



Shorter Study

■ **Open the session with prayer.**

■ **Read together 1 Timothy 3:1-7.**

- What does it mean for an elder to be “above reproach”?
- How do you feel when you read this list of characteristics for eldership?
- Is there anything in this list that surprises you? Why?

■ **Watch the video entitled “Session 10 – Having Godly Character”.**

Session Overview:

1. According to Scripture, godliness is more valued than giftedness.
2. Character is who you are in the dark.
3. Elders pastor churches not only by what they do and say but also by “who they are”.

Reflection Questions:

1. We hear from time-to-time of pastors/elders leading successful ministries only to be rocked by a bombshell of moral failure. Have you ever wondered how this could occur? How is something like that possible?
2. Do you believe that there are people who respect, admire or imitate you? Why/why not?
3. How often do you think about how your actions may influence those who look up to you? Do you believe that how you live will affect those who respect, admire and imitate you?
4. Can you give an example of how your life has influenced someone in their Christian walk? What was it?

■ **Close in prayer.**



Longer Study

■ **Open the session with prayer.**

■ **Read together 1 Timothy 3:1-7.**

- What does it mean for an elder to be “above reproach”?
- How do you feel when you read this list of characteristics for eldership?
- Is there anything in this list that surprises you? Why?

■ **Watch the video entitled “Session 10 – Having Godly Character”.**

Session Overview:

1. According to Scripture, godliness is more valued than giftedness.
2. Character is who you are in the dark.
3. Elders pastor churches not only by what they do and say but also by “who they are”.

Reflection Questions:

1. We hear from time-to-time of pastors/elders leading successful ministries only to be rocked by a bombshell of moral failure. Have you ever wondered how this could occur? How is something like that possible?
2. Do you believe that there are people who respect, admire or imitate you? Why/why not?
3. How often do you think about how your actions may influence those who look up to you? Do you believe that how you live will affect those who respect, admire and imitate you?
4. Can you give an example of how your life has influenced someone in their Christian walk? What was it?
5. Martin Williams gave eight reflection questions. Do you recognize anything here that you feel you need prayer for? Pray as a group about those things in closing this session:
 - a) Do people understand more of God’s mercy because of the way I respond to their mistakes?
 - b) Do people understand more of God’s holiness because of my high ethical standards?
 - c) Do people understand more of God’s patience because of the time I give to grow and develop?
 - d) Do people understand more of God’s truthfulness because of the way I communicate honestly?

