

BEING IN AND WITH THE WORD

1: PUT ON YOUR 3-C GLASSES!

 *BIG IDEA: To introduce the 3-C (context, conversation, connection) method of studying Scripture and demonstrate it on a phrase in Titus 1.*

➡ WELCOME/ICEBREAKER

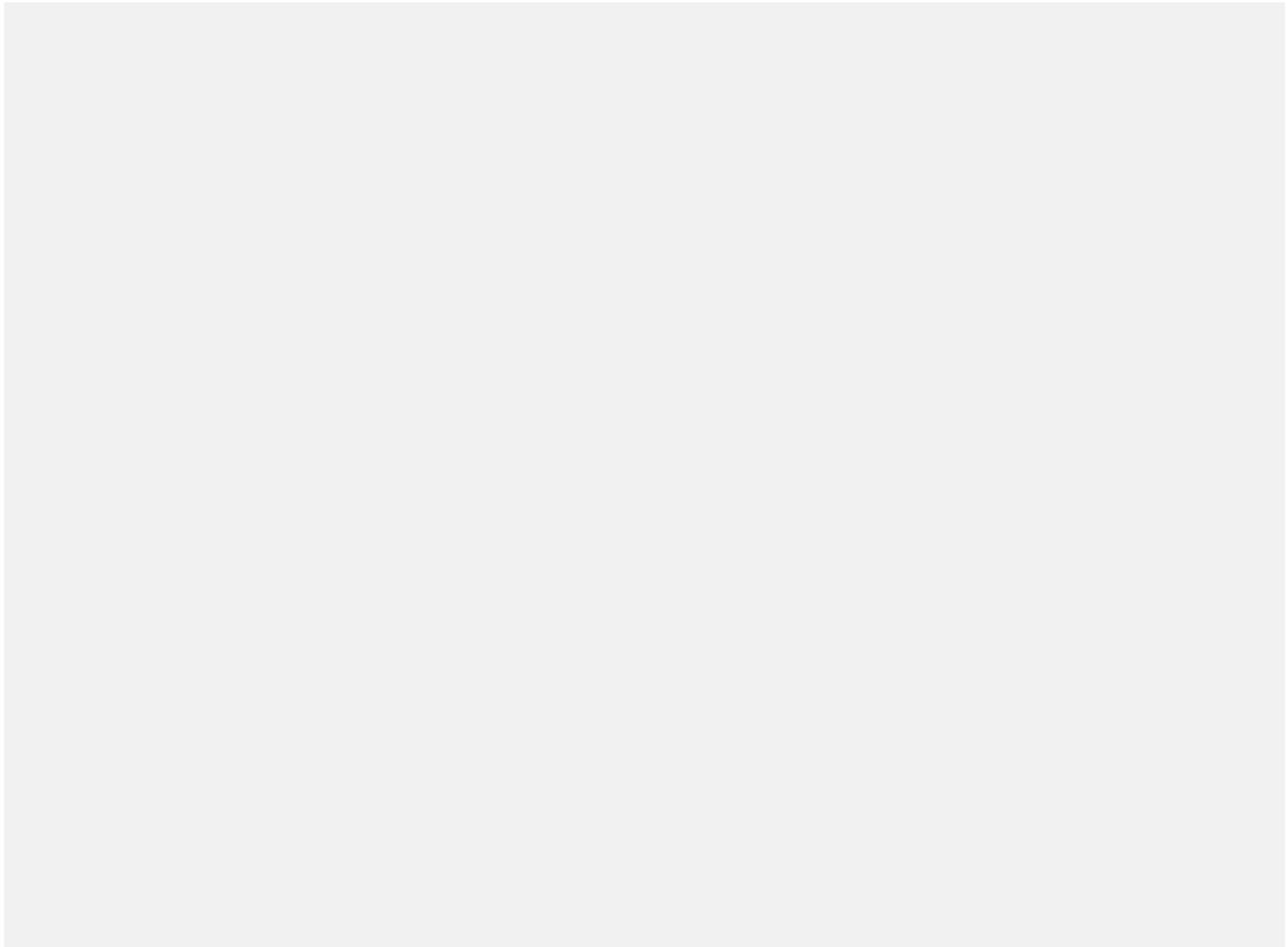
➡ OPENING PRAYER

 ➡ SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 4:12 (The Message)

(Circle key phrases or verses that stand out to you)

¹²God means what he says. What he says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey.



