**Q110. What are the three roles in the local church?**

The Bible distinctly instructs a local church to have qualified elders and committed members, of which some may be qualified deacons.

1. How was Pastor’s analogy of the football team helpful to understand the roles of Christ, pastoral elders, deacons, and the members of the church?
2. Read Ephesians 5:23, Ephesians 4:15-16, and Colossians 1:18.

Why is it important that we always remember that Jesus is the head of this church?

How does it hinder us when we make the church about us and not about God?

**Elders:** Qualified and called men who lead, teach, and govern the local church based on the doctrine and authority of Scripture, exercising wisdom in all matters.

1. Why did God design the local church to have pastoral elders to lead the flock?
2. Read 1 Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:9. Why is the role of rightly teaching the flock the word of God a vital part of the health of the local church? \*\*Talk about the impact this has on your life personally and what is at stake if this was not done well?
3. What are different areas in which our elders are responsible for protecting the flock? Why is it important that they do this faithfully?
4. In what way could you better pray for, respect, invite near and follow our elders?

How can you help each other be accountable to do this?

**Deacon:** a formal office of the local church that is appointed by the elders, consisting of biblically qualified and called men who faithfully assist the elders by serving the church where needed.

1. Read Acts 6:1-6. Deacons are a non-authoritative office of the church that is focused on helping the elders and serving the church.

Why did the elders call for deacons to be appointed?

In what ways is it helpful to our church that we have Deacons who faithfully fulfill this role?

In what ways can we support, respect and encourage our deacons?

**Members (local church members):** The professing believers who make up the local church family. Church members are committed to Scripture and one another.

1. ***When you read the definitions of dependability, unity, commitment, and accountability on your Hand Out, what is an area you can be more faithful to in our church?***

***Talk about how you can help each other grow in these areas.***

Close by praying for our:

* Elders and those being prepared to lead in this office.
* Deacons and those whom God will raise up to serve as deacons
* Covenant Members and those God is preparing to join our family.