

Bible Time Guide

Titus

Introduction

The Bible is clear that parents are to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4). God's people were commanded long ago to teach God's commands diligently to the next generation (Deut 6:7) so that they remember the faithfulness of God always. Whether you are a father, a single mother, or a grandparent, the Bible Time Guide resource is designed to help you lead children through the Bible intentionally and diligently. We have created this resource to be simple to use so that it's not burdensome, allowing the Word of God to do the heavy lifting while you gain momentum in your home with good, godly disciplines that will hopefully bring favor to generations. So many parents or grandparents want to get into the Word of God more consistently with their children or grandchildren but they don't always know where to start. Our prayer is that this resource provides a "track" to run on, helping you to implement "Bible Time" in your home as a part of fulfilling Ephesians 6:4 and Deuteronomy 6:7.

So, how do you use the Bible Time Guide? The Bible Time Guide is broken up by books of the Bible so that you can go through an entire book of the Bible as a family at your own pace. You simply open up the Bible Time Guide along with your Bible. You then read the Bible passage and follow the question prompts in the guide. You, as the leader, may desire to read the Bible Time Guide for that evening before starting the family discussion to review some of the "Parent's Help" if needed.

We've broken up the questions into three categories so that each time you use it, the children can: 1) Learn the Word 2) Apply the Word 3) Pray the Word. If you can't implement "Bible Time" every night of the week, will this guide still be helpful? Absolutely! The reason we designed this guide to be broken up by books of the Bible is so that you can go at your own

pace. If you can't get to every question for that night's passage, will this guide still be helpful? Absolutely! Every family is different, with children of different ages and maturity presenting different dynamics. You might need to break up one passage over several nights if necessary. And many of the questions have more than one right answer, so be encouraging when your children give good, biblical answers even if they don't exactly match the "Parent's Help" answer that's provided.

We've written this guide to be deep enough for a teenager to engage with, while still simple enough for young children to track with. Feel free to use this guide in a way that suits your family best. Remember, this is just a guide but you are the leader and raising children requires flexibility! Also, each Bible Time Guide starts with an overview of that book of the Bible to help set the context for you as the leader as well as for your family. You may choose to spend a night going through the overview with your family or simply dive into the daily guide.

We hope that this guide will accomplish several things: increase consistency, instruct the next generation, unite your family, grow your faith and minister to your heart as the leader, and glorify God through obedience and discipline as you seek Him in the Scriptures. We are prayerfully anticipating the fruit that will come from your discipline to implement this guide in your home. Be encouraged, lean in, trust the Lord, and be the guide that God has equipped you to be.

The Book of Titus Overview

The book of Titus was written by the apostle Paul to his disciple and co-laborer for Christ, Titus. Paul most likely wrote this letter in A.D. 63 while he was at Ephesus. Paul wrote this letter to remind Titus to straighten out the churches of Crete by organizing their leaders, specifically installing pastors to oversee several churches. One reason for installing these pastors was to help refute and silence false teachers who were causing problems for members of the body. Overall, this book of the Bible provides a helpful reminder as to the importance of biblically sound church leadership.

Titus 1:1–4

Understand the Word

1. Paul calls himself “a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ” when introducing himself at the beginning of this letter to Titus. The Greek word for servant here is *doulos* which means “slave”. Why do you think Paul describes himself in this way instead of listing off his impressive credentials as a church planter and evangelist?
2. What do you think is the purpose of this letter based on what Paul says here at the beginning?
 - **Parent’s Help:** When Paul says, “for the sake of the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,” he is speaking of three realities:
 - i. 1) **Elect:** Seeing people get saved by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - ii. 2) **Knowledge:** Seeing Christians grow in the knowledge of God’s Word.
 - iii. 3) **Godliness:** Learning to apply God’s Word to their life so that they may grow to be more like Him.
3. When Paul calls Titus his “true child in a common faith,” what does he mean?
 - **Parent’s Help:** Titus is a disciple of Paul’s!

Apply the Word

1. What do you think it means to be a servant of Christ?
2. Why do you think it’s so important for you to learn what the Bible says?
3. How can you grow friendships with others in the church like Paul did with Timothy?

Pray the Word

1. Lord, help us to be servants of Christ and then serve those around us.
2. Lord, help us to learn what the Bible says and then obey it!
3. Lord, bring all of us friendships that are rooted in Christ and biblical truth. Help us to find friends who will encourage us to follow Christ more closely and who will want to do the same.

