D Group Lesson: What Leadership Reveals

Sermon Series: The Healthy DNA of a Church

Oct. 11, 2026

Big Idea: A healthy church is shaped by leaders whose lives increasingly reflect Jesus.

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1. HOOK — Getting Started (10 minutes)

Opening Question: Have you ever known someone whose actions made you want to become a better person? What was it about their life that influenced you?

Allow everyone an opportunity to share.

Discussion Questions:

- Who has had the greatest spiritual influence on your life, and why?
- What qualities make someone worth following?
- Do you think people learn more from what we say or from how we live? Why?

Transition: Our lives influence others more than we may realize. In 1 Timothy 3, Paul explains that the character of church leaders matters because their lives help shape the character and culture of the church.

2. LOOK — Discovering God's Word (20 minutes)

Read **1 Timothy 3:1–7, 10–13, and 14–16** together.

Point 1: Character Matters More Than Position

Read 1 Timothy 3:2–3.

Paul describes leaders as self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, gentle, and free from destructive behaviors.

Discuss:

- Why does Paul focus so much on character rather than talent or ability?
- What does being “above reproach” mean if no one is perfect?
- Which character qualities in this passage are most challenging to live out consistently?

Key Truth: Godly leadership isn't about being perfect; it's about demonstrating integrity, repentance, and a life increasingly shaped by Jesus.

Point 2: Spiritual Maturity Is Demonstrated Over Time

Read 1 Timothy 3:6 and 10.

Paul emphasizes that leaders should not be new believers and should be tested before being entrusted with responsibility.

Discuss:

- Why can someone be talented or knowledgeable but not ready to lead?
- How can we recognize genuine spiritual growth in someone's life?
- Why is humility important for someone who leads or serves others?

Key Truth: Spiritual maturity isn't just what we know or claim. It is demonstrated through our choices, relationships, humility, and continued growth.

Point 3: Our Lives Should Point People to Jesus

Read 1 Timothy 3:14–16.

Paul reminds Timothy that the church belongs to God and is entrusted with upholding the truth about Jesus.

Discuss:

- How can a leader's example strengthen or weaken the church's witness?
- What happens when our actions contradict what we say we believe?
- How can ordinary believers help create a church culture that reflects Jesus?

Key Truth: What we consistently model can influence what becomes normal in our church. Our goal is not simply to look good but to reflect Jesus in how we live.

3. TOOK — Putting It Into Practice (15 minutes)

The “Took” section focuses on what we will take away from the lesson and apply to our lives.

Personal Reflection (5 minutes)

Ask everyone to take a quiet moment to consider these questions:

- What area of my character needs to become more like Jesus?
- How am I influencing the people around me?
- What is one change I can make this week to reflect Christ more clearly?

Personal Application (5 minutes)

Have each person complete this statement:

“This week, I will reflect Jesus by _____.”

Examples might include showing patience during conflict, apologizing when wrong, serving someone without recognition, practicing self-control, or spending intentional time in God's Word.

Invite volunteers to share their commitments.

Prayer and Accountability (5 minutes)

Pair up or form small groups of three. Have each person share their commitment and pray for one another.

Pray for:

- God to develop Christlike character in each person.
- Church leaders to lead with humility, integrity, and wisdom.
- The entire church to reflect Jesus in its relationships and actions.

Closing Challenge

A healthy church isn't built simply by having the right people in the right positions. It grows as people allow Jesus to shape who they are and how they live.

Final Question: If someone examined the DNA of your life this week, would they see Jesus?

Encourage everyone to revisit their commitment during the next D Group meeting and share how they followed through.