



KNOW YOUR

Family

SERMON SERIES

Why *Elders* and *Deacons?*

(SELECTED PASSAGES)

STUDY GUIDE

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WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

This activity not only breaks the ice but also visually demonstrates the interconnectedness of the church body.

Materials Needed:

A ball of yarn or string.

Instructions:

1. Have the group stand in a circle.
2. Hold onto the end of the yarn and share your name and one quality you appreciate in a leader (this ties into the theme of recognizing leaders as seen in Acts 6:1-7).
3. After sharing, hold onto the end of the yarn and throw the ball to another person across the circle, who will then introduce themselves and share another leadership quality.
4. Continue the process until everyone has spoken and the yarn has created a web connecting the whole group.
5. Once everyone is connected by the web of yarn, highlight how each string represents relationships, responsibilities, and the support system within the church, similar to the roles discussed in Ephesians 4:11-13.
6. Discuss how if one person were to pull or release their part of the yarn, it would affect the entire web, illustrating the importance of each member in the body of Christ and how accountability is essential for the health of the church, as taught in Matthew 18:15-17.

This icebreaker is a tactile representation of the community and sets a cooperative tone for the study, encouraging participants to think about their role in the spiritual family and how they are bound together in service and support of one another.

WORSHIP:

Adoring Our God

Suggested song:

- [Make Me A Servant](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will have a clearer understanding of the biblical basis for church leadership roles.
2. GG members will gain insight into the roles of church leaders and the entire church family in conflict resolution and church discipline.
3. GG members will have a renewed vision for the unity and maturity of the church as the body of Christ.

INTRODUCTION

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the early church's wisdom in structuring leadership, as shown in Acts 6:1-7, demonstrates the importance of selecting leaders to maintain ministry and church unity. Matthew 18:15-17 further instructs us on conflict resolution and the vital role of accountability within the church, emphasizing our collective duty to live in truth and grace. Finally, Ephesians 4:11-13 celebrates the diverse gifts given for church edification, urging us to work towards unity and mature faith through collaborative leadership and mutual support.

Roles and responsibilities of elders and deacons (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:1-13)

As the early church grew in number, there arose a need to define a structure for church leadership. In Acts 6:1-7, we see the roles or functions of the apostles as elders and the seven servants, who were the prototype for deacons. In 1 Timothy 3:1-13, we see the qualifications for these offices in the church.

1. In Acts 6:1-7, what are the primary roles or functions of the apostles? How about the seven?
2. What does Acts 6:1-7 suggest about the role of leadership and division of labor in the church?
3. Look at the qualifications for elders and deacons in 1 Timothy 3:1-13. Correlate the qualifications with the roles and functions of both offices. What is the main difference between the two?

Application

How can you help our church leadership so they can focus on their primary roles and functions?

The roles of church leadership and the entire church family in conflict resolution (Matthew 18:15-17)

Jesus outlined the steps his followers should take in resolving conflict among themselves. In his instructions, we see that the church leadership and the entire church family have their part to play in the process.

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

1. Can you outline the steps for conflict resolution as taught by Jesus?
2. When should the church leadership get involved in the process?
3. When does the entire church family get involved in the process?
4. What does this tell you about the hierarchy of authority in the church?

Application

What are some key things you have learned regarding conflict resolution as taught by Jesus? How might you apply this in your current context?

How God designed the church to grow in maturity (Ephesians 4:11-13)

In Ephesians 4:1-16, Paul highlighted how the church, composed of diverse individuals, can build each other up toward unity in the faith and maturity in Christ.

1. According to Paul, what is the role of church leaders?
2. What is the role of the rest of the church family?
3. How do they complement each other?
4. What is the goal of the entire church family? What does that look like for our church?

Application

How can you take part in building up the church family toward maturity in Christ? How can the church leadership help you in this regard?

PRAYER ITEM

Lord, we thank you for all that we have learned today, and we pray for the grace to apply these truths to our lives. Help us to recognize and appoint leaders who are guided by Your Spirit, leaders who will serve with diligence, care for Your people, and prioritize the spread of Your Gospel. May they be beacons of Your light, exemplifying the unity and love that You desire for Your church.

Grant us, O God, the strength to hold one another accountable with gentleness and respect, following the path of reconciliation You have laid out for us. Teach us to resolve conflicts in a manner that honors You, fostering peace and grace within our spiritual family.

We thank You for the diversity of gifts You have bestowed upon us. Help us to use these gifts to build each other up, working together in unity to achieve the fullness of Christ. May we grow in knowledge and faith, equipping and supporting one another as we all reach toward the maturity of Your holy body.

In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen. ■

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word



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If you used this study guide in leading your growth group, please rate it at <https://bit.ly/GCFSGFeedback>. Thank you!



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