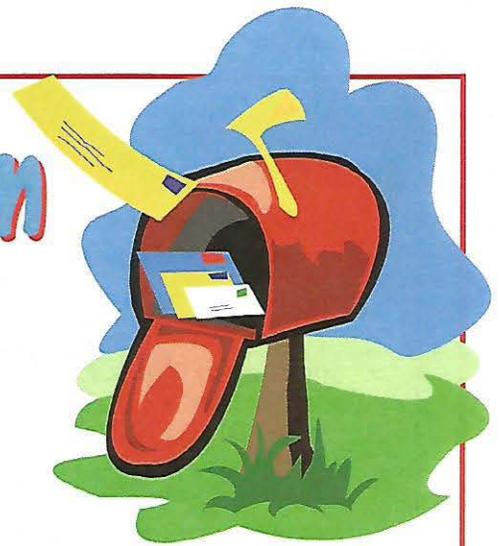


# Letters From Heaven



Lesson 8

## Elders and Deacons

**Theme:** Leaders—God’s plan for the organization of the local church

### Memory Verse

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

### Daily Bible Readings

- 1 1 Timothy 3:1-15
- 2 Titus 1:1-9
- 3 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24
- 4 Hebrews 13:7-9, 14-17
- 5 1 Peter 5:1-11

### After this lesson you should be able to ...

- Describe the attitudes and behaviors an elder should demonstrate.
- Describe the attitudes and behaviors a deacon should demonstrate.
- Describe the attitudes and behaviors each Christian should demonstrate.

**P**eople often think of the church as a building, but the church is people. And the church is not just any group of people; it is people who follow Jesus and are saved by Him. Get this in your mind. The church is people who follow and are saved by Jesus Christ. Christians who live near each other come together to worship and to serve the Lord. This group is called a local church, because it is people who meet at a certain locality or place.

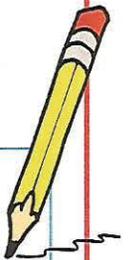
### Christians Who Love and Serve

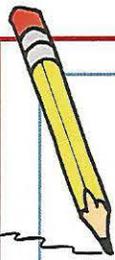
After Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, the good news

### 1 Timothy 3:1-15

An elder or overseer must take care of his own family so he will have knowledge and experience to a) be a good boss, b) take care of God’s family, c) send his children to college.

*Circle the letter of all correct answers.*  
Deacons must a) be good speakers, b) be servants, c) love money, d) be workers.





### Titus 1:1-9

From the list below cross out the qualities that do *not* relate to being an elder.

- has children who believe
- gets angry quickly
- self-controlled
- wants more and more money
- wants his own way
- manages his children
- cares about others
- drinks wine and beer
- opens his home to others
- knows what the Bible teaches
- is proud

about Him was preached. When people believed in and obeyed Jesus, they were saved from sin. These people are Christians – people who follow Jesus Christ. The letters from heaven we are studying give directions and encouragement to Christians and churches. We can read the New Testament and find out how Jesus wants Christians to live and what He wants churches to do.

Jesus is the head of the church. This means that He is in charge. Jesus gives the church instructions in the New Testament. He wants Christians to meet together to worship God and to help each other. He also wants the church to tell the gospel to others so they may also

know Jesus and be saved. Christians are to love God and each other. Churches are to serve God by worshiping Him and following His Word in all things.

### Elders Who Lead

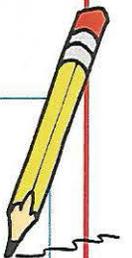
Jesus wants each local church to have men who lead in God's way. These men are often called elders. They are men who have studied the Bible and who know God. Other Christians know they have been trying to follow God's word. These men are leading their own families in God's way, so the church asks them to lead others. The elders of a local church guide and guard the group. They make decisions about the church obeying God's Word and they guard the church against wrong teaching and sin.

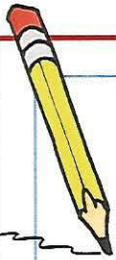
Being a leader for a local church is a good work, and boys should plan to be elders one day. These men will also need wives who love and obey God. Girls should plan to be elders' wives and serve God in this important work. Elders are not perfect men. Sometimes they don't know exactly what is best. They may make mistakes and sin.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

What three works does Paul say that elders do?

How can we appreciate elders of the church?





### Hebrews 13:7-9, 14-17

What does it mean to imitate someone's faith?

Christians are to live in a way that elders may lead them with a) sorrow, b) worry, c) joy.

But we should love and appreciate them for leading people in God's way. Will you plan to be an elder or an elder's wife one day?

### Deacons Who Serve

Deacons are men with strong faith who live for God and serve the church in special ways. Every Christian is to serve the Lord, but deacons do special

works such as taking care of the needs of the sick and older members. Deacons might do work around the church's meeting place to make it more useful for worship and Bible study. Many things have to be done for a group to meet together and to do God's work. Jesus gave deacons to serve the local church in these special works.

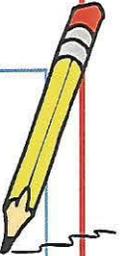
Men who serve as deacons are to have certain qualities found in the New Testament. These men are to work hard for Jesus and serve Him well. Will you plan to be a deacon or a deacon's wife one day and serve God in this special way?

### 1 Peter 5:1-11

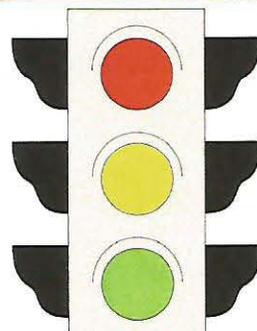
Peter describes elders as a) businessmen, b) shepherds, c) priests.

Cross out the attitudes and actions that Christians should *not* have as they work and worship together.

- |              |             |       |
|--------------|-------------|-------|
| greed        | humility    | lazy  |
| kindness     | pride       | worry |
| strong faith | anger       | joy   |
| jealousy     | selfishness | love  |



I want to be a good servant in the church.

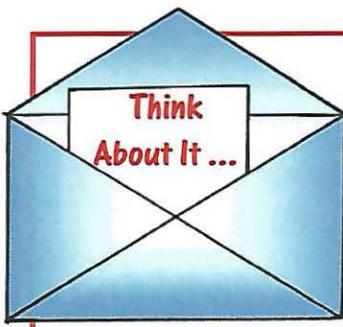


Put an X in the light that best describes you.

**Red** — sometimes

**Yellow** — most of the time

**Green** — all the time



If you are a boy, list three things you can do now to prepare to be an elder or deacon in the church. If you are a girl, list three things you can do now to prepare to be the wife of an elder or deacon in the church.

By writing numbers in the blanks, put the major stages of Bible history in the right order:

- \_\_\_ Living in the Promised Land
- \_\_\_ Salvation in Jesus Christ
- \_\_\_ Punished by Captivity
- \_\_\_ Wilderness Wanderings
- \_\_\_ Promise to Abraham
- \_\_\_ Law at Mount Sinai
- \_\_\_ Slavery in Egypt



What book in the New Testament is about practical living for Jesus?

On a map inside the back cover, locate the city of Damascus.