

NEW ELDERS - WHY?

ACTIVITY 1

You have been tasked with starting a new community on an uninhabited Island.

You have to choose 5 people that you would bring with you to lead the Island. They can be from history, people you know, or famous people now.

Who would you choose and why?

INTRODUCTION

Over the next few weeks we are going to be looking at two topics - the book of Amos and Eldership. New elders are going to be elected soon to help lead our church, so in these sessions we are going to spend some time looking at what elders are and what they do.

BIBLE STUDY EXODUS 18:13-27

Use the questions on the following page to help you think a bit deeper about the passage in Exodus 18:13-27. Try to spend at least 10 minutes answering the questions - don't rush, it's not a race! If you've finished before 10 minutes, go back and try to look a bit deeper into the questions and see if you can come up with any more answers. Remember, the aim of this Bible study isn't just to answer the questions, it's to get to know the passage, and God, a bit more. Take time to let Him speak to you.

EXODUS 18:13-27

What has happened before this passage (not just the verses before, but the whole book, you'll know the story!)?

What is happening in this passage? (Condense it into one sentence in your own words).

Who are the key people in the passage? What else do you know about them?

Are there any repeated words/phrases?

What is the key verse in the passage?

What surprises you about this passage?

How does this passage tell you about God?

SOME THOUGHTS...

INTRODUCTION

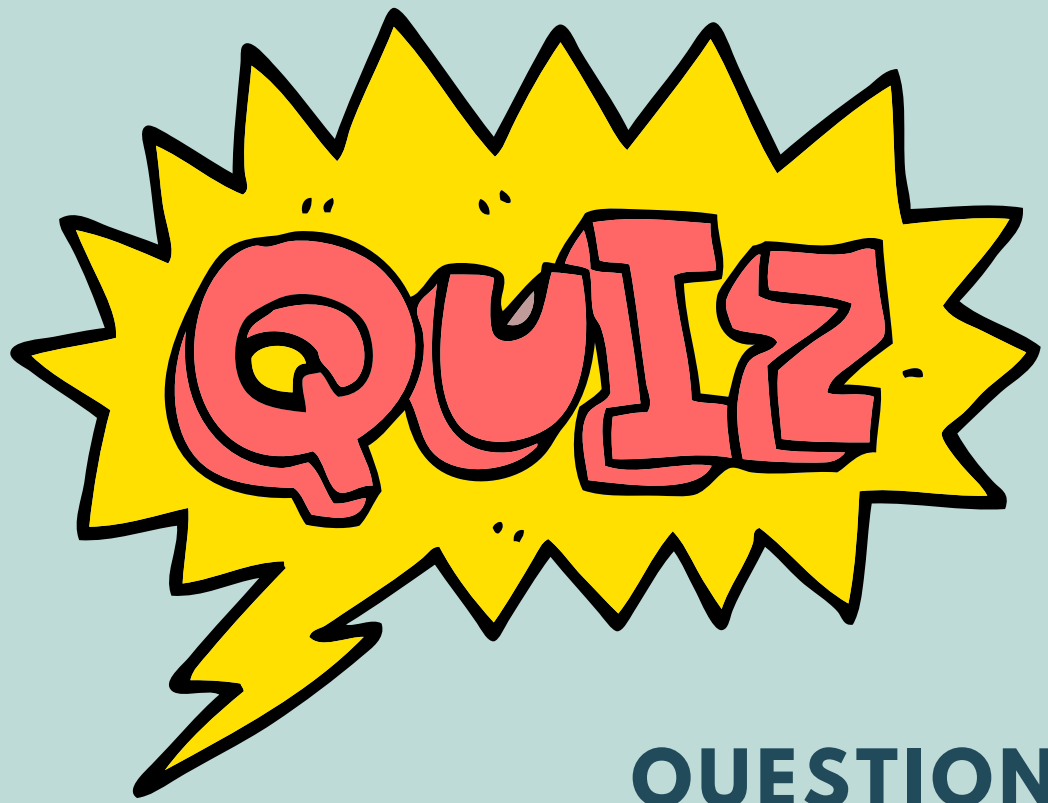
As we said before, we as a church are electing new elders over the next while. So, it will be good for us to look at this topic to help us understand how our church is run, and so that we can think of what it means for us as leaders in our lives.

Earlier, we looked at who we would choose as leaders if we were tasked with establishing a new island. We chose people that displayed qualities of leadership. I wonder how many of you struggled to choose 5? Was it because you wanted more than 5? Or less than 5?

I wonder, when you think about these 5 people who are helping you run the island, what do you think your island is going to look like in 10 years? Or 20 years? Or 100 years? Is it still around? Is it flourishing? I wonder, have you and your 5 others led well?

Well, similar to your island our church is governed by a group of people, called elders. And soon, we will be choosing which people from our congregation we are going to bring onto the team of elders to lead our church. We are going to have to think about who has the right skills, attributes, qualities to lead our church well.

