<https://bibletalk.tv/workbooks/elders-deacons-preachers-saints>

Lesson #1 – Introduction to Leadership Roles

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is to introduce the various biblical leadership roles in the Church. Of special note in this lesson is how effective leadership facilitates church growth.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand the various biblical leadership roles and their relationship to one another.
- **Feel:** Recognize the necessity for effective leadership in the Church.
- **Do:** Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective leader in the Church.

Support

- Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 1 – Introduction to Leadership Roles
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 1

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 Roles in Ministry
- 1.2 Differences between the various leadership roles
- 1.3 Lessons

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. Discuss the following questions related to congregational leadership:

- **How do you define leadership?** Leadership is influencing someone to accomplish a task or to develop or change attitudes knowledge and actions.
- **Why is congregational leadership important?** It follows the plan put forth in scripture for how the Church is organized and led. Furthermore, it ensures the mission of the Church is accomplished in the most effective way. When we follow the plan put forth in God's word then we continue to bring glory to Him.
- **Who is our example of leadership and why?** There are many excellent examples of leadership in scripture but ultimately the best example is Jesus. During His ministry on earth Jesus identified His role, formulated and implemented His plan and provided abilities to His disciples to continue in that plan.
- **Explain the meaning of Matthew 10:24-25 regarding congregational leadership.** We are to be like Jesus as we work with our fellow members. We don't compete with one another, rather we support one another to accomplish the mission our Lord commands of us. Our leaders must begin their role by becoming aware of Jesus' instructions to them and then follow His example and directives.

2. Read Ephesians 4:10-12 and answer the following questions:

Why does Jesus have ultimate authority over the Church?

Jesus died for the Church. It is His body (Colossians 1:18). All of us should strive to be like Him in our lives, especially those who want to lead His church.

What is the primary purpose of the leadership roles listed in verse 11?

They have the primary role of bringing others to Christ and help them remain faithful. We are gifted by Jesus with various roles and spiritual gifts to accomplish our tasks.

3. What is a frequently sought-after human characteristic not a part of a congregation's leadership and why?

Congregational leaders do not seek after individual power. Rather, they express the power of God in their lives. In doing this they ensure that all glory is given to God and not ourselves. This is the ultimate purpose – to honor and glorify God as His faithful servants.

4. Discuss the differences in responsibility of the various leadership roles in the church as outlined in scripture.

- **Apostles** – These men were those sent by Jesus as witnesses of His resurrection. They were to testify to the resurrection of Jesus and confirm their witness with signs and miracles (Acts 3:14-15). This specific role is no longer used in the church. We continue to learn from the Apostles as we study their teachings in scripture.
- **Prophets** – A prophet is someone who spoke what God instructed. In biblical times prophets were usually given a message from God to speak regarding various issues. Sometimes these issues were current situations or future events. Today, we can say that our teachers and preachers serve as prophets as they convey to us God's will. The difference, however, is that they speak from the knowledge of God's written word and not from direct divine inspiration.
- **Preacher or Evangelists** are responsible for ministering the word to the church; organizing the local congregation to function according to the instructions for church organization and growth found in the New Testament; this includes the raising up and appointment of elders of congregations that don't have any; they are also used to plant new congregations.
- **Pastors and Teachers** – These are men who teach and guide us to faithfulness. Pastors and shepherds refer to the specific work of guiding us. Other similar descriptions of these men include bishop and overseer. These terms refer to the responsibilities to guard and direct the congregation. These roles remain today and these men perform the same function as in biblical times.
- **Deacons** – The role of a deacon is to serve in a specific responsibility to ensure that the day-to-day activities of the church are carried out effectively. This important role provides continued success of a ministry area and allows other leaders in the congregation to focus on their area of ministry.

5. Discuss the differences in responsibility of various congregational leadership roles:

- **Responsibility** – The different appointed roles do not represent power but rather responsibility.
- **Aptitude** – We differ in gifts from God. Our responsibility is to recognize our gifts, dedicate them to God’s service and grow in our abilities to do so.
- **Appointment** – The various roles are appointed according to their tasks. These are based on biblical qualifications, not by election or popularity. Leaders are chosen from among the members of a congregation for specific roles because they have demonstrated certain abilities and qualifications.

6. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

A congregation cannot grow to its full potential if it does not follow the commands and principles in God's word. This includes appointing leaders and leaders fulfilling their roles. Although someone may not currently possess knowledge and skill in an area, he can learn. Also, many influence others for good and serve without being appointed to a specific role. These faithful servants are known to God and will receive their reward for faithful service.

Lesson #2 – Church Leadership

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson examines the Biblical model for church leadership. Of special note in this lesson is how these leaders are to relate to the congregation and in what way this provides support for the church.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand the various biblical leadership roles and their relationship to one another.
- **Feel:** Recognize the necessity for effective leadership in the Church.
- **Do:** Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective leader in the Church.

Support

- Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 2 – Church Leadership
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 2

Body of the Lesson

- 1.0 Church leadership
 - 1.1 Jesus Christ as the head
 - 1.2 The responsibility to exercise leadership
- 2.0 Emphasis on leadership
- 3.0 Lessons

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. Summarize the student's perception of leadership as related to congregational leadership from lesson 1.

