

## 1 Timothy 3:1-16

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

## 1 Timothy 3:16

MEMORY VERSE

Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. **1 Timothy 3:16**

American culture is geared toward producing leaders. Think about it: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, student councils and officers, school class officers, National Honor Society, Beta Club, athletics, FCA . . . the list goes on and on. All are designed to build leadership skills in the lives of our teens. Each group has a set of criteria that allows only certain teens to participate. The qualifications for being church leaders are laid out in God's Word.

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-16. Paul wanted Timothy to know that although church leadership is important, not just anyone qualifies for the task. The standard for leaders is a godly life patterned after Christ's.

How do we produce these church leadership qualities in our teenagers? 1) We don't leave that responsibility entirely to the church. 2) We model these leadership qualities at home. 3) We allow our children to take leadership responsibilities at home as they become ready. 4) We teach our children godly principles, training them to one day be godly parents and leaders. 5) As our children grow and mature, we release our hold on them, allowing them to make more choices in their walk with God.

There is nothing as rewarding as looking on your teenagers and realizing they are already godly leaders. That day is out there. Don't give up in your leadership role as a parent. Don't give up on your child. Always thank God for His nurturing presence in their lives.

## FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

### Connect . . .

First, family members discuss the leadership roles they have inside and outside the home. As one member lists his or her roles, other family members affirm those roles, identifying qualities they admire in the speaker.

### Explore . . .

First, family members take turns reading 1 Timothy 3:1-16. On a sheet of paper, the family makes two separate lists for the leadership requirements of overseers and deacons. Once the lists have been made, a family member circles the qualities or requirements that are common to both lists. Then, the family discusses: **Why is family so important to church leadership?**

### Transform . . .

The family discusses: **Are there some leadership qualities our family needs to work on? Consider the following: a) respect, b) trustworthiness, c) leadership/management, and d) actions/attitudes. What can we do to develop the qualities we struggle with?**