

Letters From Heaven



Parents' Page

Lesson 8

Elders and Deacons

Your child should understand...

Leaders—God's plan for the organization of the local church

Your child should be able to...

1. Describe what a shepherd does, and tell how elders are like shepherds.
2. Name at least two things an elder does.
3. Describe our proper attitude toward our elders.

Your child should be able to say...

2 Timothy 3:16-17

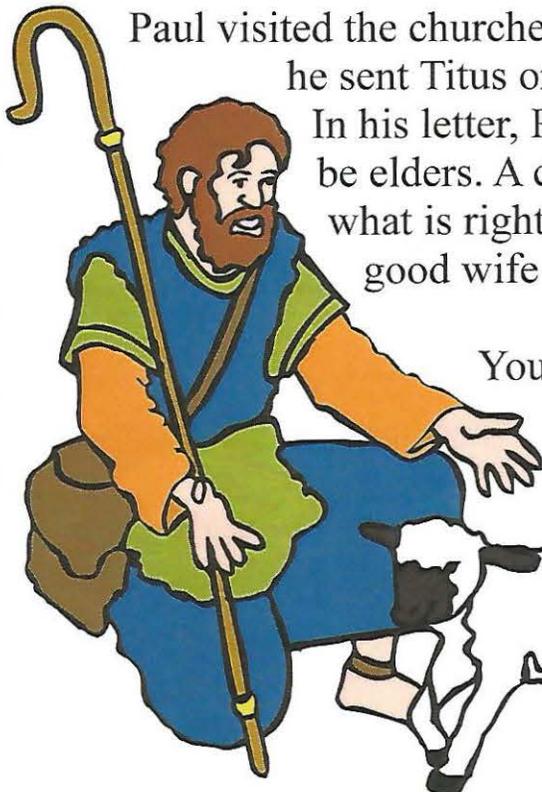
“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (NIV)

Please help your child read...

- 1 1 Timothy 3:2-4, 8, 11-12
- 2 Titus 1:5-9
- 3 1Thessalonians 5:12-13
- 4 Hebrews 13:7-8, 15-17
- 5 1 Peter 5:1-3, 6-9

Elders and Deacons

God knew that each local church needs leaders to care for the Christians in that church. The Bible calls these men *elders*, *bishops*, *shepherds*, or *pastors*. Paul sent Titus a letter about elders. This letter is the book of *Titus*.



Paul visited the churches to help them choose elders. But sometimes he sent Titus or others to help each church choose its elders. In his letter, Paul told Titus the kind of men to look for to be elders. A church's elders must be good men who do what is right and who love the Lord. An elder must have a good wife and children who are believers.

You know what a shepherd is, don't you? A shepherd is a person who cares for and protects a flock of sheep. A shepherd loves his sheep. He takes them to find water and gives them food. He takes them to quiet, safe places to rest. He protects the sheep from wolves and other wild animals.

What does a shepherd out in the fields do for his sheep?

But why we are talking about *shepherds* in a lesson about *elders*? You see, elders in a church are also called shepherds. But they don't take care of sheep. They care for and oversee the Christians in a congregation. Elders teach God's Word. They help the Christians in a church to be faithful to the Lord. They protect them from sin and from people who try to teach things that are not in the Bible. Elders of a church watch over the souls of people in that church. They want to help everyone in that church go to heaven.

Being an elder is a good work. Paul told the Christians in each place to love and respect their elders and to be thankful for their work. We are to love and help our elders in every way we can. It is important that we pray for God to give our elders wisdom in shepherding us.

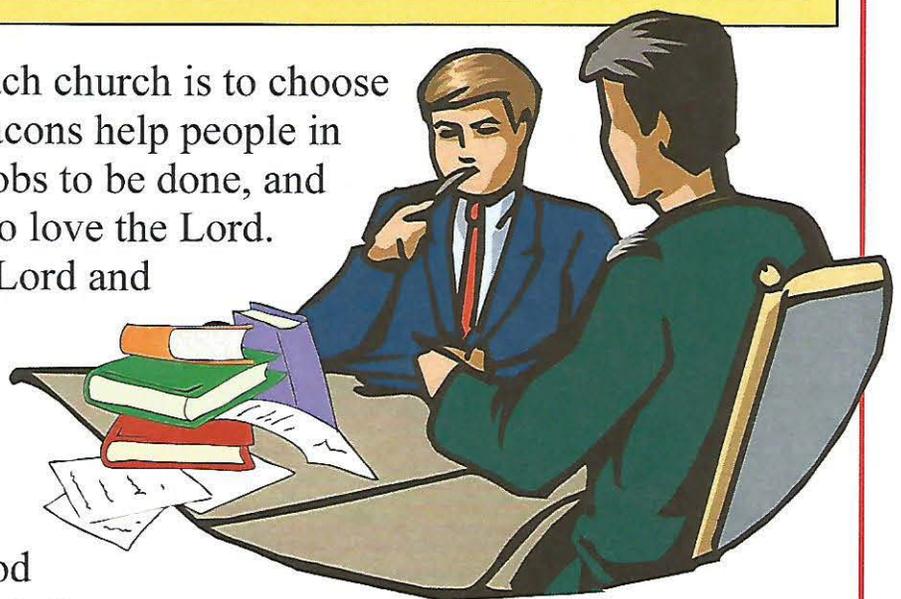
How are our elders in the church like shepherds?

Can you name some things an elder does?

How should we treat our elders?

The Bible also tells us that each church is to choose good men to be *deacons*. Deacons help people in the church. There are many jobs to be done, and deacons are hard workers who love the Lord. Deacons are servants for the Lord and for the church.

God is so good to plan for each church to have its own elders and deacons! We can pray to thank God for our good elders and deacons. We can ask the Lord to bless and help them and their families.



Lesson 8

Elders and Deacons

Memory Verse:

It's time to say your memory verses in Bible class without any help. Are you really ready?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (NIV)

In which book of the Bible can we read that all people can be complete in Christ?
(Colossians)



In a very **soft voice**, say **John 3:16**. (“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”) NASB

On your **Bible map**, use your **ring finger** to **point** to the city of **Samaria**.