So, for the next while, we are going to discover what an elder is and how they'll help run our church. Let's have a bit of a quiz to help us and then there is a reflection at the end to help you think about your personal qualities.



QUESTIONS

Who is the head of our church?

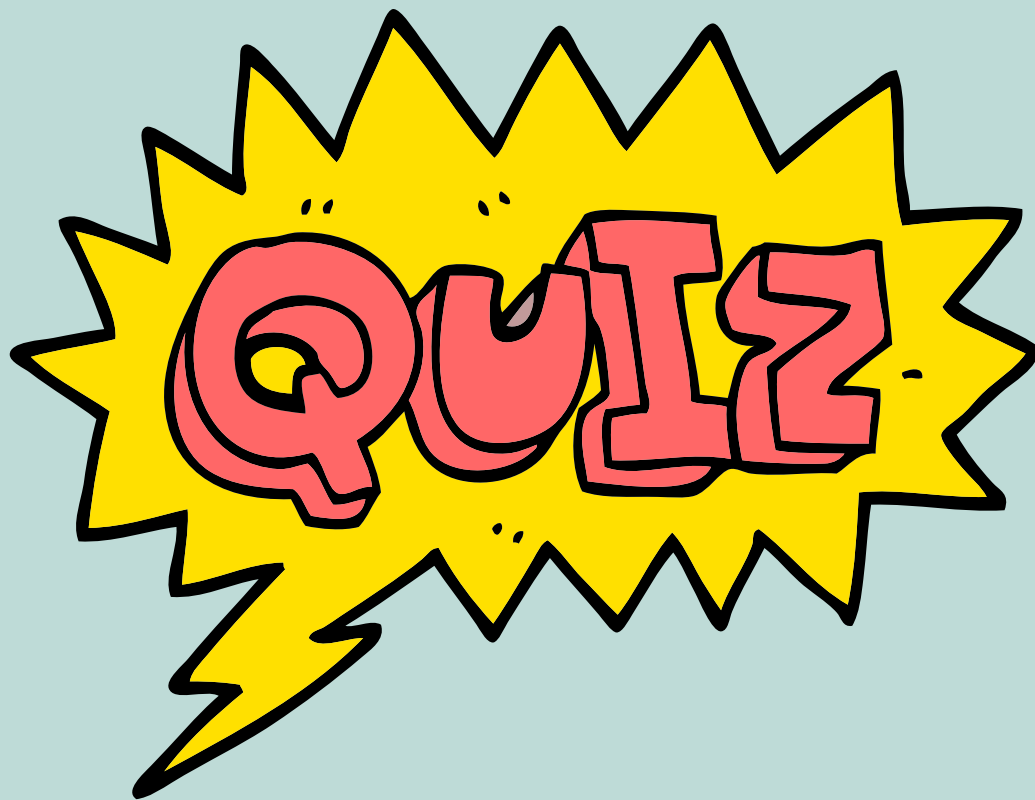
1. Rev. Michael Davidson
2. Jesus Christ
3. The Pope
4. The Elders

Who is the elder in Railway Street?

1. Rev. Michael Davidson
2. There are none
3. The Queen
4. It changes every year

Which of the following statements is true? (You can choose more than one)

1. Elders must be men
2. Elders must be over 30
3. Elders must be Christians
4. Elders must be married
5. Elders have districts to serve
6. Elders get paid by the church
7. Only elders can preach



ANSWERS

Who is the head of our church?

2 - Jesus is the head of the Church. He delegates this responsibility to elders as his representatives in the Church. God has given the elders his authority to govern the church on His behalf - just like Moses did in the passage.

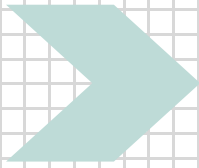
Who is the head of our church?

2 - There is no head elder in Railway Street - all elders are equal, there is no hierarchy. Though there are two different roles - teaching elder and ruling elder. But each elder is equal.

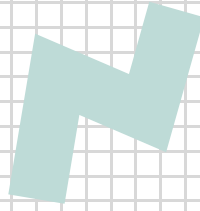
Which of the following statements is true

3 & 5 - Elders must be Christians and be mature Christians at that. There's no age or gender limitations. Elder doesn't actually mean elderly. Elders also have districts to serve around the church, you might have had yours come to your door to deliver things or pray with your family. Some of our elders have been brilliant over lockdown at looking after members of their district who have been shielding, or calling them to check up on them.

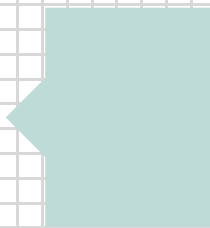
People I look up to



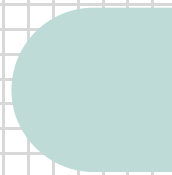
Why do I look up to them?



Why should people look up to me?



Who looks up to me?



**What is my prayer for how others see me
or how I can be a good role model?**



