



THOUGHTS FROM THE MESSAGE

- ICEBREAKER - Share a past experience when you were led by a great leader. What characteristics stood out to you?
- Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 (pg 230-231) together as a group

These are the Qualifications of an Overseer/Leader:

1. Above Reproach - Good Accountability
2. Husband of one wife - Faithful to Spouse
3. Temperate - Not an Emotional Rollercoaster
4. Self-Controlled - Good Self-Leadership
5. Respectable - Spoken well of by others
6. Hospitable - Inviting to guests
7. Able to Teach - A teachable Teacher
8. Not given to drunkenness - No addictive behavior
9. Not violent, but gentle - Not a ticking time bomb
10. Not quarrelsome – Knows how to manage tension
11. Not a lover of money - Generous financially (debt, saving, tithing)
12. Manages family well - Family is priority
13. Not a recent convert – Being disciplined before discipling
14. Good reputation with outsiders - Makes God attractive to those outside the church

- Are you a qualified self-leader compared to this list of qualifications? Are you a good leader in your family? How about in the work environment with those who work for you?
- How are you balancing the strictness of leadership with the stumbling of an everyday human being in your life?
- If you have faltered (failed) as a leader, are you disqualified thereafter?
- Identify a qualification for leadership that you see evident in your life. Also, share a qualification for leadership that needs the most growth. Discuss these together in your group.



QUESTIONS FROM WEEKDAY READING (pgs 223-262)

WEEKLY QUESTIONS:

1. *What's something you noticed for the first time?*
2. *What questions did you have?*
3. *Was there anything that bothered you?*
4. *What did you learn about loving God?*
5. *What did you learn about loving others?*

Eager for Money = Pierced with Grief | (p. 233 and 234)

- The root of all kinds of evil is the love of money. How is this different than the root of evil being money itself? How do you see this obsession and love of money leading to evil?
- Paul writes that people who are obsessed with money and material have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. What griefs are caused by materialism?
- Are you content with what God has given you? When do you sense a temptation toward discontentment and even greed?

Upside Down Kingdom | Matthew ch 4-6 (read together p. 258-261 - middle-to-middle)

- What do you notice about the "Beatitudes" that are socially unusual? Describe in your own words why this is upside down, Kingdom of Heaven vs Kingdom of Earth?
- How do you feel about Jesus' definition of blessing? How is it different than our understanding of blessing? Explain how hardships could be blessings.
- What do you see Jesus explaining in his teaching about the Law (Commandments) and righteous living? How is his teaching inside-out and outside-in?
- Of all the revolutionary statements that Jesus makes in the Sermon on the Mount, share about one that convicts you most and leads you toward a higher standard for your faith.
- Unpack what Jesus demonstrated in his prayer, the *Our Father*. What can we learn from each section he included for us to hear and grasp? What do you see as you read it?