

Series: Let the Church Be the Church

Title: Can You See a King in a Kid?

Primary Text: 1 Timothy 4:12–16

1. Learning to See What God Sees - God sees potential, calling, and future leadership in people that others often overlook. Believers must learn to look beyond outward appearances and recognize the work God is doing in someone's life.

Scripture Passages - 1 Timothy 4:12–16, 1 Samuel 16:7, Genesis 37 (Joseph's early story)

- Exodus 3–4 (Moses' calling after years in the wilderness)

Discussion Questions

1. Why do people tend to judge others based on outward appearances rather than what God may be doing in their hearts?

2. Think about a time when someone saw potential in you that you did not see in yourself. How did that impact your life?

2. The Biblical Qualities of a Pastor Begin with Character - True spiritual leadership begins with character. Paul teaches that a pastor earns respect not through authority or position but through a life that reflects Christ.

Scripture Passages - 1 Timothy 4:11–12, Proverbs 18:21, Luke 6:45, John 13:35, 1 Peter 5:2, Proverbs 4:23

Discussion Questions

1. Paul lists speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity as marks of leadership. Which of these qualities do you think most powerfully impacts others, and why?

2. Why is character more important than talent or charisma in spiritual leadership?

3. A Pastor Earns Trust Through the Word of God - A pastor's central responsibility is to faithfully teach and proclaim the Word of God. Spiritual transformation in the church happens through Scripture, not programs or personalities.

Scripture Passages - 1 Timothy 4:13, Romans 10:17, John 21:15-17

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Paul emphasized Scripture reading, preaching, and teaching as the priority for church leadership?

2. In today's culture, what pressures might tempt churches to focus on things other than God's Word?

3. How can believers personally cultivate a deeper hunger for Scripture in their own lives?

4. The Church Participates in Raising Future Leaders - Leadership in the church is both a divine calling and a community affirmation. The church plays a vital role in recognizing, encouraging, and nurturing the gifts God places in people.

Scripture Passages - 1 Timothy 4:14-16, Acts 13:2-3

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important that spiritual leadership is both recognized by God and affirmed by the church community?

2. How can churches intentionally create environments where future leaders can grow and develop?

5. Four Commitments for Raising the Next Generation of Leaders

I. Identifying Calling Early - 1 Timothy 4:12, Acts 16:1–3

Discussion Questions

1. What signs might indicate that God is calling someone into leadership or ministry?

2. How can older believers intentionally invest in younger believers?

II. Creating Space for Emerging Leaders - 1 Kings 19:19–21 (Elijah and Elisha), 2 Kings 2:1–15 (Elisha succeeding Elijah), 1 Samuel 16–18 (David serving before becoming king)

Discussion Questions

1. Why do developing leaders need opportunity before they have full authority?

2. What fears or challenges sometimes prevent established leaders from releasing opportunities to others? _____

III. Encouraging Without Comparing - 1 Corinthians 12:4–6, Romans 12:6

Discussion Questions

1. Why can comparison discourage or damage a person's sense of calling? _____

2. How can we celebrate the strengths of different leaders without expecting them to be the same?

III. Praying and Supporting Future Leaders - Acts 13:2–3, 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13

Discussion Questions

1. Why is prayer essential when a church is discerning and supporting leadership?

2. How can congregations actively support and encourage their pastors and leaders?
