

YEAR C | QUARTER 2

4

Measuring Up

Community
We reflect God's love in our relationships.

POWER TEXT

"The grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age" (Titus 2:11, 12).

KEY REFERENCES

- Titus 1
- *The Acts of the Apostles,* chaps. 9, 29, 31, pp. 87-96, 298-301, 323, 324
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 152-155
- student story on page 52 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 22, Christian Behavior
- No. 12, The Church
- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God calls His people to reflect His love and grace to one another in all things.
- **Feel** the joy of being an example of Christ's love.
- **Respond** by resolving to live according to Jesus' standard of behavior publicly and privately.

POWERPOINT

We reveal God's love by living God's way.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

In the first chapter of the book of Titus, Paul's counsel to Titus lays down the criteria for the selection of leaders and elders in the churches on the island of Crete. He also lays out the standards of right living so that others may see God's love in us.

This is a lesson about community.

The counsel that Paul gave to Titus hundreds of years ago still applies to us today. The choices that we make in our everyday lives will testify to whom we worship. When we choose to live a godly life, we are a blessing to everyone in our community.

Teacher Enrichment

"In the work of setting things in order in all the churches, . . . the apostles held to the high standards of leadership outlined in the Old Testament Scriptures. . . . When dissension arose in a local church, . . . and the believers were unable to come to an agreement among themselves, such matters were not permitted to create a division in the church, but were referred to a general council of the entire body of believers, made up of appointed delegates from the various local churches, with the apostles and elders in positions of leading responsibility. . . .

"'God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.' 1 Corinthians 14:33, [KJV]. He requires that order and system be observed in the conduct of church affairs today no less than in the days of old" (*The Acts of the Apostles,* pp. 95, 96).

How do I live like Jesus in public and private? What could I share with my students about the qualities of a godly leader that may inspire them to adopt high standards of Christian living?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Help Wanted*	guests (church officers), paper, pencils
		B. Employment Bureau	notepads, pencils
		C. Signature Hunt	Bibles, list, paper, pencils
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 47. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket, world map, pushpins
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	sealed envelope and letter
		Experiencing the Story	sealed envelope for each student, portion of Titus in each envelope
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, chalk/whiteboard, writing utensils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Leadership*	magazines, newspapers, greeting cards, glue, poster board
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Star Quality*	paper, pencils
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments	
		B. Reminder to Parents	
		C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ guests (church officers)
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Help Wanted

Invite at least two of the following church officers: church clerk, church treasurer, deaconess, and elder. Let the students interview them to find out their duties.

Divide the students into groups of five or six. Pass out paper and pencils.

Say: **Today you are to imagine yourselves as members of a church's nominating committee. First choose a chairperson for your committee. Then the chairperson can keep order and take recommendations from the other members. Each group is to select a church clerk, church treasurer, deacon, deaconess, and elder. In each group, discuss the qualifications you feel are needed for the position; take two or three suggestions for each position; then vote to select one of the names.**

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you arrive at your qualifications? Are these qualifications mentioned in the Bible or are they from society?** Read Titus 1:6-8 aloud. **Was it difficult to find qualified volunteers in your church?**

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

We reveal God's love by living God's way.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ notepads
- ☐ pencils

Employment Bureau

Divide the students into two groups. Give each group a notepad and pencil.

Say: **Today you are going to be a member of your city's employment bureau. You are to hire people for the posts of police officer, street sweeper, animal control inspector, and clerk of the court. List the qualifications your team would require for job seekers.**

Debriefing

Say: **Compare this list with the list of qualifications for church office** (from Activity A or from Titus 1:6-8).

Ask: **How are they different? How are they the same? In what ways would the qualifications for church office be applicable to these city jobs?**

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

We reveal God's love by living God's way.

Prayer and Praise

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ list
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Signature Hunt

Distribute paper and pencils. Give the students a list of positive and negative habits, experiences, or qualities such as: friendly, climbed a mountain, soccer player, good listener, hates candy, eats junk food, cheats in games, and so on. Have them collect signatures of other people in the group who have those characteristics. The first person to have a signature beside each item or the person who collects the most signatures in a given time period wins.

Debriefing

Ask: **What difference would this search make if you were trying to find someone to do a particular job?** (It would make the task easier.) Say: **In our lesson today Paul wrote to Titus and told him what to look for in a person who was going to be an elder in the church. Let's look at Titus 1:6-8 together.** Read it aloud.

Our power point this week is:

We reveal God's love by living God's way.