- Define leadership
- Why congregational leadership is important
- Who is our example of leadership and why?

2. Explain the following verses concerning congregational leadership.

1 Corinthians 12-29 – Paul is giving an object lesson on the importance of all members of the body thus teaching that each member of the body of Christ is important with differing roles and that each role is important. Just as our physical body works well when all the parts work together, so too does the body of Christ. Each member of the body of Christ supports one another. Note that Paul is speaking with reference to spiritual gifts. He transitions his thoughts to the most important concept of all within a congregation and that is love. The love here is where we seek the best for one another as we serve the Master.

Ephesians 4:10-12 – In this passage Paul is continuing with his thoughts on the unity of the body of Christ. He speaks to the different roles we each have which are all important and emphasizes their purpose which is to build up the body of Christ and maintain unity. When we are unified and support one another in our given roles, we strengthen, protect and encourage the entire church to faithfulness.

3. Discuss the role of leadership of the church with emphasis on Jesus as the head and authority delegated to others.

Jesus is the head of the Church. He purchased it with His blood. All authority is His. We become followers of Jesus and apply His teachings to ourselves and our interactions with others. God's plan is for local congregations to be led by honorable men (elders) able to live and teach God's word.

4. How can elders lead?

Recall that leadership is about influencing someone to accomplish a task, develop or change knowledge and attitudes. As such, our elders exercise a positive influence over the members of a congregation to help them enter into and maintain a relationship with God by applying the teachings of Jesus. They do so by their personal examples, formal teaching and guidance in spiritual matters.

A good discussion would be to look at which responsibilities of an elder are the most important. This author feels that the role of teacher is the most important since this imitates Jesus in both title, role and approach to ministry (1 Timothy 3:2).

5. What are benefits to the congregation and individual members when elders are following God's plan for their role?

There are two seemingly unrelated verses of scripture that help us gain insight into the importance of elders following God's plan in all things. First, there is the statement made in Acts 5:39 where the apostles were facing the Jewish leaders, and thus, their teaching because they were teaching Jesus. In this passage, the statement made is that if they are from God then they cannot be stopped.

The other passage is Paul's statement in Romans 8:31, "If God is for us, who can be against us." This statement teaches us that nothing can stop us when we follow God's plan. God is for us when we obey His word.

Both verses underscore the importance of each of us, but especially our spiritual leaders to ensure that how we live and what we teach must be according to God's will. When this is done, the congregation as a whole and the individual members in particular will be successful in their efforts to obey and serve God. This will lead them to be rewarded as faithful servants.

6. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

Even though some may never be able to serve as an elders, each of us should know their role and responsibilities so we can better encourage and support them. Furthermore, each of us should strive to possess the spiritual characteristics required by God of these men.

Lesson #3 – Elders: Character Profile

Teaching Strategy

The purpose of this lesson is to begin to narrow our focus on specific leadership roles in the Church as described in the Bible. Of special note is the character profile of elders who serve as shepherds in local congregations.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand the various biblical leadership roles in the church and how they work together.
- **Feel:** Recognize the necessity for effective leadership in the Church.
- **Do:** Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective leader in the Church.

Support

- Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 2 – Church Leadership
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 3

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 General characteristics
- 1.2 Lessons learned

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. What do you consider to be the primary message in 1 Timothy 3:15-16?

Responses will vary. Look for comments that communicate that one qualified as a spiritual leader must first be a faithful follower of God, knowledgeable of His word and dedicated to God's will.

2. Discuss the following general characteristics of a shepherd in Christ's Church.

Love the Church (Ephesians 5:25) - Puts the church first, even before his own life.

Knows how to worship God in every context of life (Romans 12:1-2) – True worship is not limited to rituals in our assemblies. It is the sacrifice of every facet of life in devotion to God.

Works well with others (1 Corinthians 3:5-9) – Must love his fellow man. This means guiding others to God, encouraging faithfulness and expressing joy.

Knows how to make decisions (Acts 15:4-6) – Keeps current on issues and spiritual threats to self, members and the congregation as a whole. A decisive leader acts according to God's word in resolving issues.

Dependable – A shepherd cares for the flock in all situations. He is consistent in how he reacts and is stable in relationships.

Can share his feelings (Acts 20:36-38) – Sharing feelings means to be able to empathize. A great gift of an effective shepherd is that he truly knows how someone feels and is able to respond appropriately. This attitude goes beyond sympathy to show true understanding of what one is facing. The writer of Hebrews expresses a perfect example of this in Hebrews 4:14-16. In this passage he explains how Jesus knows our needs and responds to meet those needs. So too does the effective shepherd.

3. Read Hebrews 5:1-4 and discuss how this description of Jesus as our High Priest can be a portrait of a shepherd in the Lord's Church.

This author recognizes that a comparison is not the intent of this passage, however, the similarity between the role and function of a High Priest and our Shepherds/Elders today is remarkable.