Titus 1:5–9

Understand the Word

1. Paul says that he’s going to leave Titus to “appoint elders in every town as I directed you”. What is an elder?
 - **Parent’s Help:** The word “elder” is synonymous with the words “overseer” or “pastor” in Scripture. All three of these words refer to the same office within a church. You can help your children understand that the pastors at your church hold the same position that Paul is talking about in this passage.
2. Why was it important for Titus to appoint men for these positions?
 - **Parent’s Help:** In tomorrow’s reading, we’re going to see that there are evil, distracting men who have crept into these churches. Paul tells Titus in verse 5 that he left him in Crete “so that you might put what remained into order”, which means to “to straighten out or correct”. Paul knew that appointing godly men as elders would help the churches in Crete be strong and overcome others who were unbiblical in their teaching and behavior.
3. Read the list of elder qualifications in this passage again out loud and slowly. Have your children listen closely for words or phrases that stand out to them. Have a discussion based on their comments or desire to know more about the various qualifications. Below is a list of those qualifications for reference.
 - Above Reproach
 - A One–Woman Man
 - Children Are Under Control

- Not Self-Focused
- Not Quick-Tempered
- Not a Drunkard
- Not Violent
- Not Greedy
- Hospitable
- Lover of Good; Upright; Holy
- Self-Controlled
- Disciplined
- Studies & Teaches Sound Doctrine

Apply the Word

1. Why is it important to have pastors in the church who live as examples, setting the pace spiritually?
2. How can you ensure that when you grow up you'll be able to confidently live out the qualifications that were listed, regardless of your position in the church.

Pray the Word

1. Lord, we pray for our pastors, that they would be protected from sin and that they would continually seek You for the strength to lead well.
2. Lord, help all of us to see areas of weakness in our lives and help us to grow in those areas through the truth of Your Word and the power of Your Spirit.
3. Lord, we pray for the churches in our area, that they would be led by solid men of God who meet the qualifications that we just read about.

Titus 1:10–16

Understand the Word

1. Based on what Paul says about the men causing trouble in the Cretian churches, what do you think they were doing wrong?

○ **Parent’s Help:**

- It seems likely that they aren’t listening to Paul or other church authorities because he says they are insubordinate.
- They are speaking in unbiblical and deceptive ways.
- They are of the “circumcision party”, teaching that everyone who follows Christ must be circumcised in accordance with Genesis 17:9–14. They also taught that Christians must adhere to other Mosaic ceremonies. For more information see Acts 15:1–12; Gal 3:1–12; Eph 2:11.

2. What does Paul say should be done to these false teachers and deceivers?

- **Parent’s Help:** They must be silenced (v. 11) and rebuked sharply (v. 13). Walk through how a godly man like Titus could silence and sharply rebuke these men without sinning himself.

3. How can some people profess to know God but deny Him by their works?

Apply the Word

1. Have you heard anyone teach wrongly about Christ before? What did they say that was wrong and how did you know it was wrong?

2. What is the best way to protect yourself from unbiblical teaching?

- **Parent's Help:** To study the Bible in order to know what God actually said. You can point back to the fall when Satan tempts Eve by asking, “Did God actually say?” to point out why it’s so important to be able to answer those attacks with biblical truth like Christ did in the wilderness (Matt 4:1–11).

Pray the Word

1. Lord, we pray that You will protect our church from false teachers.
2. Lord, we pray for biblical wisdom so that we can identify wrong teaching and correct it when necessary.
3. Lord, help us to trust Your Word when the enemy tries to get us to doubt.

Titus 2:1–10

Understand the Word

1. What do you think it means to teach with “sound doctrine”?
 - **Parents Help:** This means to teach people to think, speak, and act in a way that corresponds to what the Bible says.
2. Why do you think it was important for Titus to “teach what accords with sound doctrine”?
 - **Parent’s Help:** God’s people, living according to God’s truth, is the only way that the churches of Crete will get straightened out. That is still true of today’s churches!
3. Can you remember all of the groups of people that Paul refers to in this passage? Why do you think he makes sure to give Titus direction regarding all of these different people?
 - **Parent’s Help:** Paul speaks to older men, probably referring to approximately age 60 and older, older women, younger women, younger men, and bondservants. When Paul uses the term bondservant it can be applied to employees but it’s most likely referring directly to slaves. In the Roman empire, and much of the world, having men, women, and children as slaves was a normal occurrence. All of the people Paul mentions would have made up the churches that Titus was attempting to straighten out.

Apply the Word

1. It is important to know what the Bible says but it's also important to know how to apply those truths to our lives. Why do you think it's so important to learn how to apply the Bible to our lives after we've studied it?
2. Talk about a time when you applied the Bible to your life and how God blessed you in that process.
3. When you grow up, why will it be important to find other Christians who are wiser and more experienced to learn from?
 - **Parent's Help:** Because those wiser, more experienced Christians, have learned how to apply the Bible through trial and error. Many times, they've learned from mistakes that can help others avoid the same mishaps.