The Three Cs: Context, Conversation, Connection

Context

Scripture	Date
	

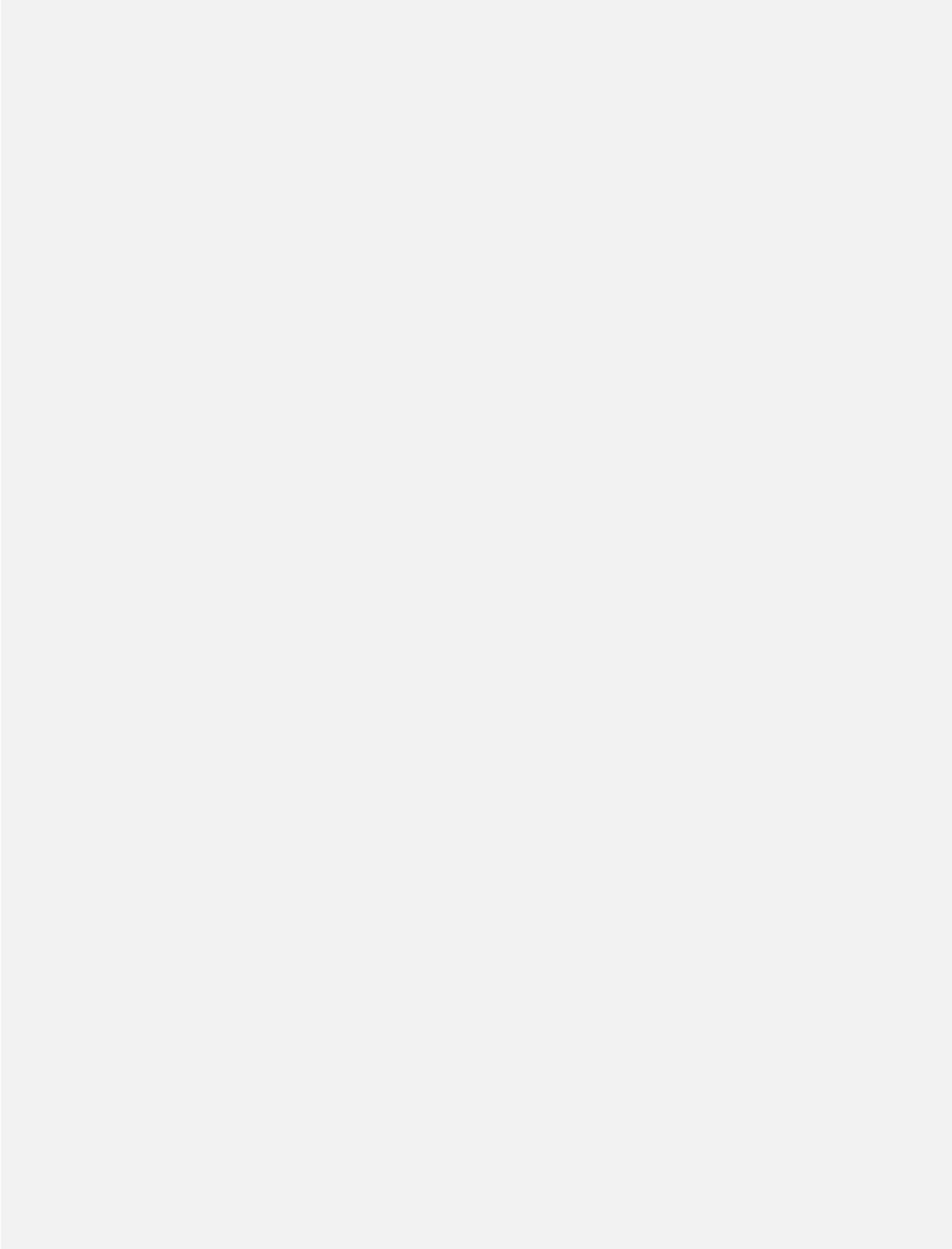
Conversation

Scripture	Date
	

Connection

Scripture	Date
	

 APPLICATION



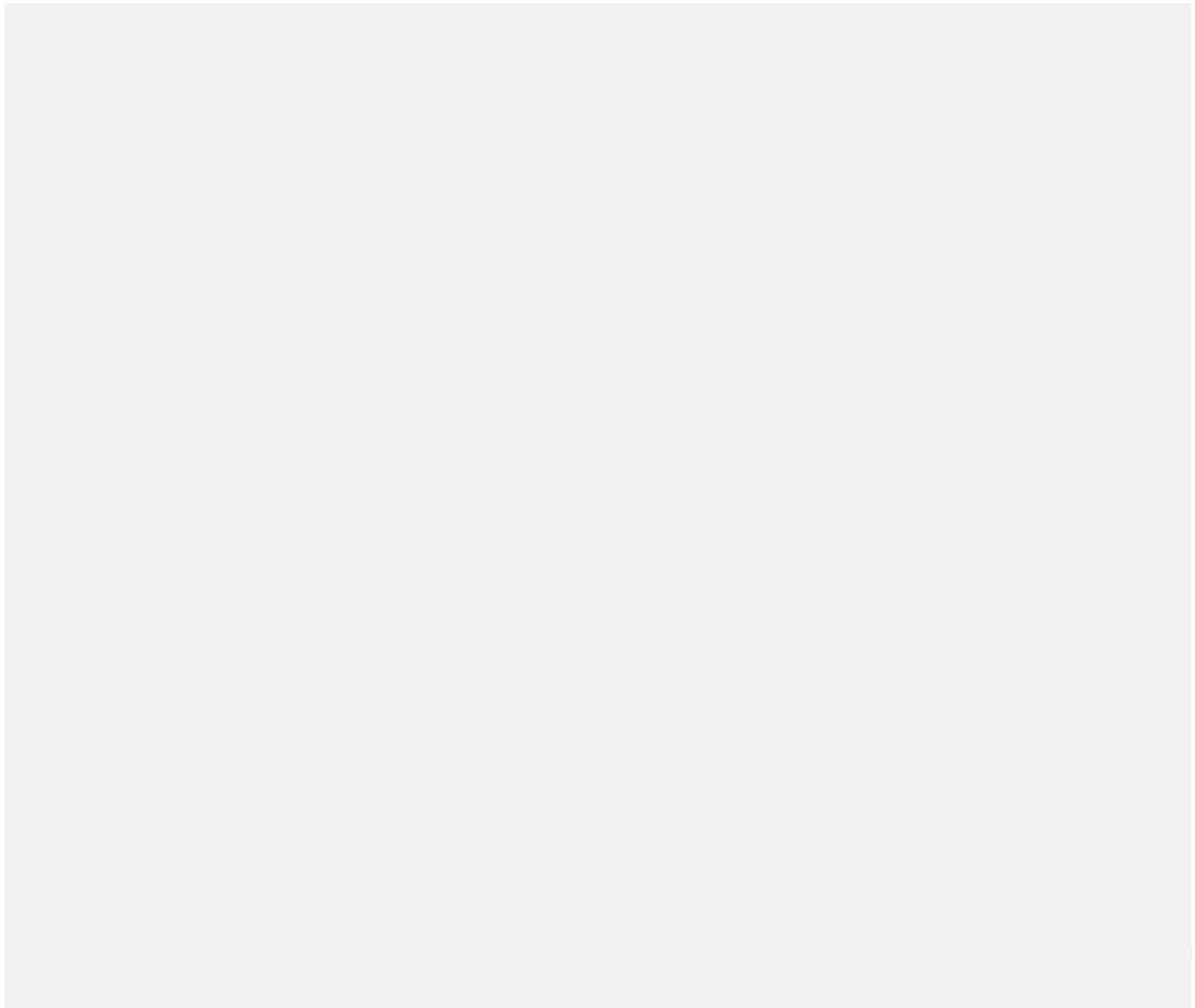
➡ DIVINE PARTICIPATION

What does it mean that Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus happened in secret at night? What does it mean that Jesus cast a Samaritan as the hero of the famous "Good Samaritan" story?

What does it mean, in the case of Titus, that this is an instruction to someone going into difficult, dangerous territory? The church is only a few decades old and under pressure from every side. That's the setting of Titus.

A commentary or study Bible could help with this, but also simply imagining yourself as the original hearer can give perspective.

