

## Small Group Discussion Guide

(1 Timothy 3:1 – 7)

\*Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer. Be sure to take time to Thank God for His goodness, mercy and love displayed in so many blessings we too often take for granted.

I. Today we will pick up with the topic of church leadership, specifically the role of the Pastor. What do you believe are necessary qualities for a Pastor to effectively lead a church? How should other church leaders help and compliment the role of the Pastor in local church leadership? What results from poor spiritual leadership in a church?

II. Read 1 Timothy 3:1 – 7. What exactly is an overseer? What is he seeing-over? (Note: 1 Pet. 5:1 – 3) Why is this a “noble task”? List the qualities Paul suggests for overseers in verses 2 – 3. Explain why each is necessary. What happens if a pastor is not like this?

III. Read verses 4 – 5 again. Why is managing a home like managing a church? What clues can we learn from a potential Pastor’s marriage and family that predict his success at pastoring? (Note: Titus 1:6) Do pastor’s kids always behave? What happens when they don’t? How can the church help a pastor reinforce his marriage and family?

IV. Now read verses 6 – 7. Paul presents two pitfalls here for pastors. What are they? How might the devil work against churches and pastors in each of these cases? What other “traps” do you think the devil sets for pastors of churches? (Note: Mt. 26:31) Again, how can the congregation work to better protect their shepherd from demonic attacks? Any suggestions for our church?

\*Close your time by praying for the pastor and his family. Pray for pastors in general and ask God to show us how we can better serve His church as overseers.

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