Titus 1:1-9
Discussion Guide

Pray
Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Read Scripture
Read the entire letter together (should take about 8 minutes), with special focus on 1:1-9.

Bible Study: The HEAR Method
The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

HEAR stands for:
- **H**ighlight: read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **E**xamine: based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **A**pply: determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **R**espond in prayer: pray God's Word back to Him.

Remember:
- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

Pray
- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

Titus 1:1-9 (ESV)
"Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, [2]in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began [3]and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; [4]To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

[5]This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—[6] if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. [7]For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, [8]but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. [9]He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it."

Open: What makes a good leader?

Study:
1) Who is this letter from and to (see vs. 1 & 4)?

2) What do vs. 1-2 tell us about Paul's aim in his ministry? How does God choose to make his eternal purpose and promises known (see vs. 3)?

3) What do we learn about God just from the first 4 verses? How does this inspire Paul's commitment to serve Him?

4) Why does Paul leave Titus in Crete (see vs. 5)?

5) In vs. 6-8, Paul focuses not on a leader's skills or experience, but on their home and character. What should a leader's home life be like? In what ways does this connect with their church role (see vs. 7a)?

6) What should a leader's character be like (both negatively and positively)? What effect would it have on a church if a leader failed to have these character qualities?

7) What must a leader do (see vs. 9)? Why is it important for a leader to do these things?

Apply:
8) In what situations would it be easy for church leaders not to fulfill the responsibilities found in verse 9?

9) What makes a good church leader, and why does it matter?

10) How does this shape our own expectations of, and prayers for, our church leaders? Are there specific ways you can pray for, encourage, or care for your leaders? If so, what comes to mind?

PRAY:
- Take time thank God for the eternal life we have through Jesus.
- Take time to thank God for the leaders he has given you.
- Ask God to enable your church leaders to fit the description in verses 6-9 and to grow more and more in these character qualities.
- Ask God to show you how you can encourage your leaders.

NOTE: most questions have come from *The Good Book Guide to Titus* study by Tim Chester.