How does this exercise enhance your reading of Scripture?
How does it deepen your relationship with God's love letter to us?



➡ CLOSING PRAYER

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2: UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

 *BIG IDEA: Participants will use the 3-Cs on this section of Scripture with an emphasis on the context. Participants will see the dimension that context brings to just a few verses at the opening of this book.*

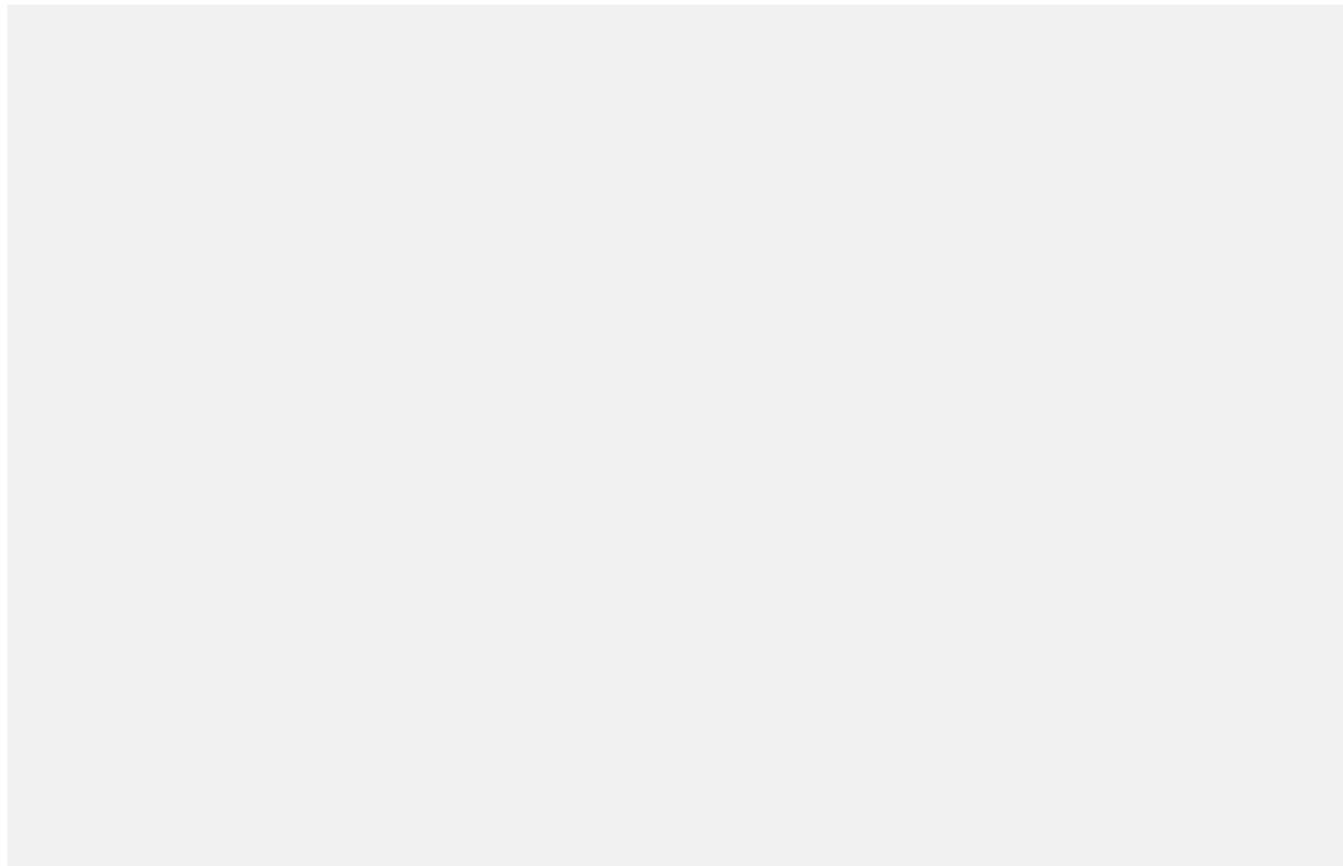
➔ WELCOME/ICEBREAKER

➔ OPENING PRAYER

 ➔ SCRIPTURE READING

Titus 1:1-4 (The Message)

¹⁻⁴I, Paul, am God's slave and Christ's agent for promoting the faith among God's chosen people, getting out the accurate word on God and how to respond rightly to it. My aim is to raise hopes by pointing the way to life without end. This is the life God promised long ago—and he doesn't break promises! And then when the time was ripe, he went public with his truth. I've been entrusted to proclaim this Message by order of our Savior, God himself. Dear Titus, legitimate son in the faith: Receive everything God our Father and Jesus our Savior give you!