- Chosen from among men.
- Appointed to act on behalf of the people in relation to God (presents us to God).
- Offers on sacrifices on behalf of the people for sins (prays for us, etc.)
- Deals gently with the people in their ignorance and waywardness (underscores the importance of an elder as a teacher and guide).
- Knows how we feel and seeks to understand the people better so as to serve and guide them appropriately (shepherds know their sheep).
- Does not serve for personal honor, but to bring honor to God.

4. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

The Church belongs to Jesus. He purchased with His blood and leads it. His will is that men be appointed as leaders, teachers and servants. These men are selected for their Christlike character, especially dedication to Christ and His Church. Our role is to support these men in their service, and if appropriate, grow ourselves in the knowledge and ability to lead. All of us, whether men or women, must take on the characteristics that enable us to maximize our service to the Lord no matter the role we find ourselves in.

Lesson #4 – Elders: Specific Qualifications

Teaching Strategy

The purpose of this lesson is to continue focusing on the role and responsibilities of elders. Of special note in this lesson is the specific qualifications for this role as outlined in scripture. Note that these qualifications are specific to elders but should also be pursued by all faithful Christians.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Know: Understand the various biblical leadership roles and their relationship to one another.
- Feel: Recognize the necessity for effective leadership in the Church.
- Do: Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective leader in the Church.

Support

- Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 4 – Elders: Specific Qualifications
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 4

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 Specific qualifications of elders
- 1.2 Lessons

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. What is the difference between cultural customs found in scripture and those practices considered as commands?

The intent of this question is to add context for the specific qualifications of elders.

Cultural practices give us insights into the society of the early church and are not meant to be followed as commands. They do provide important principles to teach us God's will. For example, we see the custom of washing someone's feet in scripture. It was a practical activity because of the lack of public sanitation and infrastructure as we have today. Jesus used it to teach the eternal principle of service and humility (Matthew 26:14-39; Luke 22:24-27; John 13:1-17).

Eternal concepts or commands are specific and transcend social norms or customs. These are commanded in scripture and must be followed as taught, both in process and intent, and cannot be changed no matter where or when the believer lives. Baptism by immersion for the purpose of being forgiven of sins and taking of the Lord's supper are two examples of eternal rituals commanded by God and practiced at all times (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 22:19).

Some cultural concepts have been carried over into commands. For example, the role of men and women in Church leadership and public worship. Another is the prohibition of instrumental music in worship (1 Timothy 2:12; Ephesians 5:19).

2. How do you understand 1 Timothy 3:1?

Desiring to be an elder is not a bad thing. It is a desire to serve. Done as God intends it is an opportunity to grow in humility and apply the gifts God has given as a leader.

3. Outline 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and explain each concept.

- **Above reproach** – Not perfect, but a blameless character.
- **Husband on one wife** – A one-woman man. Does not practice polygamy. Demonstrates faithfulness in His family that transcends into faithfulness to our Lord.
- **Temperate** – Not an extremist. Dependable in making decisions and is able to look at things without overreacting to personal feelings or the situation. This doesn't mean he lacks passion in a situation, but expresses he is able to deal with situations in a scriptural and rational manner.
- **Prudent** – Life temperate, he is careful in words and actions.
- **Respectable** – Dignified and orderly.
- **Hospitable** – loves and welcomes all, including strangers. This is a characteristic of our Lord as well.
- **Not addicted to wine** – Demonstrates personal control and awareness of example.
- **Gentle, not contentious** – This is demonstrated meekness, another characteristic of Christ.
- **Free from the love of money** – Not greedy or materialistic, rather is focused on treasures in heaven.
- **Manages household well** – Recognizes his role as the spiritual leader of his family.
- **Not a new convert** – Is experienced and knowledgeable in dealing with church matters including struggling with sin.
- **Good reputation** – Well thought of by the community and brings respect to the Church.

4. List the similarities and differences in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

The specification of children as believers is found in Titus 1:5-9. The similarities communicate the qualities of these men in general and specifically. Note that these qualities are not restricted to our shepherds. Many of the characteristics are those that we all should strive to grow in.

5. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

The men selected as our shepherds are not perfect men. They struggle with the same sins we all face. They have learned to lean on our Lord for strength and have dedicated their lives to Him and to His Church. For this they are to be honored and encouraged. We too must strive to grow more in our faithfulness as members of the flock.

Lesson #5 – The Work of the Elder

Teaching Strategy

This lesson is a continuation of study of the office and responsibilities of elders in the Lord’s church. Of special note in this lesson is the difference between a direct command and a necessary inference as it relates to the identify of elders and their responsibilities in serving and leading their respective congregations.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Know: Understand the various biblical leadership roles and their relationship to one another.
- Feel: Recognize the necessity for effective leadership in the Church.
- Do: Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective leader in the Church.

Support

- Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 5 – The Work of the Elder
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 5

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 Work of an elder
- 1.2 Direct Commands
- 1.3 Necessary Inference
- 1.4 Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. How do you understand the work of an elder?

Answers will vary but look for responses that speak to teaching, guiding and governing the body of Christ as outlined in scripture. In some situations, we see elders serving more as a board of directors with emphasis on the financial and general policies of a congregation. This emphasis, although important, takes away from what they would many times prefer to do. Their true role is to shepherd, teach and serve.

