

Questions:

1. How would you define "character?" Why do you think character matters?
2. Do you think those who are leaders should be held to a higher standard of character than others? Why or why not? Can you think of an example of a leader who disappointed you because of a "character flaw" of some kind? How did it make you feel?
3. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Why did Paul insist that these qualities be evident in the lives of church "overseers?" Why do you think he emphasized the particular qualities that he listed here?
4. How would you answer the objection that people will be discouraged from pursuing leadership if they are held to higher standards in terms of character?
5. How do you think we grow in godly character? Read James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-5. How does God use trials in our lives to produce character? What happens if we don't respond well to the trials we face?
6. Can you think of ways you have personally grown in character? How did that growth take place?
7. What do you think the role of God's Spirit is in our character development?
8. How might you apply tonight's lesson to your life?