

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Prayer

- Church-wide, we are praying for God to prepare the hearts of the people of Northeast, NC, for a potential church plant.

Introduction

- In this week's passage, Paul writes, "I am writing these things to you so that... you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God". One of the key roles that strengthens churches is the office of deacon.
- *Did you grow up in a church with deacons? What was your understanding of deacons before this week's sermon?*

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13

- *What qualification jumps off the page after our first read through?*
- *What would be the potential consequences for a church if a deacon were double-tongued?*
- *Re-read verse 9. What about our faith is clear? What about our faith is mysterious?*
- *Women in the group, who are ladies in our church that model the qualifications in verse 11?*
- *In what ways has serving the practical needs of others increased your confidence in the faith?*
- *Which qualification would you like to grow in personally?*

Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16

- *How can we as a church serve as a pillar of truth in Hampton Roads?*
- *What does verse 16 teach us about Jesus?*
- **Action:** ask for a volunteer to practice sharing the gospel with the group. Offer feedback and encouragement.

"One-Anothering"

- Each discussion guide this year will feature one of the scriptures' "one another" statements. These instructions guide us on how to love one another.
- *Through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13)*