Pray the Word

1. Lord, help us to apply the Bible to our lives, living it out in a way that honors You.
2. Lord, help us to be humble and ready to learn from others who are wiser and more experienced than us in applying the Bible to their lives.
3. Lord, help everyone in our church to be a "doer of the Word", not just knowing what it says but living it out in obedience.

Titus 2:11–15

Understand the Word

1. When Paul says, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,” who is he talking about that has appeared?
 - **Parent’s Help:** Jesus Christ! This might be a good time to share the Gospel again with your children or perhaps have one of them take a turn sharing the gospel.
2. When Pauls says, “training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,” what kind of actual behavior do you think he has in mind?
3. Christ saved us from the penalty of our sins and therefore we get to go to Heaven when we put our trust in Him. But why is it important to remember that He also saved us to be “a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works”?

Apply the Word

1. Why is it so important to know the Gospel, not only so that we can respond to it, but for the sake of others?
 - **Parent’s Help:** In the great commission Jesus commands us to make disciples which requires us to share the Gospel with those who are lost(Matt 28:18–20)!
2. What “worldly passions” do you need to renounce or watch out for because they tempt you to sin?

3. Speak to your children who have made a profession of faith: In your pursuit of being more Christlike, what good works do you need to be more zealous for?

Pray the Word

1. Lord, help us to be faithful to preach the Gospel to the lost.
2. Lord, help us to renounce worldly passions and to be suspicious of our hearts when they long for things in this life.
3. Lord, help us to be zealous for good works! Help us to remember that we have been saved, not just for heaven, but to do good work while we are still here on this earth.

Titus 3:1–8

Understand the Word

1. This passage starts by telling us to be submissive to rulers and authorities and to speak evil of no one. Who are all of the authorities in your life?
2. Fill in the blank: Paul says that those who are saved are not saved by their personal works of righteousness, but because of God's _____ (Answer: Mercy). Can you explain what mercy is?
 - **Parent's Help:** Here is both a dictionary definition of mercy and another definition consistent with biblical insight.
 - i. Biblical Definition: Compassionate forgiveness; delayed punishment; God's goodness to those in affliction; tender compassion; pity.
 - ii. Dictionary Definition: Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.
3. Paul says, when speaking about salvation that comes from Jesus Christ, that we are saved by His grace. Can you explain what grace means?
 - **Parent's Help:** Biblical Definition: Unmerited divine favor; God's favor shown to His people despite their demerit; a gift you don't deserve.

Apply the Word

1. Refer back to the list of authorities that you identified above. In what ways is it tempting to disobey their commands and speak evil of them? When is it appropriate to disobey what they say?

- **Parent's Help:** When an authority asks us to do something that God has forbidden or to not do something that God has commanded we can disobey in order that we obey God.
2. Since God has been so merciful to us, in what ways can you be merciful to others?
 3. Since God has shown so much grace to us, in what ways can you show grace to others?

Pray the Word

1. Lord, help us to be obedient to the authorities that You have put in our lives, trusting that Your sovereign hand has placed them where they are for Your purposes.
2. Lord, help us to be overwhelmed with the mercy that You've shown us and therefore show great mercy to others.
3. Lord, help us to grasp the grace that You have shown us in a way that makes us grateful people who then show grace to others.

Titus 3:9–15

Understand the Word

1. Paul issues a strong warning against getting caught up in distracting controversies. He is probably referring back to the false teachers that he spoke about earlier. He even says to avoid people who are doing so. Why do you think this is so important?
2. Paul lists off the names of several men in his final greeting. These are men that Paul can trust to do the work of ministry that he's been writing about this whole time. Why is Paul so thankful for helpful men that he can rely on? Do you think there's a lot of helpful men that are dependable in this world?

Apply the Word

1. Have you been around a conversation lately that you've had to avoid or walk away from because they were talking about unhelpful things?
2. Who do you know that is a trustworthy leader in your church? What makes them trustworthy? How can you encourage them this week?
3. What is one thing you remember learning through this study in Titus?

Pray the Word

1. Lord, help us to be careful around distracting and unhelpful conversations. Give us the courage to walk away from those situations and to do it with kindness and grace.
2. Lord, help us to recognize trustworthy leaders and to follow their example while giving them encouraging praise.

3. Lord, thank You for this study in the book of Titus! We pray that it will bear much fruit in our family for years to come.