

Sermon Big Idea	Helpful Resources
God doesn't leave people behind. He leaves them on purpose for His mission.	The Bible Project Guide: Titus 

Read the Text
In your group, read the passage out loud, with each person reading a verse.

Head: Grasping the Text
<i>Goal: To grasp the theological concepts and historical context of the text.</i>

1. Paul opens his letter with two titles for himself — *servant* and *apostle* — and places servant before apostle. What does each title mean, and why do you think Paul leads with servant before apostle? What does that sequence tell us about how Paul understood leadership and authority?
2. In 1:1 Paul describes his mission as building up "the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness." How does elect relate to a Christian's identity? Why does it matter that knowledge of the truth *leads somewhere* rather than just being information we collect?
3. Paul says in 1: 2 that the hope of eternal life rests on a promise made by "God, who cannot lie" — before the beginning of time. Then, in verse 3, he says that the promise was revealed "at his appointed season" through proclamation. What do these two phrases — *God who cannot lie* and *appointed season* — tell us about the nature of God's mission? Secondly, how do they ground Titus's assignment in something bigger than a church organizational task?

Heart: Assessing Your Internal Transformation
Goal: Examine how the text reshapes our identity, affections, and motivations to bring about honest self-examination.

4. Paul calls Titus "my true son in our common faith" — a scandalous statement given that Paul was a former Pharisee and Titus was an uncircumcised Greek. In their world, those two people were not supposed to be family. The gospel created something between them that their culture said was impossible. Where in your own life have you experienced the gospel creating genuine connection across a line — ethnic, social, generational, or cultural — that you wouldn't have crossed on your own? Where is there a line the gospel is currently calling you to cross that you've been hesitant to?
5. The sermon distinguished two kinds of being left behind: the accidental kind, where you feel forgotten or overlooked, and the intentional kind, where you're placed somewhere on purpose for a mission. Which one better describes how you currently feel about your circumstances? What makes it hard for you to trust that God has placed you in this season for a purpose?
6. Titus was ready for Crete because Paul had disciplined him through Corinth first. When you look at your own spiritual journey — who has been your Paul? And is there a Corinth in your past that God used to prepare you for something you didn't see coming?

Hands: Taking Your Next Step

Goal: To move from hearing the Word to living it out as a disciple with specific, practical, and achievable steps for the coming week.

7. Before giving Titus a single instruction about his assignment, Paul grounds it in the gospel. The message comes before the mission. Be honest: when you think about the places God has stationed you — your family, your workplace, your neighborhood, your church — are you more motivated by a clear sense of gospel identity and hope, or by obligation, guilt, or habit? What would it look like for the gospel to be the actual engine of how you engage your current placement?
8. The mission moves when disciples make disciples. Who is one person you could intentionally begin to invest in— someone who needs a Paul? And is there one person further along than you that you could ask to speak into your life?
9. The closing point of the message revealed that Cretan believers were present at Pentecost (Acts 2:11) — meaning God was already at work in Crete before any missionary arrived. As you think about your own Crete, where do you see evidence that God has already been working before you arrived or before you were paying attention? How does that change your posture going in?