The Three Cs: Context, Conversation, Connection

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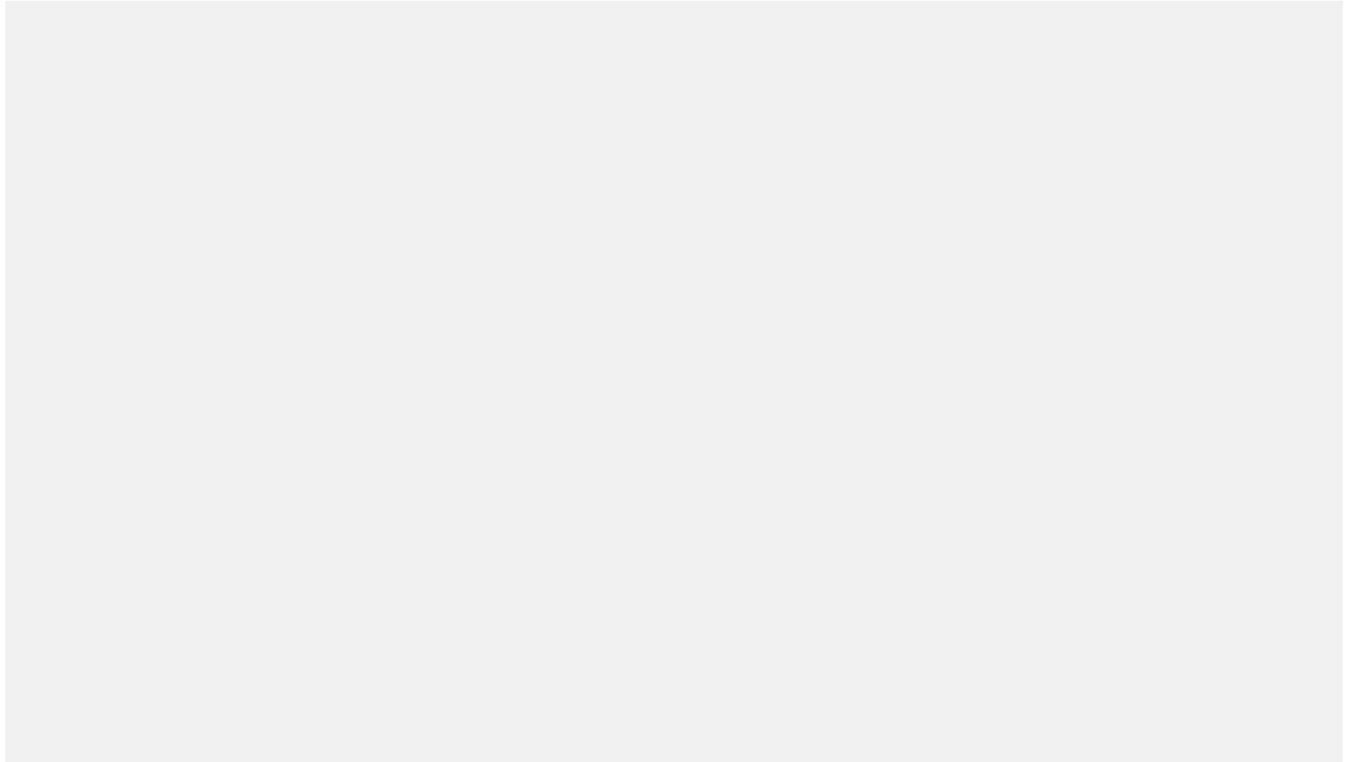
Scripture	Date

Conversation

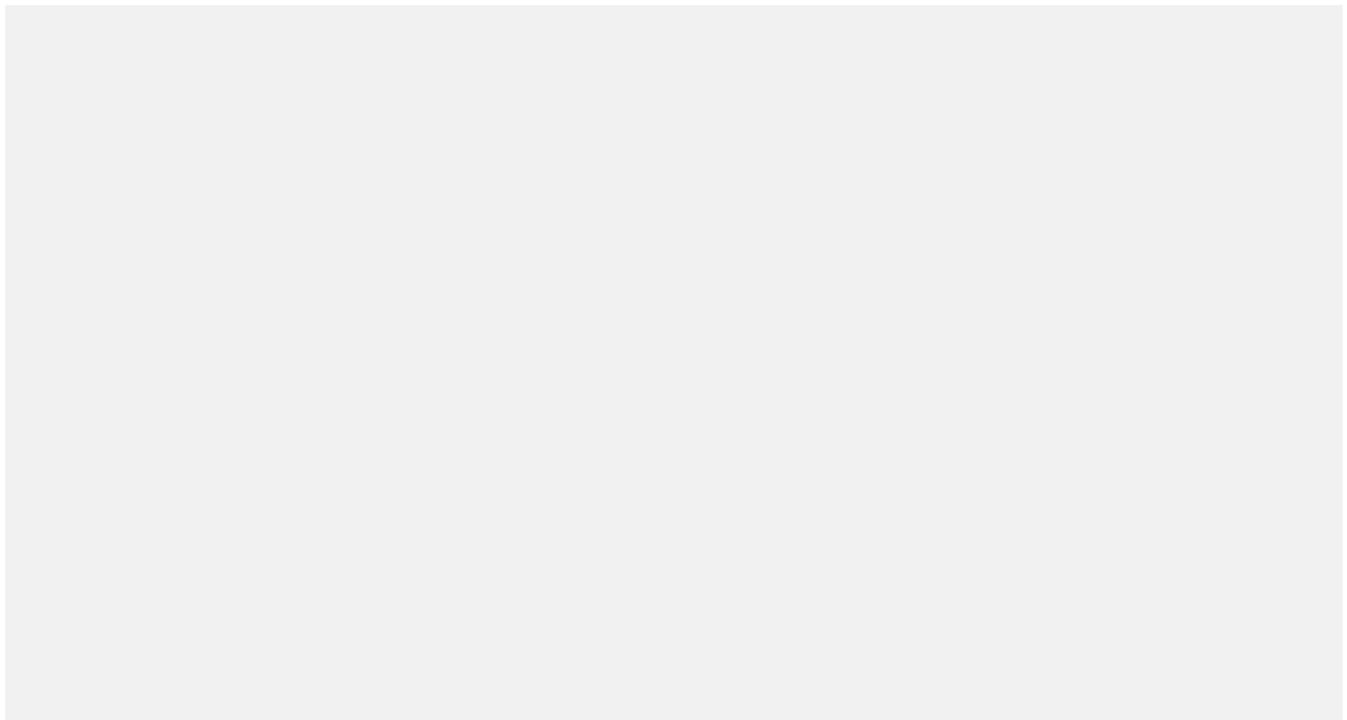
Scripture	Date

Connection

Scripture	Date

➔ APPLICATION**➔ DIVINE PARTICIPATION**

What will be your counterstatement this week? What short prayer will you speak back when the world and the devil lie to you about who you are?

**➔ CLOSING PRAYER**

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3: PREACHING AND PRACTICE

 **BIG IDEA:** Participants will apply the 3-Cs format to this passage of Scripture with an emphasis on context. Participants will gain an understanding of the pressures in the Cretan Christian community and how they might correspond to our own.

➔ **WELCOME/ICEBREAKER**

➔ **SUGGESTED OPENING PRAYER**

 ➔ **SCRIPTURE READING**

Titus 1:5-16 (The Message)

⁵⁻⁹ I left you in charge in Crete so you could complete what I left half-done. Appoint leaders in every town according to my instructions. As you select them, ask, “Is this man well-thought-of? Is he committed to his wife? Are his children believers? Do they respect him and stay out of trouble?” It’s important that a church leader, responsible for the affairs in God’s house, be looked up to—not pushy, not short-tempered, not a drunk, not a bully, not money-hungry. He must welcome people, be helpful, wise, fair, reverent, have a good grip on himself, and have a good grip on the Message, knowing how to use the truth to either spur people on in knowledge or stop them in their tracks if they oppose it.

