

Tim Chester

Titus

The Good Life



 5-Session Bible Study

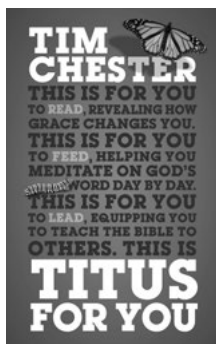
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✔ **5-Session Bible Study**



Titus For You

These studies are adapted from *Titus For You*. If you are reading *Titus For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Titus For You*:

Study One > Ch 1–2

Study Four > Ch 5

Study Two > Ch 3

Study Five > Ch 6-7

Study Three > Ch 4

Find out more about *Titus For You* at:
www.thegoodbook.co.uk/for-you

Titus: The Good Life

A Good Book Guide

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This edition printed 2026.

Published by The Good Book Company

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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Design by André Parker and Drew McCall

ISBN: 9781802541977 | JOB-008711 | Printed in India

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Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God’s word as “a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we’ve discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They’re perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let’s take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you’re invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you’ve seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven’t got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you’ll find a **Leader’s Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God’s light-giving word.

Why Study Titus?

It's a Wonderful Life is recognised by the American Film Institute as one of the 100 best American films of all time. It stars James Stewart as George Bailey, a man who, in his youth, dreamed of travelling the world. But along the way, he's made sacrifices for other people that mean he never got to leave his small town. Now he's a weary, broken man who, through no fault of his own, is going to be declared bankrupt. So he stands on the town bridge about to commit suicide.

But then his guardian angel intervenes. The angel gives him a vision of what life would have been like if he'd never lived. He sees that his life counts—that it has made a difference. He has truly lived a good life—a wonderful life—touching the lives of many people in small but decisive ways.

In many ways, this is what Paul is doing in the letter he writes to Titus. He is giving us a vision of a life that touches people in small but decisive ways—a life that has eternal consequences. He is setting out the truly good life.

Paul knew that truth is what produces goodness, or “godliness”. What is that truth? “The hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour” (1:2-3). The truth that creates a good life is the gospel. That is the truth that brings life and then changes life. And this good life overflows into others' lives too. A gospel-changed life “will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive” (2:10). The good life is a missional force.

Paul wanted Titus to lead this group of Christians on Crete to be church in a way that kept the gospel central for life, growth and mission. These five studies will inspire and equip you to make sure that you do the same—so that you, as individuals and as a local church, will live the godly life, the missional life... the good life.

Creation

Fall

Noah

Abraham

Joseph

Exodus
from Egypt

Israel reaches
promised land

King David

Kingdom divided
(Judah/Israel)

Israel exiled

Judah exiled

Judah
returns

Jesus Christ



Revelation
written

Now

Jesus' return
New creation



Titus 63-65 AD

49/50

Titus accompanies
Paul to meet apostles
in Jerusalem

c. 55

Titus involved in
church ministry in
Corinth, Greece

c. 63

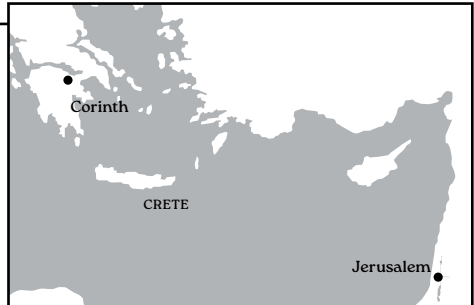
Paul leaves Titus in
Crete to pastor newly
founded churches there

63-65

Paul writes letter
to Titus

66/67

Titus goes on mission
work to Dalmatia
(modern-day Croatia)



1

Leadership Issues

Titus 1:1-9

Talkabout

1. What makes a good church leader?

Investigate

 Read Titus 1:1-4

DICTIONARY

Apostle (v 1): a man who had seen the risen Jesus and was chosen by him to teach his word with authority.

God's elect (v 1): God's people, chosen by him.

Grace (v 4): undeserved favour.

2. Who is the letter from (v 1) and to (v 4)?

3. What do verses 1-2 tell us about Paul's aim in his ministry? (Note: Verse 1 is better translated as in the NIV 1984: "... an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect".)

- How does God make his eternal purposes and promises known (v 3)?

Explore More | OPTIONAL

Paul describes Christians as "God's elect"—those God has chosen to give faith to so that they can be saved.

- Why might the truth of God's election discourage us from evangelising?

Read Acts 18:5-11

- What effect did knowing that God had elected people in Corinth have on Paul?
- So how does God's election encourage our evangelism?

Apply

4. Why is evangelism eternally significant? How does this help us to overcome our fears and to do it?

5. Why are gospel churches the most important places in a town?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

The truth is that what you do for the gospel today has eternal implications. When you tell someone about Jesus, eternity is entering history. When someone becomes a Christian, that is an event with eternal implications. When you meet as church, it is the most significant event happening in your town.

- How does this excite you today?
- How should it change your priorities for your week?

Investigate

 Read Titus 1:5-9

DICTIONARY

Elders (v 5): men responsible for leading a local church.

Trustworthy message (v 9): the gospel; the message about Jesus.

Doctrine (v 9): teaching about God.

6. Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete (v 5)?

7. What should a leader's home life be like?

- What does this have to do with their church role (v 7a)?

8. What should a leader's character be like (both negatively and positively)?

- Take each one of these descriptions. What effect would it have on the church if a leader failed to have this character quality?

9. What else must a leader do (v 9)?

Apply

10. In what situations would it be easy for church leaders not to fulfil the responsibilities of verse 9?

11. What makes a good church leader, and why does it matter?

12. How does this shape our own expectations of, and prayers for, our church leader(s)?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Will you pray for your church leader(s) this week? When?

What will you pray for them?

How do you think you could make your pastor's work more of a joy?
(Perhaps you could ask them!)

Pray

Thank God for...

- *the eternal significance of gospel work.*
- *the church leaders he has given you.*

Ask God to...

- *enable your leaders to fit the description in verses 6-9.*
- *show you how you can encourage your leaders.*
- *help your leaders in any specific ways you know they or their families need.*