2. Define “necessary inference.”

Answers will vary but look for responses showing that when we study scripture we learn by command and examples on a given topic or issue. We look at what conclusions can be naturally and logically drawn from the passages we are studying.

Necessary inference is a conclusion required by a set of facts or examples but may not be necessarily stated.

For example, the Bible doesn't specifically state there must be elders in every congregation for there to be a congregation. Yet, Paul clearly instructed the early church to appoint elders (Titus 1:5-9) and made it a point to install elders in the various congregations (Acts 14:23).

Therefore, we can conclude by necessary inference that a maturing and effective congregation should have elders that meet the required qualifications.

3. What are the direct commands for elders in the following scriptures and how do they relate to the elders' work in the church today?

Acts 20:28-34; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Keep oneself pure; put the needs and care of the congregation before self; be on guard to defend against false teachers from within and without.

In our world today we are constantly bombarded with false teachings and challenges to our purity. This has always been true no matter the form it takes.

4. What are the necessary inferences from the following scriptures and how do they relate to the church today?

Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5

Elders were appointed in every church. This indicates that an effective and growing church should have men that will fill this critical need. Of tremendous importance is that it was done prayerfully and those selected were first and always dedicated to our Lord.

The same concern and requirement are with us today. We need deeply spiritual men to shepherd us in our journey of faithfulness. We must continue to pray for these men as they serve our Lord and ourselves.

5. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

Answers will vary but if not stated, communicate that we are most effective when we follow God's plan. This is true for our personal salvation as well as life in the body of Christ.

Throughout history men have attempted to change or, in our view, "improve" on God's plan. This has resulted in lost souls and religious bodies that go against God's will. Ultimately, going against God's plan always results in failure.

It is this way as well in the daily governance of the Lord's church. We learn by command, example and necessary inference that God desires qualified men to serve as elders in order to guide, teach and protect individual congregations. There is no self-appointed hierarchy, central headquarters or overall leadership structure that oversees the body of Christ. The only leadership structure given us for the church in the New Testament is for the local congregation, not anything higher or larger than that (Titus 1:5).

Lesson #6 – Appointing Elders

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is a review of select passages on how elders are selected. Of special note in this lesson is not just the elder, but the impact on his family, especially his wife.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Know: Understand the various biblical leadership roles and their relationship to one another.
- Feel: Recognize the necessity for effective leadership in the Church.
- Do: Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective leader in the Church.

Support

- Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 6 – Appointing Elders
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 6

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 Appointing elders
- 1.2 The wife of an elder
- 1.3 Lessons

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. Consider a situation in which you are asked to give input on how to select elders. Provide your thoughts on the following questions:

What process would you recommend and why?

Although there is no clear process in scriptures, we do see where an independent individual (Paul, Timothy, etc.) reviewed the recommendations of men selected for this office by members of their respective congregations, regions, city, etc.

Paul provides guidelines as to the qualifications of elders but leaves the actual process up to the individuals. Those making the decisions for elder selection as well as those recommending someone must give prayerful and careful thought to this critical task. Close adherence to scripture is vital.

What character traits would be most important and why?

Answers will vary. Paul lists qualifications of elders in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. These characteristics are a guide to what makes someone qualified. They point to a person of good character whose family is also supportive and faithful.

What determines the appropriate number of elders in a congregation?

This varies with each congregation with reference to more than one (elders). There is no specified number, rather Paul allows this decision to be made by each congregation. Each congregation must determine an appropriate number based on what works best to shepherd the flock, however, we note that each time these leaders are mentioned they are referred to as a plurality (more than one – 1 Peter 5:1; Hebrews 13:17) which suggests that churches in apostolic times had at least two or more elders per congregation.

2. Provide your thoughts on the following questions regarding the wife of an elder:

Summarize the role of an elder's wife.

Answers will vary. Although she holds no position of authority or specific responsibility, there are many things the elder's wife helps him with as he seeks to effectively serve the congregation. No elder can fulfil his role as head of the household without the direct support of his wife. The elder demonstrates God's will for family beginning with a strong relationship with his wife. She brings to the role of the elder a much-needed support system for him as he faces a wide variety of issues. She is a confidant counselor offering him insights he might not otherwise be aware of. Sometimes people will speak with the wife on issues that she can bring to the elder's attention. Other elements of her role include support for her husband with a servant heart, instructs younger women concerning good conduct, good home management and service to the church and community.

What is the relationship of Titus 2:3-5 and the role of an elder's wife?

Paul is speaking generally about older women but certainly, the spiritually mature elder's wife would fit this characteristic and responsibility. By her special place in a congregation she has a wonderful opportunity to be a role model and mentor for younger women.

3. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

God provides all of us a variety of abilities and opportunities to serve. Some serve in ways specified in scripture such as our shepherds, evangelists and teachers. Others serve in critical support roles that may be overlooked as to their importance. Regardless, all of us must seek to live faithful lives looking for opportunities to serve our Lord, each other and to present Jesus to our communities.