¹⁰⁻¹⁶ For there are a lot of rebels out there, full of loose, confusing, and deceiving talk. Those who were brought up religious and ought to know better are the worst. They’ve got to be shut up. They’re disrupting entire families with their teaching, and all for the sake of a fast buck. One of their own prophets said it best:

The Cretans are liars from the womb,
barking dogs, lazy bellies.

He certainly spoke the truth. Get on them right away. Stop that diseased talk of Jewish make-believe and made-up rules so they can recover a robust faith. Everything is clean to the clean-minded; nothing is clean to dirty-minded unbelievers. They leave their dirty fingerprints on every thought and act. They say they know God, but their actions speak louder than their words. They’re real creeps, disobedient good-for-nothings.

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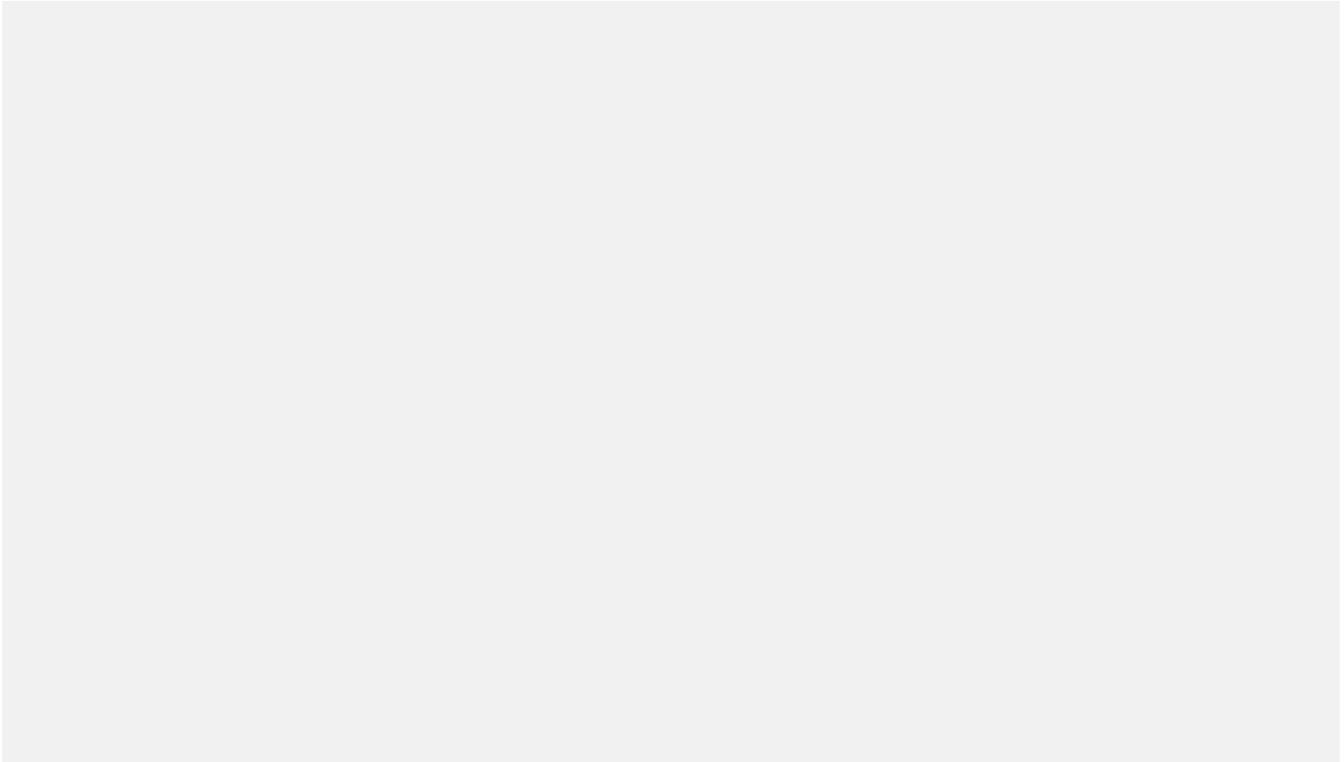
Conversation

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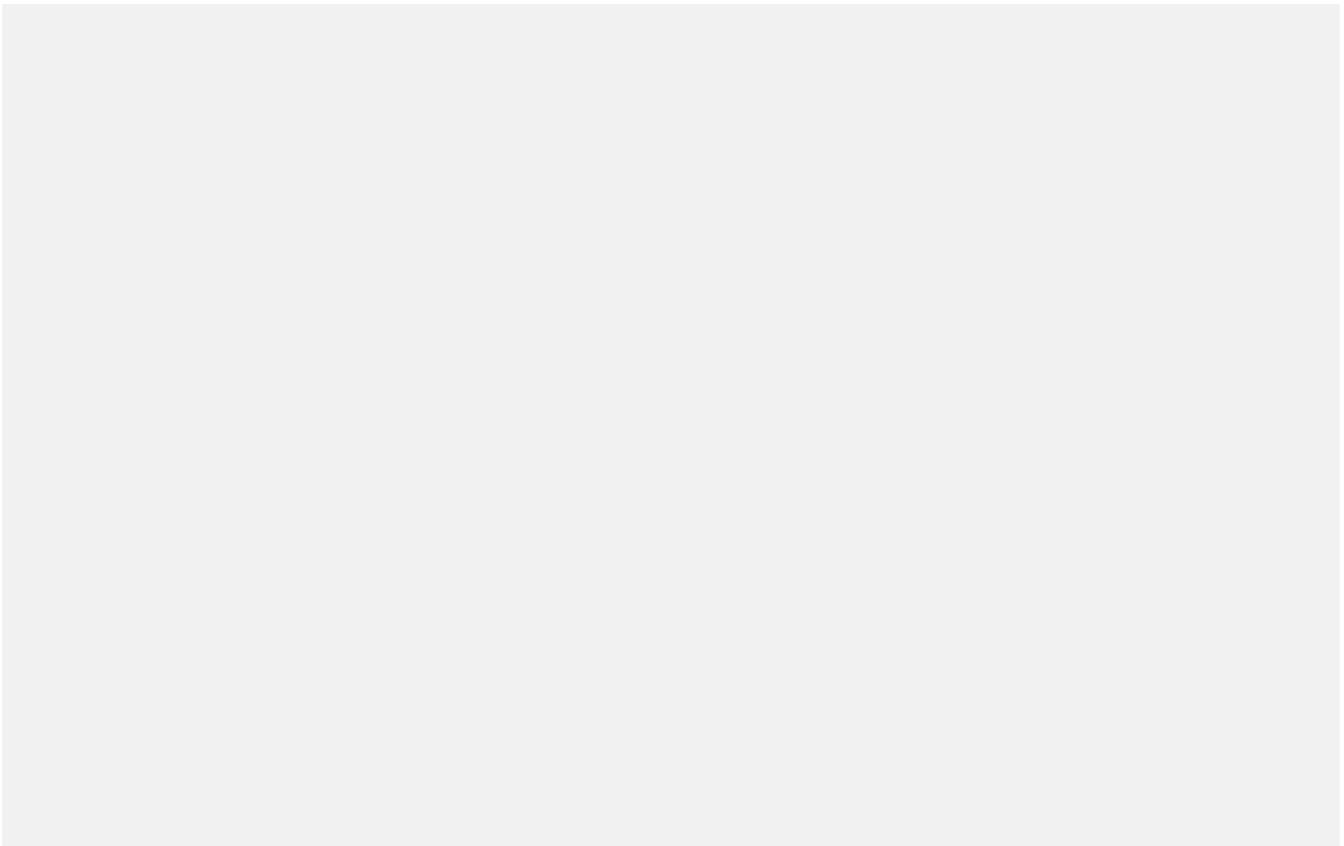
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➡ APPLICATION



