

INSIDE

# MC3

WHAT'S INSIDE COUNTS. A CURRENT POINT SERIES. #INSIDEMC3

Pr'me  
Groups

Discussion  
Gu'de

"IN-SERVICE"

10/25/15



**THE POINT:**

**ON THE INSIDE, ELDERS ARE ABOUT SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP**

**Discussion Generators**

**Don't forget to make announcements to your group!**

- ➔ Go around your group and share your God Moments from the past week (God Moments are how you have seen God working, either in your life, or in the life of another).
- Be looking for how you see God working, so that you have something to share next time.
- So let's talk distracted driving: what is the most dangerous/craziest thing that you have seen someone else doing while behind the wheel (we know that you would never do these things!)?
- ➔ Read Acts 6:1-6. In this passage, we see that the early church leaders (elders) were distracted from meeting practical needs because of spending time in spiritual preparation. As they assessed the situation, which did they determine was more important: practical ministry needs OR spiritual preparation? [NEITHER: both are essential!]
- How did the elders propose to solve this problem? [by appointing others to serve as leaders for the ministry needs, so they can focus on the spiritual]
- According to Acts 6:7, what was the result of this decision?
- ➔ What do you think would happen if a church focused only on meeting practical ministry needs at the expense of spiritual prep? Vice-versa?

- Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5-9. List the standards & goals that Paul sets for elders found in these passages.
- What do these standards tell us about the responsibility of elders?
- In 1:5, we see that Titus' task in Crete was to appoint elders. While there's nothing wrong with it in politics, church leadership is not set up as a democracy. Look up the following passages. How did crowd-rule turn out in these Biblical situations?
  - Genesis 37:16-28 [crowd voted to throw Joseph in cistern]
  - 1 Samuel 8:5-22 [crowd voted to have a king instead of God]
  - Mark 15:6-15 [crowd voted to crucify Jesus]
- Reflecting on these passages and on the standards for elders, why do you think God has church leadership set up this way, rather than elected leaders?
- ➔ Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. Sometimes it's easy to think that we can do a better job leading (and sometimes it's true!), but how does this passage affect your outlook on church leadership?
- ➔ Spiritual leadership is hard. Close your time by having different people pray for the mc3 Elders: Justin Beamer, Kirk Gentzel, Bryan Van-Scyoc and Sean Fitch. Have one person each pray for:
  - wisdom—that they will make wise choices in leading mc3 where God guides
  - humility—that they would lead with a servant's heart
  - Godliness—that they will grow to be more and more and more like Jesus!

## Bible Verses

*NOTE: Due to space limitations, only selected portions of the passages are included below. You will need to look them up in their entirety.*

### Acts 6:1-7 (NIV)

...2So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." ...

### 1 Timothy 3:1-7 (NLT)

1This is a trustworthy saying: "If someone aspires to be an elder, he desires an honorable position." 2So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach...

### Titus 1:5-9 (NLT)

5I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you.... 7An elder is a manager of God's household, so he must live a blameless life...

### Genesis 37:16-28

### 1 Samuel 8:6-22

### Mark 15:6-15

### 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NIV)

12Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. 13Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other.