God deemed that the leadership of congregations fall upon faithful men who interact daily with each of us. We must hold them in high regard as we help them serve. In doing so, we also are faithful to God's will.

Lesson #7 – The Role and Work of Deacons: Part 1

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is the profile of the men selected to serve as deacons. Of special note in this lesson are their characteristics and qualifications to serve.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Know: Understand the various biblical leadership roles and their relationship to one another.
- Feel: Recognize the necessity for effective leadership in the Church.
- Do: Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective leader in the Church.

Support

- Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 7 – The Role and Work of Deacons – Part 1
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 7 - 1

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 Deacons: word and meaning
- 1.2 The first deacons
- 1.3 Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. What is the meaning of the word deacon as transliterated from Greek and what is the significance of this designation?

The word means “servant”. As applied to a position within a congregation, it signifies a man who is capable and trusted to fulfill a specific leadership role in an area of ministry. As such, he should be afforded responsibility and control of how this ministry functions.

2. What is your perception of the role of deacons?

Answers will vary. Look for responses indicating a perception of men capable and willing to put the needs of the Church and her role over their personal lives. Furthermore, they are placed in this position because of demonstrated abilities and character.

3. Read Acts 6:1-6 and answer the following questions:

Summarize the appointment of the men in Acts 6:16 including why they were needed?

Some of Grecian widows were needing support and appeared to be overlooked. Rather than take on the responsibility themselves, the Apostles selected men to serve in this capacity so that they could continue in their primary mission of prayer and teaching the word. As a result, the issue was resolved, and the church grew.

Has the role of deacons changed from this initial need and if so, how?

Certainly, the variation in roles has changed but the need for men to serve in specified capacities has not changed.

4. How is the charge for all to serve different than someone specified to serve as a deacon?

Answers will vary but generally, all are called upon to serve and needed to serve as they are able, but deacons have been designated as responsible in a specific way due to their qualifications and characteristics. Scripture outlines these qualifications and also specifies that they also be men (Acts 6:3).

An additional thought in this area is that congregations might consider developing programs to teach men to serve in various capacities including the position of deacon. This focused effort would result in spiritual growth for the individuals as well as the overall growth and success of the congregation.

5. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

All have the opportunity to serve our Lord in many different ways. By designating men in roles and qualifying them as scripture requires, preachers, elders and teachers are able to focus on their primary task of teaching the gospel of Christ. When done according to God's plan, the Church will grow just as it did in the first century.

Lesson #8 – The Role and Work of Deacons: Part 2

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is the profile of the men selected to serve as deacons. Of special note in this lesson are on the qualifications and characteristics of deacons.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Know: Understand the various biblical leadership roles and their relationship to one another.
- Feel: Recognize the necessity for effective leadership in the Church.
- Do: Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective leader in the Church.

Support

- Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 7 – The Role and Work of Deacons – Part 2
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 7 - 2

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 1 Timothy 3:8-13
- 1.2 Applications

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. What is the significance of Paul’s use of “likewise” in 1 Timothy 3:8 and what are the specific similarities between elders and deacons?

This indicates that the characteristics of deacons are like that of elders as spiritual men focused on serving as God desires overlooking self.

2. Summarize the qualifications of deacons as given in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and explain their meaning.

Refer to the associated text for information to answer this question.
Consider assigning a specific qualification to someone to report to the class.

3. Why is it important for a deacon to be married?

First of all, it is God’s desire therefore it is important that we obey the Lord’s will in all things. Deacons are often called upon to serve in situations involving direct contact with women. The deacon’s wife is valuable in assisting in these situations offering him wisdom and insight into meeting their needs. It also helps having someone to support his efforts through prayer.

4. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

As stated in the previous lesson, by designating men in specific roles and qualifying them as scripture requires, we are able to focus on teaching the gospel of Christ. When done according to God’s plan, the Church will grow just as it did in the first century.

Lesson #9 – The Laying on of Hands

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on the symbolism and practice of laying on of hands. Of special note in this lesson is how this was used by the Apostles to commission deacons and the significance of this practice.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Know: Understand the various biblical leadership roles and their relationship to one another.
- Feel: Recognize the necessity for effective leadership in the Church.
- Do: Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective leader in the Church.

Support

- Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 9 – The Laying on of Hands
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 9 – The Laying on of Hands

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 The significance of hands in various applications
- 1.2 Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. What are some examples from scripture of the practice of laying on of hands?

Note: refer to the associated text for this question in addition to other examples individuals may provide.

Old Testament:

New Testament:

2. From scripture and the associated text for this lesson, list some ways Jesus and the apostles used laying on of hands and how do these apply today? (Acts 8:14-17; 9:12, 28:8)

Healing – Jesus and the apostles used direct hand contact to transmit the healing power of the Holy Spirit. We do not have access to this gift today.

Blessing – Jesus blessed many individuals by laying on of hands (Matthew 19:13) but this practice was not specifically noted in scripture for use by the apostles and early Christians.

Praying – It was the Jewish custom to raise open hands during prayer. The early Christians carried on this practice and many to so today as a gesture of submission to God. (1 Timothy 2:8)

Miracles – In Acts the Apostles practiced laying on of hands on different disciples to transfer the power of the Holy Spirit for performing various miracles. It was always done through the apostles' hands therefore this transfer was not replicated through those receiving this power.