➡ DIVINE PARTICIPATION



➡ CLOSING PRAYER

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4: THE COUNTER-CULTURAL CHRISTIAN

 *BIG IDEA: Participants will apply the 3Cs format to this passage of Scripture with an emphasis on conversation. Participants will gain understand and apply the idea of a counter-cultural Christian.*

➔ **WELCOME/ICEBREAKER**

➔ **SUGGESTED OPENING PRAYER**

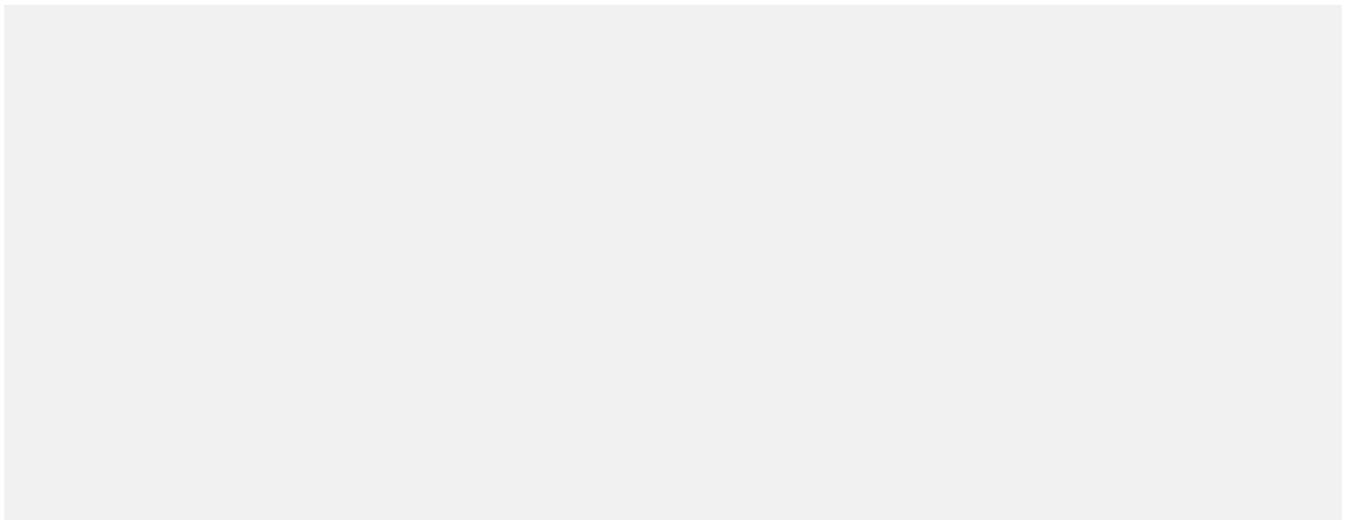
 ➔ **SCRIPTURE READING**

Titus 2:1-10 (The Message)

¹⁻⁶ Your job is to speak out on the things that make for solid doctrine. Guide older men into lives of temperance, dignity, and wisdom, into healthy faith, love, and endurance. Guide older women into lives of reverence so they end up as neither gossips nor drunks, but models of goodness. By looking at them, the younger women will know how to love their husbands and children, be virtuous and pure, keep a good house, be good wives. We don't want anyone looking down on God's Message because of their behavior. Also, guide the young men to live disciplined lives.

⁷⁻⁸ But mostly, show them all this by doing it yourself, trustworthy in your teaching, your words solid and sane. Then anyone who is dead set against us, when he finds nothing weird or misguided, might eventually come around.

⁹⁻¹⁰ Guide slaves into being loyal workers, a bonus to their masters—no back talk, no petty thievery. Then their good character will shine through their actions, adding luster to the teaching of our Savior God.



The Three Cs: Context, Conversation, Connection

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➡ APPLICATION

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➡ DIVINE PARTICIPATION

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➡ CLOSING PRAYER

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5: CHANGING GRAVITY



BIG IDEA: Participants will understand the theological underpinnings for the transformed life—the changed center of gravity—that Paul describes in the middle of the letter.