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"I Shall Not Be Moved" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 78)
"Give Me Jesus" (*The SDA Hymnal,* no. 305)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map and push pins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **Living according to Jesus' standard includes sharing what we have to help others. We do that by giving our offering.**

Prayer

Have a prayer chain in which each person is encouraged to say a sentence or two spontaneously as the prayer goes around.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

YOU NEED:
- ☐ sealed envelope and letter

Prepare in advance a sealed envelope with a letter inside. The letter might be an actual letter from a friend or relative. Begin to open the envelope. Say: **I just love getting mail. I especially enjoy letters I receive from (name of friend or relative).**

Ask: **Who is your favorite person to receive mail from?**

Say: **Today in our story Titus gets a special letter from Paul. Let's find out what it says.**

Experiencing the Story

YOU NEED:
- ☐ sealed envelope for each student
- ☐ portion of Titus in each envelope

Prepare in advance a sealed envelope addressed to each student. (Prepare several blank envelopes for visitors and address them after meeting your visitors.) Using Titus 1, divide the chapter into as many parts as you have envelopes. Inside the envelope place a written portion of Titus 1. Make sure each envelope is numbered on the outside in the order of the texts inside. Ask the students to open their letters and read the passage to the class in the numbered order. (If some students don't arrive, give their envelopes to others to read. In a large setting, divide into smaller groups.)

Debriefing

Ask: **Can anyone tell me who wrote this letter? To whom was the letter addressed? How would you feel if this letter had been addressed to you?**

Say: **Let's say our power text together:**

"The grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age" (Titus 2:11, 12).

Exploring the Bible

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ chalk/whiteboard
- ☐ writing utensils

Write the lists below where all can see. Say: **Open your Bibles to Titus 1. You will notice parallels between Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3. Find parallel texts in the book of Titus for the qualifications of elder indicated in 1 Timothy.** Have a volunteer write in the texts as the students find the verses.

Qualifications of Elders

Self-controlled
1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8

Hospitable
1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8

Able to teach
1 Tim. 3:2; 1 Tim. 5:17; Titus 1:9

Not violent but gentle
1 Tim. 3:3; Titus _____

Married to one spouse
1 Tim. 3:2; Titus _____

Not given to drunkenness
1 Tim. 3:3; Titus _____

Sees that their children obey
1 Tim. 3:4, 5; Titus _____

Above reproach (blameless)
1 Tim. 3:2; Titus _____

Ask: **Why do you think Paul's list of leadership qualifications focused mostly on "being" and not on "doing" (verses 8, 9)? What was going on in Crete that made the appointment of such elders important (verses 10-16)? Why do you think it's so important for us to practice high standards of Christian living?** Encourage students to cite examples of the high standards of Christian living.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Use the Bibles with tabs to help students who don't know all the books of the Bible to become familiarized with them.

Leadership

YOU NEED:
- ☐ magazines
- ☐ newspapers
- ☐ greeting cards
- ☐ glue
- ☐ poster board

Have students work together using magazines, newspapers, and greeting cards to make a collage illustrating what they could do to grow leadership traits. Prepare in advance a model of how this could be done.

Say: **Let's look at our collages and think of ways we can demonstrate these traits now in our everyday lives.** (Encourage participation.)

Debriefing

Discuss their creations with the students.

Ask: **What is our power point this week? Repeat it with me:**

We reveal God's love by living God's way.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Allow students with special needs to receive assistance from a partner.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Star Quality

Divide the students into small groups. Ask each person to name a positive quality that the person sitting to the right has. The person on the right should then compose a prayer that reflects the desire to become what the other classmate noted. Continue around the circle.

Say: **List the steps you could take this coming week to develop this quality and the people you could affect by doing so.** Allow time.

Debriefing

Say: **Tell the others in your group what you wrote. Talk about the steps you will take this coming week to use this quality as you associate with others. Remember:**

We reveal God's love by living God's way.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Invite the students to join you as you pray: **Father, thank You for promising us in Your Word that our relationship with You can be reflected in our living. Please show us how to make right choices every day that will bring honor to Your name. Amen.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php ?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Paul shares with us the true meaning of love. God wants us to love others as He loves us.**

Notes

Student lesson

Measuring Up

Isn't it fun to get something in the mail? Who is the favorite person you like to receive mail from? Today in our story Titus gets a special letter from Paul. Let's find out what it said.

Titus had just finished reading Paul's letter. He was glad Paul had sent a detailed description of the kind of person an elder should be. This would make Titus's selection process easier. Paul had left Titus in Crete when he went to Ephesus. Titus felt honored that Paul thought he could finish the work here.

" '. . . must not be guilty of doing wrong. He must have only one wife' " (Titus 1:6),* Titus added quietly.

"This will be hard," he murmured. Some of the men had more than one wife or weren't faithful even to one. Others treated their wives like slaves.

" 'His children must be believers.'" This was even harder. Many of the members had children who had been corrupted by false teachers and worshipped other gods.

" 'They must not be known as children who are wild and who do not obey' " (verse 6). Some of the children—who were actually young adults—took part in the drunken worship of the god Dionysus. When their parents converted, they hadn't. And, of course, in their half-drunken state they weren't going to submit to their father's authority as a church leader.

" 'He must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent' " (verse 7, NIV). Titus had seen plenty of violence in the name of the Lord. Some of the new believers had tried to force their religion on their families.

