

# Growth Teams

**Week Beginning  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016**

## **Going deeper**

1 Peter was written by Peter, one of the Twelve who followed Jesus during his earthly ministry. He is writing to a scattered group of churches in what would now be Eastern Turkey. He is not speaking to one particular church with specific issues, but giving a general encouragement to Christians under pressure. It is a letter with a vision of what the church should be and achieve: 'glorifying God' (cf. 2:11-12).

In this section he talks specifically to 'elders' and 'young men'.

## **Read 1 Peter 5:1-7**

5. The word 'elder' is often used to describe an official church leader in the New Testament. What other words does Peter use to describe leaders and the church in this passage?
  
6. What attitudes and motives does he encourage the elders to have?
  
7. How does he encourage the elders to continue in this?
  
  
8. What is Peter's key message to young men? What reason does he give for us to be humble?
  
  
9. How do the attitudes Peter encourages mirror Christ's leadership? (cf. Mark 10:42-45; Phil. 2:5-11).

***Now do the applying it to our lives questions...***

## **Growth Teams**

Growth Teams are a wonderful opportunity to go deeper with other Christians. They are a great place to build real friendships and support networks, to pray for one another and to look more carefully at the topics we consider on a Sunday.

The daytime Growth Teams are continuing as normal, but for the next few weeks instead of an evening Growth Team we are running Faith Pictures a course about sharing your faith. We hope to start up a normal evening Growth Team again once that has finished.



**Growing in Christ  
to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever.**

## 1 Timothy 3:1-16 (page 1192)

*Space to take notes on the talk*

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ **Matters**

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ **Matter**

### Starter question

- ❖ Who is the best leader you have known outside the church?  
What made them a good leader?

### Responding to the talk

1. In one sentence: what was the key message of this week's talk?
2. Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16
  - a. Why is Paul writing to Timothy about leaders in the church?
  - b. How does Paul describe the church? In what ways do these images of the church challenge the way you see the church?
  - c. What does verse 16 teach us about Jesus?
3. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7
  - a. Why is it good to aspire to be an overseer? (cf. 3:13)
  - b. Look at each item in turn. Why is it important for an overseer to have this quality?
4. Read 1 Timothy 3:8-12 and compare with 3:1-7.
  - a. Which qualities are unique to overseers and which are unique to deacons?
  - b. What do these differences suggest is different about the two roles?
  - c. How do all these instructions about leaders help the church to be effective as the 'pillar and foundation of the truth' (3:15)?

*You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.*

### Applying it to our lives

10. One of our 'vision 2020' aims is to 'Have more leaders at all levels than in 2015'. What in this passage can we use to encourage more leaders and how can we best discern the right people? (You may want to share ideas with the PCC).