➔ WELCOME/ICEBREAKER

➔ SUGGESTED OPENING PRAYER



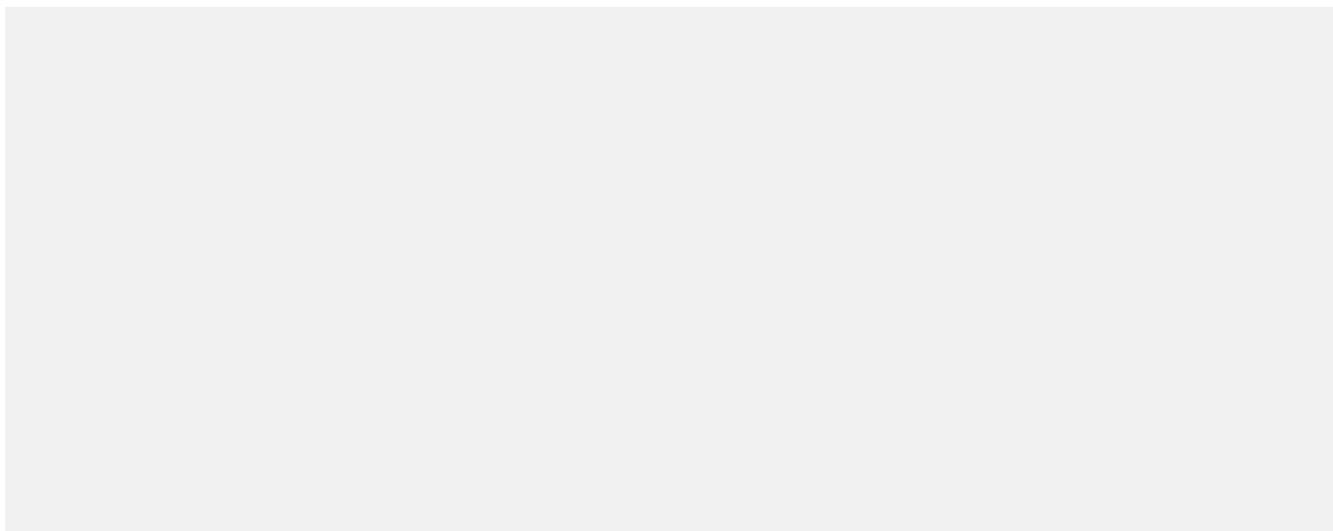
➔ SCRIPTURE READING

Titus 2:11-15, 3:4-6 (The Message)

¹¹⁻¹⁴ God's readiness to give and forgive is now public. Salvation's available for everyone! We're being shown how to turn our backs on a godless, indulgent life, and how to take on a God-filled, God-honoring life. This new life is starting right now, and is whetting our appetites for the glorious day when our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, appears. He offered himself as a sacrifice to free us from a dark, rebellious life into this good, pure life, making us a people he can be proud of, energetic in goodness.

¹⁵ Tell them all this. Build up their courage, and discipline them if they get out of line. You're in charge. Don't let anyone put you down.

⁴⁻⁶ But when God, our kind and loving Savior God, stepped in, he saved us from all that. It was all his doing; we had nothing to do with it. He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously.



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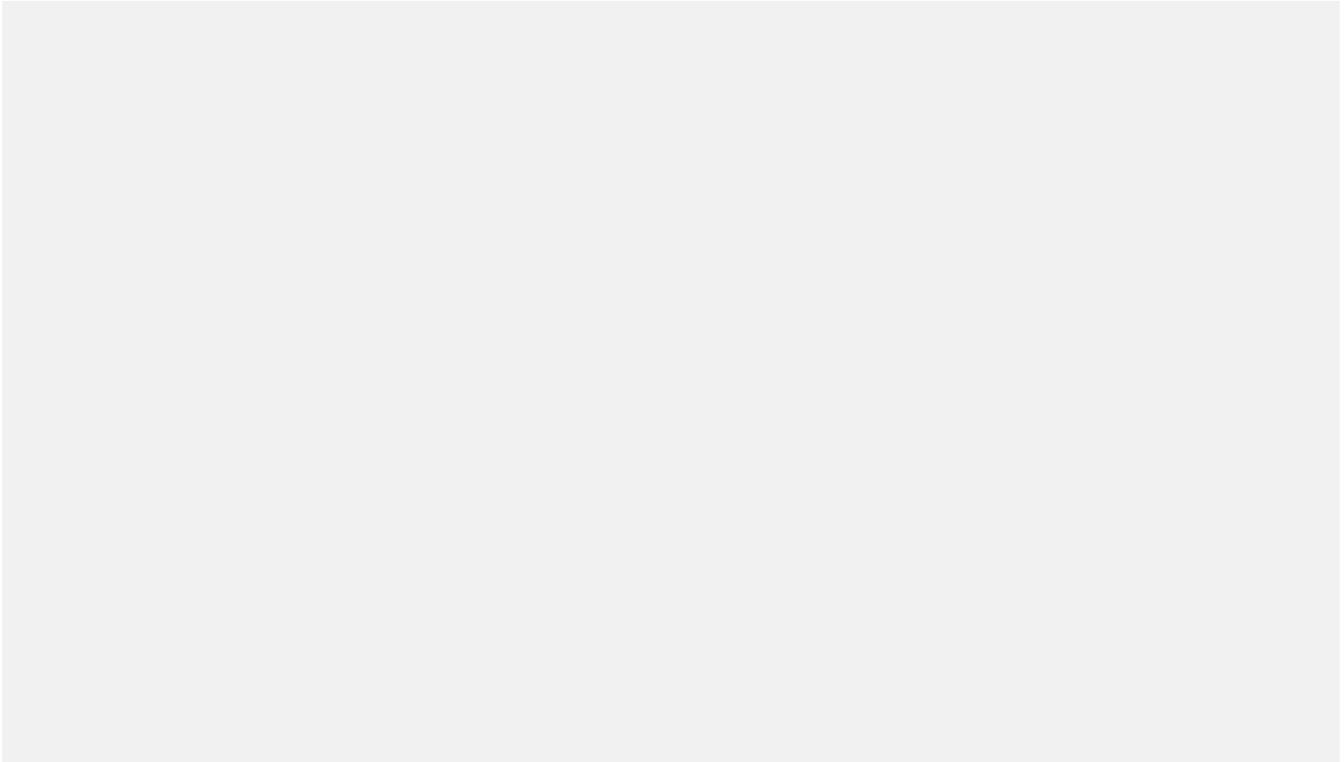
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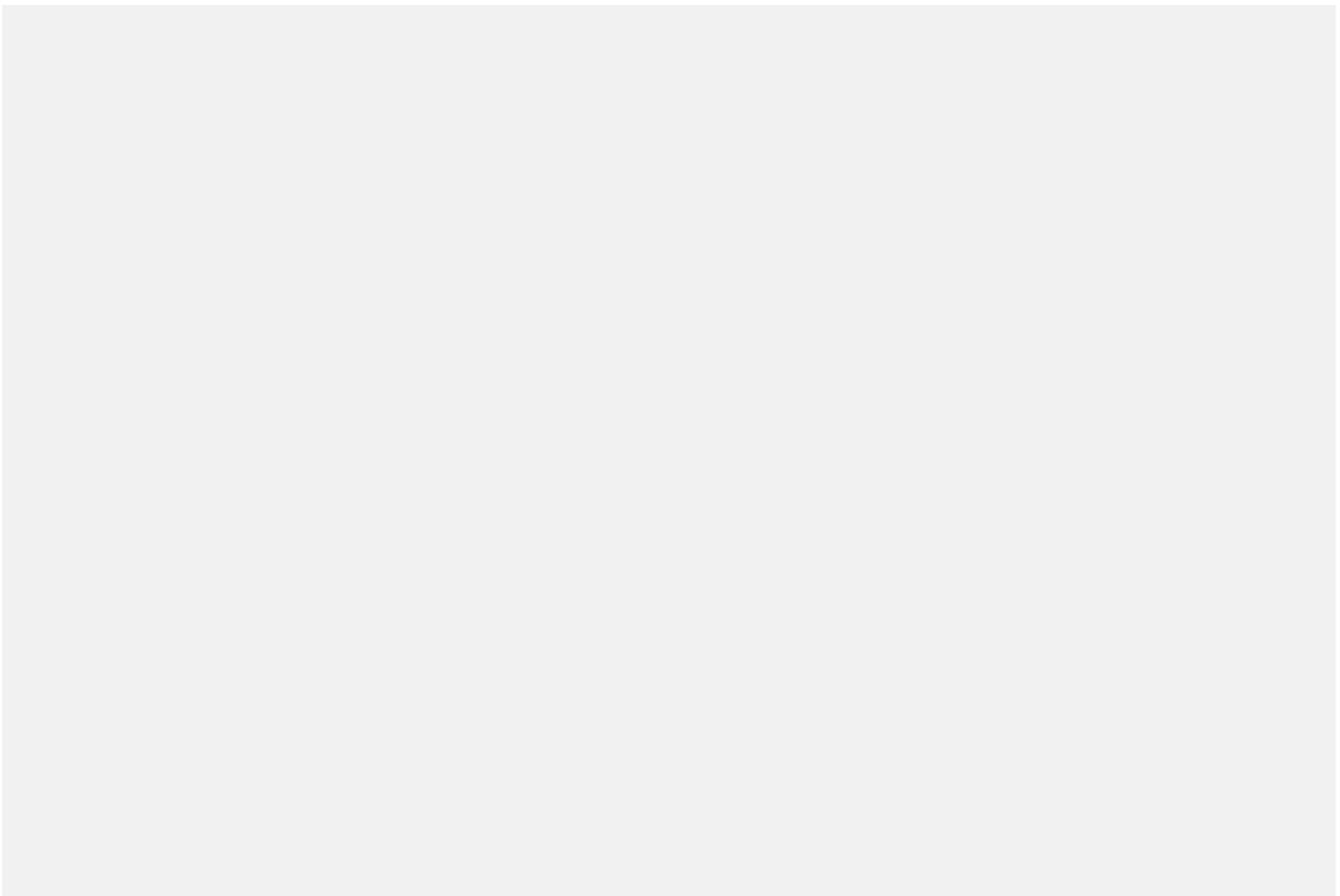
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➔ APPLICATION



