

I Will Pray For My Church Leaders

Big Idea:

Our church leaders are often targets for spiritual attacks. It's true that every Christian is a target for these kinds of attacks, but scripture tells us that Satan operates strategically, setting snares or traps for those who are leading the church, in hopes that they will stumble and damage the entire body of Christ (1 Timothy 3:7). This is why we must commit to pray for the protection of our leaders- shepherds, ministers, deacons, ministry leaders, etc...

Ice Breaker:

What are the working parts of a trap or snare? You may want to talk through this verbally, or sketch out a diagram. What different types of snares/traps can you think of (example- pitfall, mouse trap, deadfall)?

THINK and EXAMINE:

The following questions are adapted from Thom Rainer's book, "I Am a Church Member" (pages 52-53).

1. In 1 Timothy 3, the apostle Paul describes the qualities that make for good church leaders. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-12. What qualities stand out to you? How would you describe, in your own words, the kind of person Paul is talking about?
2. Paul says in verse 7, that the Devil has set out a trap to ensnare church leaders. What kind of pitfalls can church leaders fall into? (Hint: you can use the list of qualities above as a help- for example, unfaithfulness in marriage, lack of self-control, struggle with conceit...)
3. We know that Satan is out to attack and discredit church leaders and their work. If we truly believe this, it should cause us to pray for them. What specifically should we ask for when praying for a church leader?

THIS WEEK: Resolve for the next seven days to pray for a specific church leader or group of church leaders. Pray for protection, strength, and anything else you think this person or group of people may need. If you feel need, take some time to tell the person/people that you are praying for them.

The Fourth Pledge:

I am a church member,

I will pray for my pastor(s) (church leaders) every day. I understand that the pastor's work is never ending. His days are filled with numerous demands that bring emotional highs and lows. He must deal with critics. He must be a good husband and father. Because my pastor(s) cannot do all things in his own power, I will pray for his strength and wisdom daily.

Sign and Date