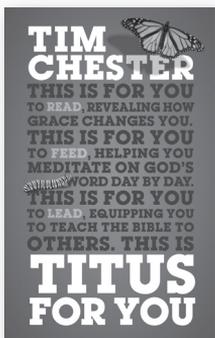




The good life

TITUS

by Tim Chester



Titus For You

If you are reading *Titus For You* (see page 60) alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Titus For You*:

Study One → Ch 1-2

Study Four → Ch 5

Study Two → Ch 3

Study Five → Ch 6-7

Study Three → Ch 4

The good life

The good book guide to Titus

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introduction: good book guides

Every Bible-study group is different—yours may take place in a church building, in a home or in a cafe, on a train, over a leisurely mid-morning coffee or squashed into a 30-minute lunch break. Your group may include new Christians, mature Christians, non-Christians, mums and tots, students, businessmen or teens. That's why we've designed these *Good Book Guides* to be flexible for use in many different situations.

Our aim in each session is to uncover the meaning of a passage, and see how it fits into the “big picture” of the Bible. But that can never be the end. We also need to appropriately apply what we have discovered to our lives. Let's take a look at what is included:

- ↻ **Talkabout:** Most groups need to “break the ice” at the beginning of a session, and here's the question that will do that. It's designed to get people talking around a subject that will be covered in the course of the Bible study.
- ↓ **Investigate:** The Bible text for each session is broken up into manageable chunks, with questions that aim to help you understand what the passage is about. **The Leader's Guide** contains **guidance on questions**, and sometimes ☑ additional “follow-up” questions.
- 📄 **Explore more (optional):** These questions will help you connect what you have learned to other parts of the Bible, so you can begin to fit it all together like a jig-saw; or occasionally look at a part of the passage that's not dealt with in detail in the main study.
- ➔ **Apply:** As you go through a Bible study, you'll keep coming across **apply** sections. These are questions to get the group discussing what the Bible teaching means in practice for you and your church. 🗨️ **Getting personal** is an opportunity for you to think, plan and pray about the changes that you personally may need to make as a result of what you have learned.
- ↑ **Pray:** We want to encourage prayer that is rooted in God's word—in line with his concerns, purposes and promises. So each session ends with an opportunity to review the truths and challenges highlighted by the Bible study, and turn them into prayers of request and thanksgiving.

The **Leader's Guide** and introduction provide historical background information, explanations of the Bible texts for each session, ideas for **optional extra** activities, and guidance on how best to help people uncover the truths of God's word.

why study Titus?

It's A Wonderful Life is recognised by the American Film Institute as one of the 100 best American films of all time. It stars James Stewart as George Bailey, a man who in his youth dreamed of travelling the world. But along the way, he's made sacrifices for other people that mean he never got to leave his small town. Now he's a weary, broken man who, through no fault of his own, is going to be declared bankrupt. So he stands on the town bridge about to commit suicide.

But then his guardian angel intervenes. The angel gives him a vision of what life would have been like if he'd never lived. He sees that his life counts, that it has made a difference. He has truly lived a good life—a wonderful life—touching the lives of many people in small but decisive ways.

In many ways, this is what Paul is doing in the letter he writes to Titus. He is giving us a vision of a life that touches people in small but decisive ways—a life that has eternal consequences. He is setting out the truly good life.

Paul knew that truth is what produces goodness, or “godliness”. What is that truth? “The hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour” (1 v 2-3). The truth that creates a good life is the gospel. That is the truth that brings life and then changes life. And this good life overflows into others' lives, too. A gospel-changed life “will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive” (2 v 10). The good life is a missional force.

Paul wanted Titus to lead this group of Christians on Crete to be church in a way that kept the gospel central for life, growth and mission. These five studies will inspire and equip you to make sure that you do the same—so that you, as individuals and as a local church, will live the godly life, the missional life... the good life.



BIBLE TIMELINE

Where does Paul's letter to Titus fit into the whole story of God's word?

TITUS 63-65AD

- 49/50AD Titus accompanies Paul to meet apostles in Jerusalem
- c55AD Titus involved in church ministry in Corinth, Greece
- c63AD Paul leaves Titus in Crete to pastor to newly founded churches there
- 63-65AD Paul writes letter to Titus
- 66/67AD Titus goes on mission work to Dalmatia (in modern-day Croatia)



1

Titus 1 v 1-9

LEADERSHIP ISSUES

talkabout

1. What makes a good church leader?

investigate

 Read Titus 1 v 1-4

2. Who is the letter from (v 1) and to (v 4)?

3. What do verses 1-2 tell us about Paul's aim in his ministry? (**Note:** Verse 1 is better translated as the NIV 1984 does: "... an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect".)

- How does God make his eternal purposes and promises known (v 3)?

DICTIONARY

Apostle (v 1): a man who had seen the risen Jesus and was chosen by him to teach his word with authority.

God's elect (v 1): God's people, chosen by him.

Grace (v 4): undeserved favour.



explore more

optional

Paul describes Christians as “God’s elect”—those God has chosen to give faith to so that they can be saved.

Why might the truth of God’s election discourage us from evangelising?

▶ Read Acts 18 v 5-11

What effect did knowing that God had elected people in Corinth have on Paul?

So how does God’s election encourage our evangelism?



apply

4. Why is evangelism eternally significant? How does this help us overcome our fears and do it?

5. Why are gospel churches the most important places in a town?



getting personal

The truth is that what you do for the gospel today has eternal implications. When you tell someone about Jesus, eternity is entering history. When someone becomes a Christian, that is an event with eternal implications. When you meet as church, it is the most significant event happening in your town.

How does this excite you today?

How should it change your priorities for your week?



investigate

▶ Read Titus 1 v 5-9

DICTIONARY

Elders (v 5): men responsible for leading a local church.

Trustworthy message (v 9): the gospel; the message about Jesus.

Doctrine (v 9): teaching about God.

6. Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete (v 5)?

In verses 6-8, Paul focuses not on a leader's skills or experience, but on their home and character.

7. What should a leader's home life be like?

- What does this have to do with their church role (v 7a)?

8. What should a leader's character be like (both negatively and positively)?

- Take each one of these descriptions. What effect would it have on the church if a leader failed to have this character quality?



9. What else must a leader do (v 9)?

 **apply**

10. In what situations would it be easy for church leaders not to fulfil the responsibilities of verse 9?

11. What makes a good church leader, and why does it matter?

12. How does this shape our own expectations of, and prayers for, our church leader(s)?



getting personal

Will you pray for your church leader(s) this week? When?
What will you pray for them?

How do you think you could make your pastor's work more of a joy?
(Perhaps you could ask them!)





pray

Thank God for:

- the eternal significance of gospel work.
- the church leaders he has given you.

Ask God to:

- enable your leaders to fit the description in verses 6-9.
- show you how you can encourage your leaders.
- help your leaders in any specific ways you know they or their families need.