Appointing – Also known as, “ordination” it means to transfer authority and responsibility. In the context of the early church, it was to appoint someone to a position such as a deacon. This is still done today by some as part of the process of appointing individuals to positions in the church such as elders, deacons or ministers (Acts 6, Acts 13, II Timothy 1:6).

3. What is the responsibility of the Lord's church in regards to fostering growth and how does this compliment God's role in causing growth?

God is the one that grants the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6-7). It is our responsibility to create an environment in which growth can occur. Part of this is through assigning individuals to fulfil roles and responsibilities for which they are qualified and in which they are willing to serve.

4. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

Everyone has a role in God's Kingdom. As we progress through life and service we change in our abilities and areas of service. We should always look to how we can better serve the Master whether in a formal role such as an elder, deacon or minister, or through quiet and faithful service. When we do as God wills, we grow spiritually and thus the church grows as well. It begins with our commitment to God's service and continues as we put into practice the gifts that God grants us.

Lesson #10 – The Selection Process

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on the process a church can use to select, confirm and appoint deacons and elders. Of special note in this lesson is the necessity to follow scripture while balancing the freedom the Holy Spirit allows in this process.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Know: Understand the various biblical leadership roles and their relationship to one another.
- Feel: Recognize the necessity for effective leadership in the Church.
- Do: Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective leader in the Church.

Support

- Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 10 – The Selection Process
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 10 – The Selection Process
- Elders/Deacon Selection Sheets (found in back of this guide)

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 Deacon selection process
- 1.2 Elders selection process

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. Read the qualifications for deacons as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and discuss the following statements:

Summarize the qualifications of deacons mentioned in this passage and restate them in your own words.

Answers will vary but look for similar concepts applied in today's words without deviating from scripture.

Review Acts 6 and discuss how this can be applied in today's congregations to select deacons.

Answers will vary but look for how the process, minus direct intervention of the Holy Spirit, can be applied.

2. Read the qualifications of elders as outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and discuss the following questions.

Summarize the qualifications of elders and restate in your own words.

Answers will vary but look for similar concepts applied in today's words without deviating from scripture.

How do the qualifications for elders prepare these men to serve in this capacity?

Answers will vary but look for responses that support the need for trust and leadership exhibited by a mature personal and spiritual character.

3. From a practical process perspective, if you were appointed to a committee to choose deacons and elders, what process would you recommend and why?

Scripture gives us qualifications for the men selected for these positions but gives us latitude in how we appoint them. From Acts 6 we see that the community of believers put the names of men forward to the apostles (leadership). The apostles then approved the men. They were then appointed into service by prayers and laying on of hands.

As for elders, there are some examples from scripture. Acts 14:23 states men are appointed. The elders and evangelist select a man who desires to serve as an elder, and the congregation confirms his selection by affirming that he does indeed qualify according to scripture. Throughout the process, study of God's word and prayer are critical to the process.

4. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

It is God's plan that men be selected as leaders and servants in a congregation. When we prayerfully study scripture and follow the examples and directions contained therein, we have a greater likelihood of success. This directly leads to a greater effectiveness of the Church in meeting its mission of bringing the lost to Christ.

Lesson #11 – The Role of the Preacher

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is to compare modern views of the minister to the biblical description of that role. Included in this lesson are the qualifications and work of a local evangelist

Student Learning Outcomes

- Know: Understand the various biblical leadership roles and their relationship to one another.
- Feel: Recognize the necessity for effective leadership in the Church.
- Do: Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective leader in the Church.

Support

Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)

Video – Lesson 11 – The Role of the Preacher

Student Note Guide for Lesson 11

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 Preacher models
- 1.2 Terms
- 1.3 Qualifications
- 1.4 The work of a preacher

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. From the associated text for this lesson, summarize the information concerning preacher's and discuss how they compare to your view of a preacher's role.

Answers will vary but look for a preacher who focuses on proclaiming and teaching God's word to others similar to the role of the preacher found in scripture.

Note that because of their public role, preachers are often seen as the primary leader in a congregation. Preachers must be careful not to go beyond their given authority as ministers of the word. The Bible teaches that elders oversee the congregation not preachers.

2. Discuss the terms below that are commonly used to describe a preacher and how they match the role as seen in scripture.

- **Minister** – to serve in any capacity, but in this context, someone leading worship.
- **Preacher** – This term has transitioned from one who called an assembly together to now one who delivers a sermon or lesson during scheduled assemblies.
- **Evangelist** – Originally it referred to one who announced good news. It became one who proclaims the gospel (aka good news). It also applies to someone who preaches at special events such as a gospel meeting but not involved in local, full-time work.

3. What do you feel are desired qualifications for a preacher and why? Also, how do these qualifications relate to elders and deacons within a congregation?

