TRAINING ELDERS FOR FAITHFUL & FRUITFUL SERVICE

Healthy churches require healthy elders. Yet identifying and preparing future elders can be challenging, particularly when churches lack a structured process for training and assessment.



Dave Harvey's *Elder Training Kit* provides churches with a comprehensive online resource for developing and equipping future elders for faithful and fruitful service.

Hosted on an easy-to-use online platform, the Kit equips an experienced elder to guide a prospective elder through 16 structured sessions. Biblical teaching, assigned readings, practical assignments, guided discussion, and assessment tools work together to provide a repeatable training process your church can use again and again.

What's Included

- Mentor Handbook & Candidate Handbook
- 16 guided mentoring sessions
- Teaching outlines & discussion guides
- Assigned readings
- Practical assignments
- Assessment tools
- Course materials available through Thinkific and as downloadable PDFs

The following books are assigned in the training and should be obtained separately:

- *Gospel Eldership* by Bob Thune
- *The Gospel-Driven Church by Jared Wilson*
- *The Plurality Principle by Dave Harvey*
- *Workers for Your Joy by David Mathis*
- *Expositional Preaching by David Helm*
- *The Shepherd Leader by Tim Witmer*
- *Stronger Together by Dave Harvey*

The Elder Training Roadmap

A 16-Meeting Pathway to Biblical Eldership

The training pathway progresses from the gospel foundations of eldership through biblical qualifications, shepherding responsibilities, and church multiplication. Each stage builds toward a deeper understanding of the character, calling, and work of a faithful elder.

Before Training Begins: The Interest Meeting

An initial conversation between a prospective elder candidate and an elder mentor explores his interest in eldership, spiritual maturity, family support, ministry involvement, and readiness for training. The eldership then prayerfully determines whether to invite him into the training process.

Gospel-Centered Eldership | Meetings 1–3

Establish a biblical understanding of eldership, the centrality of the gospel, and the convictions necessary for faithful leadership.

Embodying the Gospel | Meetings 4–5

Explore how the gospel shapes an elder's personal life, leadership, and approach to evaluating the health and effectiveness of the church.

Leading Together in Plurality | Meetings 6–7

Understand the biblical foundation for shared eldership, the importance of healthy leadership relationships, and how elders function together as a team.

Biblically Qualified & Gifted | Meetings 8–12

Examine the biblical qualifications for eldership, including character, leadership in the home, and the ability to teach and handle God's Word faithfully.

Called to Oversee & Shepherd | Meetings 13–14

Develop a practical understanding of an elder's responsibilities for church governance, spiritual oversight, and shepherding God's people.

Called to Multiply | Meetings 15–16

Explore the elder's responsibility to advance the mission of the church through evangelism, disciple-making, church partnerships, and planting.

From Training to Discernment

The process concludes with a comprehensive assessment drawing on input from the candidate, his wife (if applicable), a trusted church member, and his mentor. This feedback helps the eldership evaluate the candidate's readiness and determine appropriate next steps.

More than a Series of Lessons

Throughout the training, candidates engage in meaningful assignments that connect biblical principles with real-life ministry, including:

- Assessing personal character and identifying areas for growth
- Interviewing their senior pastor about leadership and plurality
- Preparing and delivering a biblical teaching or sermon
- Developing a practical plan for shepherding the congregation
- Examining the biblical case for church partnership and multiplication

The goal is to help churches develop and assess qualified men for the responsibilities of faithful eldership.

How Churches Use the Kit

The Kit is designed for ongoing use within your church — not just for training one individual. The typical process:

1. Select an elder candidate
2. Assign an elder mentor
3. Work through the 16-session process, typically over 8 to 16 months, depending on the frequency of meetings
4. Evaluate readiness
5. Repeat with future candidates

Explore the Elder Training Kit

Preview sample lessons and discover how the Elder Training Kit can help your church prepare future elders for faithful and fruitful service.

Visit revdaveharvey.thinkific.com/courses/elderresidencykit