



Small Group Discussion Guide

ICE BREAKER: If you've been watching the Olympics, what has been your most memorable moment?

INSTRUCTIONS: If your group meets bi-weekly, do 1 & 4.

1. Titus was a co-worker with Paul. Read 2 Corinthians 8:16-17; 7:6-7; 8:23. What character qualities do these verses reveal to us about Titus? What effect did these qualities have on Paul and others that Titus served? Which of these qualities that Titus possessed would you like to see develop in your own life? What steps might you take to see this happen?
2. Pastor Tom explained to us that Titus encountered difficult, challenging and demanding circumstances especially involving the Corinthian church. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10; 5:1-11; 8:1-13. What were the issues that Titus had to work on with this church?
3. Pastor Tom concluded that based on these difficult situations, that even though he had an ordinary name, Titus had an extraordinary ability to effectively navigate these situations. Is there anyone in our group who has that ability? Do you know anyone else in your life that can navigate difficult situations? Describe how their ability benefits those around them.
4. What made Titus so effective in doing things most of us would rather avoid? Pastor Tom explained that Titus was an effective people navigator. Review the five ways he did this outlined in the message notes. Which of those five steps is one you believe you do well? Which is one you might need to grow in? Take some time to pray for one another that you would all grow in effectively navigating difficult situations with people.

Personal Guide for Week of February 25th

- DAY 1 - Read Proverbs 11:3 and 1 Peter 3:16.** How does living in the way these verses describe enable one to deal with difficult situations?
- DAY 2 - Read 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5.** How is Titus an example to us of how to promote peace and health in the church family?
- DAY 3 - Read Philippians 4:4-9.** How do the things Paul challenges the reader with here encourage peace?
- DAY 4 - Read 1 John 4:7-12.** How does God's love for us challenge us to love others?
- DAY 5 - Read 1 John 4:13-21.** How does God's love for us enable us to love others?



Message Notes & Small Group Discussion // Personal Guides

"Trite Titus"

Week of February 25, 2018



“Nothing Ordinary: Trite Titus” [Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

In this series we’ve been learning...that an extraordinary God works in and through ordinary people...because God never creates anything or anyone

_____.
“Titus” = one of the most _____ names in the Roman Empire.

1. Who Was Titus?

Note Galatians 2:1-3; Titus 1:4a

- He was one of the “_____ witnesses” that Paul and Barnabas took to Jerusalem... (note Acts 15:1-2).
- He became a co-worker of _____ and served the church in Corinth (note II Corinthians 8:6, 16-17; 2:12-13; 7:6-7, 13-14; 8:10, 17, 24)...
- ...and the churches in _____... (note Titus 1:5; 3:12)
- Last mentioned in II Timothy 4:10.

2. A Consistent _____

Every time we see Titus in the New Testament, while he is involved in a variety of _____ circumstances and ministries, there is a consistent theme...all of them were _____/challenging/demanding.

His assignments were _____ (note Acts 15:19; I Corinthians 1:10; 8:1b; 5:1; 3:3; II Corinthians 7-8; 12:20-21; Titus 1:12-13a; 2:15).

Titus may have had a common name, but God gave him an extraordinary ability to effectively _____ difficult, painful, sensitive, and tension-filled situations with challenging people.

What made Titus so effective in doing things most of us would rather avoid?

3. Becoming an Effective People _____

- A. Letting his _____ speak louder than his words (note Acts 15) - it was his life, character, how he handled a highly pressure-filled occasion by r_____ the image of Jesus that spoke the loudest. In a culture that seems to think that more words on _____ and shouting down others as loudly as possible is what works, Titus reminds us that the way we live actually speaks the loudest...
- B. Commitment to God’s _____ (note Titus 2:1, 7, 15; 3:8b) - he was less interested in his opinions and more interested in what God _____.
- C. He saw these assignments as opportunities, not as punishments or t_____ tasks (note II Corinthians 8:16-17) - “enthusiasm” = “en theos” = “_____”.
- D. He did his work with _____ (note II Corinthians 8:20, 21, 23a; 12:17-18).
- E. He _____ people (note II Corinthians 7:6-7, 13b-15; I Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13) - love lowers tensions, _____ suspicions, and opens hearts and minds.

Because God doesn’t make anything or anyone ordinary:

- Titus had a common name...
- ...but he was an extraordinary _____ in God’s hands in helping navigate tough situations.
- What part (s) of Titus’ life and character does God want to build or strengthen in your life?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. Use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Trite Titus”
Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

In this series we’ve been learning...that an extraordinary God works in and through ordinary people...because God never creates anything or anyone ordinary.

“Titus” = one of the most common names in the Roman Empire.

1. Who Was Titus?

Note Galatians 2:1-3; Titus 1:4a

- He was one of the “star witnesses” that Paul and Barnabas took to Jerusalem... (note Acts 15:1-2).
- He became a co-worker of Paul and served the church in Corinth (note 2 Corinthians 8:6, 16-17; 2:12-13; 7:6-7, 13-14; 8:10, 17, 24)...
- ...and the churches in Crete... (note Titus 1:5; 3:12)
- Last mentioned in 2 Timothy 4:10.

2. A Consistent Thread

Every time we see Titus in the New Testament, while he is involved in a variety of unique circumstances and ministries, there is a consistent theme...all of them were difficult/challenging/demanding.

His assignments were tough (note Acts 15:19; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 8:1b; 5:1; 3:3; 2 Corinthians 7-8; 12:20-21; Titus 1:12-13a; 2:15).

Titus may have had a common name, but God gave him an extraordinary ability to effectively navigate difficult, painful, sensitive, and tension-filled situations with challenging people.

What made Titus so effective in doing things most of us would rather avoid?

3. Becoming an Effective People Navigator

- A. Letting his life speak louder than his words (note Acts 15) – it was his life, character, how he handled a highly pressure-filled occasion by reflecting the image of Jesus that spoke the loudest. In a culture that seems to think that more words on social media and shouting down others as loudly as possible is what works, Titus reminds us that the way we live actually speaks the loudest...
- B. Commitment to God’s truth (note Titus 2:1,7,15; 3:8b) – he was less interested in his opinions and more interested in what God said.
- C. He saw these assignments as opportunities, not as punishments or thankless tasks (note 2 Corinthians 8:16-17) – “enthusiasm” = “en theos” = “in God”.
- D. He did his work with integrity (note 2 Corinthians 8:20, 21, 23a; 12:17-18).
- E. He loved people (note 2 Corinthians 7:6-7, 13b-15; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13) – love lowers tensions, reduces suspicions, and opens hearts and minds.

Because God doesn’t make anything or anyone ordinary:

- Titus had a common name...
- ...but he was an extraordinary tool in God’s hands in helping navigate tough situations.
- What part(s) of Titus’ life and character does God want to build or strengthen in your life?

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