

THE CHURCH IS LED BY QUALIFIED ELDERS

BIG TRUTH: THE CHURCH IS LED BY QUALIFIED ELDERS

Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5

BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 5:1-3

"So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock."

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus is the chief shepherd.
- Elders exist to lead the church like Jesus.
- The right response to godly leadership is glad-hearted submission.

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 PETER 5:1-11

UNITE - I AM PART OF A FAMILY

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- The church is a family.
- The church is given by God.
- The church exists for God.



Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the unique ways God has gifted them and their church.
- Appreciation for the elders and leaders that God has gifted their church.



Every student should strive to...

- Prioritize gathering to worship each week with their church family.
- Learn more about membership in their local church.
- Do something to intentionally serve someone in their church family each week



Every student should want...

- To devote themselves to pursue holiness with their church family.
- To have their lives be marked by love for the church.
- To live in a way that is sacrificial and generous for the good of others and the glory of God

STUDENT WORKOUT:

This week we will ponder what an elder is. We will pray for hearts that submit to our leadership gladly and we will practice praying for and supporting our leadership.

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**Read and meditate on 1 Peter 5:1-11 this week.**

As you read these verses and meditate on them, ask yourself some of these questions:

- What is an elder? Who is the perfect example of an elder? How does Jesus' example help you understand what an elder is?
- How can you pray for your church leadership? Why is it important that you gladly submit to your elders?

Ponder the ways you can better support your church leadership. What are some ways you can show your support and appreciation to your church leadership?

**Set aside time to pray for your church elders every day this week.**

- Spend time praying that God would give them wisdom and would guide them to lead the church to bring Him glory.
- Pray with your small group leader this week. As you pray, ask the Holy Spirit to help you see ways you haven't been submitting and ways that you can submit to your leadership.

**Make a list of the elders or pastors of your church.**

- Commit to support them and encourage them in some way this week. You can send notes or cards. You can pray for them. Give them gifts or tell them in person you are thankful for them.
- Discuss with your small group leader some attitudes or behaviors that aren't glad-hearted submission. Discuss ways that you can gladly submit to your church leadership.