There are no specified qualifications for preachers as there are for elders and deacons. However, as a minimum, a person in this role must be a Christian, male (1 Timothy 2:12-15), knowledgeable of scripture, and able to teach. Additional qualifications include feeling compelled (called) for this demanding role, trained in how to serve in the role, commended (set aside) for the role by a congregation's leadership. Include also a dedication to pure living since his life will be an open book for others to read.

4. Discuss each of the following areas of work of a preacher and relate it to our role as members of the Lord's church.

- **Preach the gospel** – This is a primary function of a preacher. Whether paid as a professional or as a volunteer, this identifies him in this role. All of us should be ready to proclaim the gospel as we are able.

- **Set the church in order** – The elders are responsible to lead, teach, and minister to a congregation. Deacons are responsible to manage and serve in specified capacities. Sometimes roles within a congregation drift away from the model of the apostles in the first century and need to be guided back into compliance with God's word. The preacher is in a position to assist with this. However, it is the responsibility of the elders to ensure a congregation stays true to God's word and to correct situations that might be out of alignment with scripture. All of us should be on guard to ensure we comply with God's will in our own lives and support those who guide and lead us.

- **Minister the word** – This is to serve God's word by teaching the truth of scripture. This includes ministering to the spiritual needs of members so as to help them grow spiritually. In this role, the preacher partners with elders but not above that of elders. Again, all of us minister to one another as we have the capacity and ability. In doing so, we honor God, encourage spiritual growth, and aid in the faithfulness of each other.

5. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

Within a congregation there are many identified roles. Some are formal and have specified qualifications such as elders, deacons and preachers. Other roles are open to all as we have the ability to serve our Lord and one another. We should seek to serve as we are called and to grow in that capacity. We should also seek to support and encourage all who serve, especially those that lead and teach us.

Lesson #12 – The Role of Women in Ministry

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on the critical role women have in ministry. Of special note is their full or limited role.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Know: Understand the various biblical roles of women in the church.
- Feel: Value the role of women as prescribed by scripture.
- Do: Humbly serve in the capacities God grants us.

Support

- Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 12 – The Role of Women in Ministry
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 12

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 An old problem
- 1.2 What is the problem
- 1.3 Full ministry
- 1.4 Limited ministry
- 1.5 Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. What does Paul teach in 1 Corinthians 11 and 14 regarding women praying and teaching?

In 1 Corinthians 11 Paul identifies cultural distinctions as well as specified order of life from Christ, men and women. Included in this is the discussion of the cultural element of women's hair and head coverings. Although cultural distinctions are important, they are limited in scope. However, in the public role of women, Paul clearly teaches that a woman is to have a submissive role. This is not intended as an inferior role, only a different role that men occupy.

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul is discussing the intent and proper use of spiritual gifts, specifically in the context of miraculous gifts. Beginning in verse 26 he discusses orderly worship. He includes in this that women are not to speak publicly when the church comes together for worship. Some take this to include Bible study periods. It is the opinion of this author that in the context of this chapter, Paul is discussing our formal worship times and not Bible classes. Bible study model is something added in modern times, therefore Paul's statement does not apply so long as the woman is a participant and not leading the class.

2. Summarize the idea of full ministry verses limited ministry for women.

Full ministry puts forth the ideas that a woman can serve in any capacity in a congregation to include being a preacher, deacon or elder.

Limited ministry is a traditional biblical position that states that men only can be appointed as preachers, deacons and elders and lead in public worship.

3. What are the arguments for full ministry of women?

- **Cultural argument** – Prohibitions on the role of women were man made (rabbinical). This carried over to the New Testament since Paul was a former Pharisee and Rabi. Since the culture has changed, so too should the church.
- **Phoebe argument** – In Romans 16:1-2, Phoebe is referred to as a deaconess and thus proves that women held this position, however, the Greek word here is the common word meaning servant. We create a precedent when we mistranslate this word.
- **Equal argument** – This position states that since Galatians 3:26 states we are all “sons of God” then all should be able to serve equally in ministry. Of course, Paul is confirming that we are all equally saved in Christ, not that we lose our identities and roles when we become Christians.
- **Example argument** – There are many examples of women ministering to prophets and leaders so they should be allowed to minister fully in the church today. It is men who limit a woman’s role and not God. However, a careful search of the scriptures will not yield any command, example or logical conclusion that gives any women a leadership role in the church.

4. What are the arguments for a limited ministry for women?

- **Cultural argument** – Culture played a role in the early church but scripture is inspired by God. Cultures do change and some elements can change with them. However, we must remember that the apostles, Paul included, had the express authority to “bind and loose” (Matthew 16:19; 18:19). The apostles did this in many situations (i.e. baptism, worship). We do not have the authority to deviate from their instructions and mandates in scripture.
- **Phoebe argument** – The word deacon was a commonly used word to describe a servant. In the case of Phoebe, she was recognized for her devotion to service. The specific role of deacons withing congregations carries a special designation with specified qualifications that identify this role with males only. This is not to be

prejudice or chauvinistic, but simply a matter of inspired record that we all must obey. A point of note, all must remember that whatever role we are given, we will be judged on how we serve. Leaders (i.e. preachers, teachers, elders, deacons) will be held to a higher standard because of their ability to influence others.