➔ DIVINE PARTICIPATION



➡ CLOSING PRAYER

“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or to be unthankful for, these earthly blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage. I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death.”

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6: CITIZENS OF HEAVEN, RESIDENTS OF EARTH



BIG IDEA: Participants will understand Paul's ending note of Titus, picturing the ideal citizen that will be a witness to the gospel by their character and actions.

➔ WELCOME/ICEBREAKER

➔ SUGGESTED OPENING PRAYER



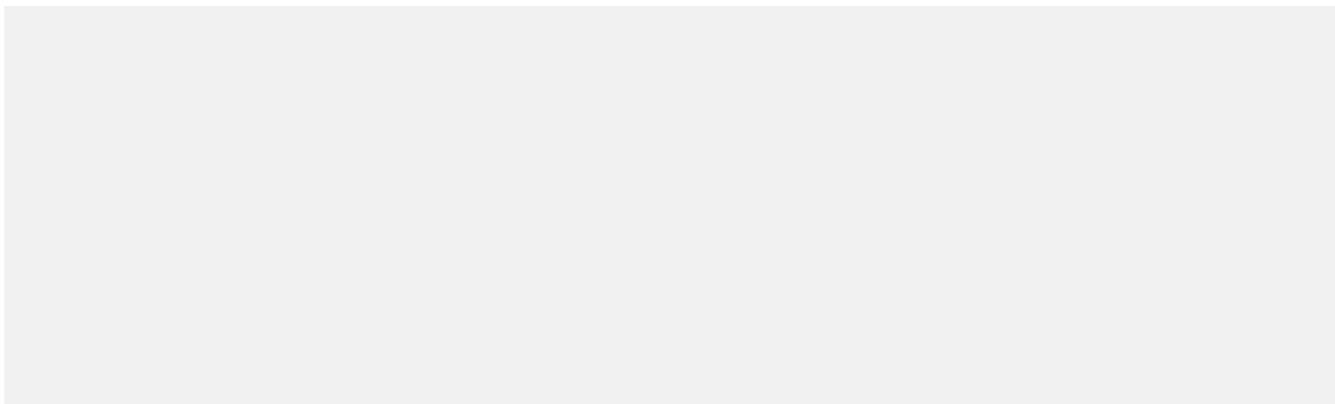
➔ SCRIPTURE READING

Titus 2:11-15, 3:4-6 (The Message)

¹⁻² Remind the people to respect the government and be law-abiding, always ready to lend a helping hand. No insults, no fights. God's people should be bighearted and courteous.

³⁻⁸ It wasn't so long ago that we ourselves were stupid and stubborn, easy marks for sin, ordered every which way by our glands, going around with a chip on our shoulder, hated and hating back. But when God, our kind and loving Savior God, stepped in, he saved us from all that. It was all his doing; we had nothing to do with it. He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously. God's gift has restored our relationship with him and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life! You can count on this.

⁸⁻¹¹ I want you to put your foot down. Take a firm stand on these matters so that those who have put their trust in God will concentrate on the essentials that are good for everyone. Stay away from mindless, pointless quarreling over genealogies and fine print in the law code. That gets you nowhere. Warn a quarrelsome person once or twice, but then be done with him. It's obvious that such a person is out of line, rebellious against God. By persisting in divisiveness he cuts himself off.



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