

Sermon Big Idea	Helpful Resources
A gospel-ordered life, like a gospel-ordered church produces what's genuine and exposes what's counterfeit.	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. What two tasks did Paul give Titus in verse 5? Why would a newly planted church need "order" and appointed leadership in order to be healthy, rather than just good intentions and shared belief?
2. Look closely at verses 6–9. Which qualities describe an elder's *character* (his home, his temperament, his self-control), and which describe his relationship to *doctrine* (v. 9)? Why do you think Paul spends so much more space on character than on theology?
3. In verses 10–16, notice how Paul describes the false teachers using words that echo language from verses 6–9 — for example, "rebellious" in verse 6 (unruly children) reappears in verse 10 (false teachers), and "greedy for gain" in verse 7 reappears as "dishonest gain" in verse 11. What do you think Paul is doing by deliberately mirroring this language?

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

4. "Blameless" (vv. 6–7) doesn't mean sinless — it's a legal term meaning no valid, standing accusation holds up. Where might you be holding yourself, or someone else, to an impossible standard of perfection rather than the standard Scripture actually sets?
5. Verse 16 says false teachers "claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him." Be honest with yourself: where is there currently a gap between what you say you believe and how you actually live — especially somewhere only you and God can see?
6. Character is what gives a person's words weight. Who is currently watching your life most closely — a coworker, a child, a friend, a neighbor — and what might they be learning about God simply from watching you, apart from anything you say?

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. The qualities in verses 6–9 (self-controlled, hospitable, not quick-tempered, holding firmly to truth) aren't just for elders — they're a picture of gospel-shaped character available to every believer through the Spirit. Choose one quality you most need to grow in right now. What's one concrete, specific step you can take this week?
8. Verse 13 calls for confronting error "so that they will be sound in the faith" — correction aimed at restoration, not punishment. Is there a relationship in your life right now where loving honesty is needed instead of silence or avoidance? What would a first, gentle step toward that conversation look like?
9. The gospel's answer to the gap between our claims and our lives isn't more effort — it's bringing that gap to Jesus, who alone passed this test perfectly, and trusting his Spirit to slowly close it. Name one specific area you need to surrender to him this week. What would it look like to depend on the Spirit there, rather than just trying harder?