



UNIT 31: THE GOD WHO LEADS

Description: The early church's rapid growth led to some disagreements and problems. The leaders of the church addressed these problems by reminding everyone that Jesus is their ultimate leader and that they share common mission given by Him to take the gospel to the entire world.

Key Passage: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

Big Picture Question: Why does God want us to obey Him? Obedience is our response to God's love for us.

Unit 31, Session 5: Paul's Letters to Church Leaders

As the early church expanded outside Jerusalem, new churches were planted in various cities. Each church needed godly leaders to help it grow and stay true to the gospel. Paul understood this need, which is why he wrote letters to some of the leaders in the church. Two of these leaders were Timothy and Titus. Timothy was Paul's friend. He had traveled with Paul and helped him. Now Timothy was a leader at the church in Ephesus. Titus was a Gentile believer. He had traveled with Paul too. Now Titus was on the island of Crete to help train more church leaders. Paul wrote to give Timothy and Titus advice, and he gave instructions for all the church leaders.



Paul warned Timothy and Titus that being a leader was difficult at times, but God had chosen them to be leaders. Their role as leaders put them in a position to serve God. Paul hoped that recognizing this would help them persevere and live in a way that pleased Christ.

God is at work in your kids and that they too might be leaders in the church one day—perhaps one day soon. Help your kids see that being a leader is a great privilege to help point others to the gospel. Paul wrote to give Timothy and Titus advice and to help all church leaders know how to lead God's people. Church leaders help their fellow believers and they serve the church by following the example of Jesus, who served us by dying on the cross for our sins.

As you share with your kids this week, help them see the value in God's gift of church leaders. Look for ways to support your leaders so that your kids value them, love them, and respect them. Consider ways your family can encourage your leaders.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS	How do church leaders serve the church?	Who are the leaders at our church? How can we encourage and care for them?
What do these passages teach us about God or the Gospel?	What do these passages teach us about ourselves?	What wonderings do you have about these passages?

NEXT WEEK: We will start a new unit next week called **The God who Changes Us**. Our first lesson will be called "Children of God" (Romans 8:12-39)