

A photograph of a white lighthouse perched on a dark, rocky island. The lighthouse is cylindrical with a lantern room on top. The island is surrounded by the ocean, with white-capped waves crashing against the rocks in the foreground. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

SOLID

**building life on a
firm foundation**

1-1 studies on Titus

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Firm Foundation

You

We're going to spend plenty of time getting to know Titus, but we also want to take some time to get to know each other!

Jot down the things you love and hate, then tell each other.

	Love	Hate
Food		
Music		
Holiday spot		
Smell		
Book		
Movie		

What is something you are looking forward to about the year?

What is something about the year that worries you?

⁹ But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰ Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. ¹¹ You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. ¹² As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. ¹³ Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. ¹⁴ Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives. ¹⁵ Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

Now that we are saved from all wickedness, do we still need Jesus to justify us? Why/not?

You + God

What is our motivation for doing good?

What enables us to do good?

How have you seen this at work in your life?

What areas of life that Paul has talked about do you find it hardest to work on?

Saved

You

What's the best thing about being a Christian?

Titus 3

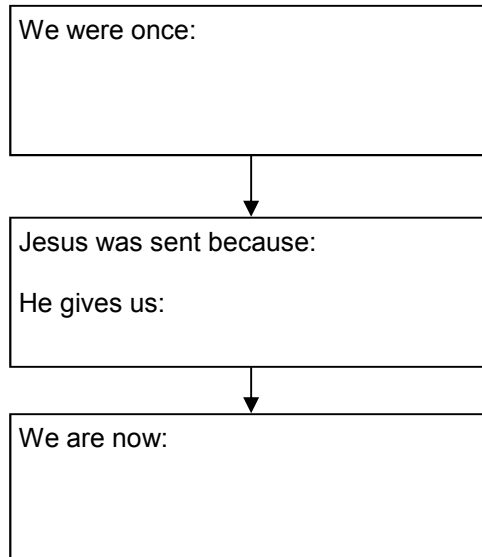
Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to slander no-one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility towards all men. ³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Titus

Can you sum up the big idea of Titus 2?

What good characteristics is Titus supposed to encourage in the people?

Read Titus 1:1-4, 2:11-14 and 3:3-7, then fill out the flow-chart.



Titus 1:1-4

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness - ² a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, ³ and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour, ⁴ To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.

Titus

Paul starts by describing himself as a servant (or slave) of God and an apostle; one who is sent with a message.

He says that he's been made these things for a reason; what is that reason (v.1)?

How important are these things to the Christian life?

What are the realities that underlie these things (vv.2-3)?

You + God

All the things Paul talks about in these few verses are the foundational realities for his life and work. How important are they to you?

Good

You

Who's a Christian who has inspired or helped you?

Titus 1:5-9

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. ⁶ An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. ⁷ Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless--not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸ Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Titus

What is Titus' job?

Look at the description of leaders in the church. List their qualities.

Now go back and try to restate them in your own words.

¹⁰ and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive. ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. ¹⁵ These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

What are the similarities and differences?

What questions does this raise for you?

How is Titus supposed to act?

What about slaves?

What reasons does Paul give for all these actions?

Look at vv.11-14. What's the order in which these things happen; salvation, good works, grace?

How is salvation described in v.14? Why would Paul describe it in this way here?

How does the grace of God teach us to say no?

Do good works take over from grace once you're a Christian? What's the relationship between them?

You + God

What motivates you to do good works?

What special opportunities might uni present for good works?

What gets in the way of these good works?

Sound

Titus 2

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.² Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.³ Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.⁴ Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children,⁵ to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no-one will malign the word of God.⁶ Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.⁷ In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity,⁸ seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.⁹ Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them,

You

What does it mean to be godly?

Titus

What was the main idea of the last study?

What is Titus supposed to teach to the different groups in vv.2-6?

	Men	Women
Young		
Old		

Are there ones that are repeated?

Why are they especially important?

Do you think these qualities are ones that only church leaders need to have?

You + God

Which ones do you do well at?

Which ones do you need to work on?

Are there particular situations where you struggle?

How can you change those to better live for God?

What's your motivation for doing these things?

Deception

Titus 1:9-16

⁹ He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. ¹⁰ For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. ¹¹ They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach--and that for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹² Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith ¹⁴ and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth. ¹⁵ To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. ¹⁶ They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

You

What do you think are the most controversial things about Christianity?

What do you find toughest to believe?

What attitude does the world have to the idea of truth? Morality?

Titus

What was the big point of the last study?

What picture do you get of the problems in Crete?

v.10

v.11

v.12

v.14

v.15

v.16

Let's sum up. What overall picture do you get of the Cretans:

- character

- motivation

- teachings

What does Titus need to do about it (vv.11,13)?

You + God

How does this attitude to truth and morality compare to the world's?

Paul is big on sound doctrine (correct teaching). Pick one of the statements below. How would you answer someone who said that to you?

"Jesus was just a man; he wasn't God at all"

"Being a Christian is about doing the right thing"

"All religions are really just different roads to the one God"