"'And he must not be a person who always tries to get rich by cheating people' " (verse 7). A Cretan (person from Crete) wouldn't be a Cretan without loving money, one of their own philosophers had said. The Cretans' reputation was so bad that one of the slang words for lying was to "cretize."

Titus sighed heavily and skipped down a few lines. " 'An overseer must faithfully follow the truth just as we teach it. He must be able to help people by using true and right teaching. And he must be able to show those who are against the true teaching that they are wrong' " (verse 9).

False teaching and teachers were probably the biggest problems the believers faced. It wasn't just in Crete. It was everywhere. But there were many Jews in Crete, both inside and outside the church. The ones inside the church tried to place a lot of restrictions on the new members. Some wanted every non-Jew to be circumcised. The ones outside tried to get members to pay to listen to their teaching. Not only that, the people of Crete had confused the true believers with the other Jews. As a result, Christians did not have a good reputation in this city. Anyone chosen as an elder would need to have a character that stood far above everyone—even other so-called Christians.

And he would have to be a real diplomat—an ambassador for God—to deal with the different groups. He would have to be nearly perfect in following the truth. And when he had to set people straight, he would have to be very tactful. He had to know how to say things so that he didn't drive people away or keep them from joining. Being an elder carried tremendous responsibilities.

Titus looked at the letter again and decided to call in some people from the home churches. *They know these people better than I do*, he said to himself. *Maybe they can help me choose some good candidates as elders.*

"Paul sent a long list of qualifications for elders," Titus explained when the people assembled.

"Maybe you should read them one by one so we can compare them with the people we know," said one man.

Titus read the qualifications.

The room was silent. *Oh, no. They can't think of anyone,* Titus thought to himself.

Finally, someone spoke. "Paul raises the standard very high. I think we should all follow this standard as Christians even if we are not elders. It would make for a much calmer church, and we would be better witnesses."

"It's not Paul's standard. It's God's standard," responded Titus quietly.

"Then let's all follow it!" they agreed almost in unison.

* Unless otherwise noted, Scripture references are from Titus 1, ICB.

KEY REFERENCES

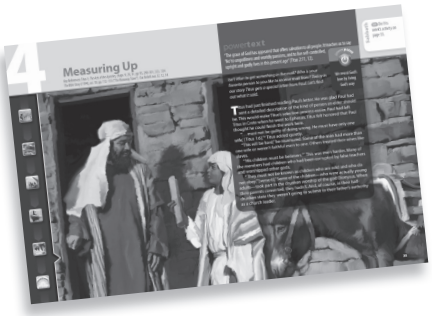
- Titus 1
- *The Acts of the Apostles,* chaps. 9, 29, 31, pp. 87-96, 298-301, 323, 324
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 152-155 ("The Runaway Slave")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 22, 12, 14

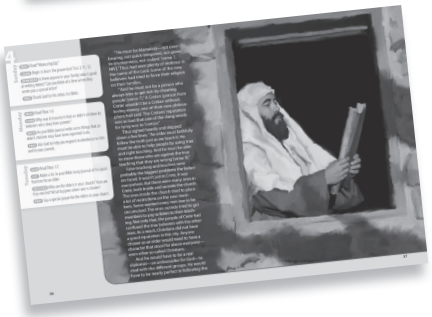
POWER TEXT

"The grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age" (Titus 2:11, 12).

POWER POINT

We reveal God's love by living God's way.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 33.

Sunday

READ Read Titus 1 and this week's story, "Measuring Up."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text Titus 2:11, 12.

REMEMBER Is there anyone in your family who is good at writing letters? Can you think of a time when they wrote you a special letter?

PRAY Thank God for His letter, the Bible.

Monday

READ Read Titus 1:6

THINK Why was it important that an elder's children be believers who obey their parents?

WRITE In your Bible journal write some things that an elder's children may have been expected to do.

PRAY Ask God to help you respond in obedience to Him and to your parents.

Tuesday

READ Read Titus 1:7.

LIST Make a list in your Bible study journal of the qualifications for an elder.

DISCOVER Who are the elders in your church? How are they elected? What happens when one is chosen?

PRAY Say a special prayer for the elders in your church.

Wednesday

READ Read Titus 1:8.

CREATE Create a poem or song expressing your desire to live a life that praises God.

THINK Think about a leader you admire. What qualities from Paul's list does this person have?

PRAY Say a special prayer for that leader.

Thursday

READ Read Titus 1:9.

THINK Identify people today who teach wrong ideas.

COMPARE Compare the wrong teachings indicated in Titus with those that Jesus and the apostles repeatedly warned against. Read Titus 1:10–14; Mark 13:22; Acts 20:29; 2 Thessalonians 2:3–12; 2 Peter 3:3–7.

PRAY Ask God to help open your mind to recognize and avoid error.

Friday

READ Read Titus 2:7, 8.

IMAGINE With your family at worship, imagine you were a church leader with Titus on Crete. What would you have found the most difficult to deal with?

LIST As a family, list the leadership qualities each of you has.

COMMIT Thank God for the qualities He has given to you. Commit them to His work.