

# STUDY GUIDE

## We the Church 11.22.2020

### [setting it up]

WITHOUT READING AHEAD, discuss the following question: Christianity grew from an approximate number of about 1,000 believers in 40 A.D. to over 33 million by the year 350 A.D. What do you think caused the exponential growth?

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Church Historians report that the response of the followers of Jesus in the earliest centuries A.D. to plagues and epidemics were one of the key factors in the exponential growth of Christianity. Dionysius wrote the following about the Christian response to epidemics:

*"Most of our brother and sister Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbors and cheerfully accepting their pains. Many, in nursing and curing others, transferred their death to themselves and died in their stead."*

### [digging deeper]

Read Titus 3:1-7 together. If you are willing, in response to verse 3, take 2-3 minutes to share some of your testimony with your group. Who were you before Jesus? How did you meet Jesus and where did you receive mercy most clearly?

Read Titus 3:1-2. Accountability in the LifeGroup context is vital. From the sermon (or based on this text alone) what is the area that has caused you the most conviction? Share with your group and ask for accountability.

Read Romans 13:1-7 & Titus 3:1. What are the commands of God related to the church and government (consider these letters are written under the rule of the brutal and perverse Roman Empire). Discuss.

### [living it out]

As we consider the commands from Titus 3, discuss the ways that your LifeGroup might "be ready for every good work."

Develop a plan of action for one or two items on your list, assign people to lead the charge, and follow through!