

Lesson 5 | Definitions & Background Information

Scriptures to Consider:

Num. 11:16-30; Deut. 19:11-12; 21:18-21; 31:9-13; Josh. 20:4; Acts 15:1-35; 19:1-20; 20:17-38; Eph. 1:1, 15-16; 4:11-16; 1Tim. 1:3-5; 3:1-7; 5:17-22; 6:3-5; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 13:17; 1Pet. 5:1-5

- I. Scriptures to Examine
 - a. The church in Jerusalem
 - i. Acts 15:1-35
 - b. The church in Ephesus
 - i. Acts 20:17-38; 1Tim. 1:3-5
 - c. The charge to Titus
 - i. Titus 1:5
 - d. Qualifications and More
 - i. 1Tim. 3:1-7; 5:17-22; Tit. 1:5-9; 1Pet. 5:1-5
- II. Definitions
 - a. "Elder" (or "Presbyter")
 - b. "Bishop" (or "Overseer")
 - c. "Pastor" (or "Shepherd")

Questions:

1. Provide some background information for the church in Jerusalem during the time of Acts 15, and take note of the elders' involvement throughout this chapter.

2. Provide a **brief** historical overview of the church in Ephesus.

3. Provide some background information for Timothy and his involvement with the church in Ephesus.

Lesson 5 | Definitions & Background Information

4. How would you describe the spiritual character of the church in Ephesus over the years? (I.e. How would you describe them during the time of Acts 19? And then in Acts 20? When “The letter to the Ephesians” was written? And when 1Timothy was written?)

5. Provide some background information for the book of Titus.

6. Define and describe each of the three terms below. What are some distinctions between the terms?
 - a. “Elder” (or “Presbyter”) (ref. Acts 20:17; 1Tim. 5:17; Tit. 1:5; 1Pet. 5:1)

 - b. “Bishop” (or “Overseer”) (ref. Acts 20:28; 1Tim. 3:1, 2; Tit. 1:7)

 - c. “Pastor” (or “Shepherd”) (ref. Eph. 4:11)

7. What were some functions or roles of elders as described in the Old Testament?

8. Who is a good biblical example of an “elder” and why? (It doesn’t need to be someone from the New Testament – it can be an “elder” in the *general* sense).