

Household of God: A Study in the Book of 1 Timothy
Elders and a Culture of Shepherding

1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Other Passages:

1 Timothy 5:17-20

Acts 14:21-23

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Titus 2:1-6

1 Peter 2:24-25

NOTES:

1. A church becomes a church when elders are set in.
2. Elders are to lead by example.
3. Single people in the church family have a unique freedom to minister - free from the obligations of a spouse and children.
4. Elders are to lead through teaching.
5. The older in the church family are called to teach the younger.

Questions for Discussion (Published weekly on the JICC mobile app):

1. What are good and bad examples of church leaders that you have seen? Compare and contrast the examples that you have with the qualifications for overseers/elders in 1 Timothy 3. How do the Scriptures display wisdom in selecting leaders?
2. A culture of shepherding is a culture that looks like Jesus. What is one way that you have been gifted or positioned in life (ie. singleness, being older) where you could help to shepherd others?
3. In what way could you provide support to the elders of our church?

3DQ - 3 Discipleship questions to ask each other: What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it? How can I help?