- **Equal argument** – The Bible teaches men and women are equal before God no matter the customs of the New Testament period. The Bible does make distinction in roles because of nature and those assigned by God. We are all equally saved when we are united with Christ through baptism but we do not discard our assigned roles. These roles do not mean inferiority, only differences.
- **Example argument** – It is not accurate that there are many examples of women ministers in leadership roles in scripture. Paul teaches distinction in roles in worship, prayer and leadership in 1 Corinthians 14:33-35 and 1 Timothy 2:8-15. There are many roles for women that are critical for teaching, nurturing and supporting. These roles are identified in scripture and must be honored as opportunities to serve God as He wills.

5. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

When we are united with Christ, we commit ourselves to His teachings. Our will is subordinate to His. That must always be kept in focus. We must be careful, whether men or women, to not let our personal desires put us in positions where we go against the teachings of Jesus.

As Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 12, the body of Christ is made of many parts, all important, and none more important than others.

Lesson #13 – Who are the Saints?

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is a comparison of the biblical description of a saint to misconceptions of who and what this person should be. Of special note in this lesson is the qualifications and responsibilities of saints.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Know: Understand the qualifications and roles of saints.
- Feel: Recognize the responsibilities saints have as a result of salvation.
- Do: Seek to live faithful lives as saints dedicated to the service to our Lord.

Support

- Series – Elders Deacons Preachers Saints (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 13 – Who are the Saints
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 13

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 Qualifications
- 1.2 Responsibilities
- 1.3 Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. Discuss the use of the word saint as used in the Old and New Testaments.

What does the word saint mean? It comes from the word “sanctified” meaning set aside. In the Old Testament it was something pronounced as morally or ceremonially clean. In the New Testament it means the same but is usually used to describe those who are believers or members of the church. There is no distinction in the Bible as a “super Christian” or one who had the ability to perform miracles.

2. From the text associated with this lesson, what qualified someone to be designated as a saint? (Romans 15:26; II Corinthians 1:2)

Members of the church – called out as followers of Christ by God and the gospel. (II Corinthians 1:2).

Sanctified by Christ – Made holy and pure by Christ (I Corinthians 6:9-11).

Saints by calling – Called out to become purified by the blood of Christ (Acts 2:37-38).

United by faith in Christ – All are saints (set aside) by and for Christ as members of His church. This would include anyone washed clean of sin through faith, repentance and baptism.

3. From the text associated with this lesson, what are the responsibilities of saints? Answers will vary but look for the following concepts. All saints are to be:

Faithful (Revelation 2:10) – We are faithful in obeying the gospel, living faithful lives as well as worshiping, serving and trusting God for our salvation.

Holy (1 Peter 1:15) – Holy also means separate, different and dedicated. We are set aside by God for a particular day and purpose – to glorify and honor Him. The day is the day when our Lord returns. Those set aside will be saved to be joined to Christ for eternity.

4. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

We are made holy by Christ. It is by our being washed of our sins by the blood of Christ in baptism (Acts 22:16). This is given to us by the grace of God and not earned by special works that we must perform.

We must recognize and honor this gift by our faithfulness in life. In doing so we are identified as set aside for Christ (II Peter 3:10-14).

As stated, we are set aside to glorify God. And in this I conclude by stating that indeed, we give God the glory!



ELDER SELECTION WORKSHEET

NAMES OF MEN SUBMITTED

Please study I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 carefully and prayerfully; then use the following checklist to confirm if the following persons may be qualified to serve as an elder.

MUST BE:

Without Reproach: Blameless					
Husband of Only One Wife					
Ruler of His Own House					
Father of Believing Children, and are Subject to Him					
Given to Hospitality					
A Lover of Good Men					
Apt to Teach: Able to Exhort and Convict					
Temperate: Self-Controlled					
Sober-Minded					
Orderly					
Just					
Holy					
Faithful to the Word					
Gentle					
Good Reputation					

MUST NOT BE:

A Brawler					
A Striker: Soon Angry					
Contentious: Self-Willed					
A Lover of Money: Greedy of Worldly or Dishonest Gain					
A Novice (Without Experience)					

Put A ✓ If He Qualifies

Put A ? If You Don't Know

Put An X If He Does Not Qualify

YOUR NAME: _____

DEACON SELECTION WORKSHEET

NAMES OF MEN SUBMITTED

Please study I Timothy 3:8-11 carefully and prayerfully; then use this checklist to suggest who might be qualified to serve as a deacon.

MUST BE:

Man of Dignity (Grave, Serious-Minded)										
Not Double Tongued (Two-Faced or Deceitful)										
Not Addicted to Much Wine										
Not Fond of Sordid Gain (Not Greedy of Base Gain)										
Possessing a Faith with a Clear Conscience										
One who has been Tested (By time, Activities, and God's Word)										
Beyond Reproach (Doctrine, Morals and Character)										
Husband of Only One Wife										
Good Manager, Both of Household and Children										
Wife who is Dignified, Temperate, Faithful and not a Gossip										

Put A ✓ If He Qualifies

Put A ? If You Don't Know

Put An X If He Does Not Qualify

YOUR NAME: _____