**Training for Life—Case Study 1**

(for use with lesson 3)

**Pastor Byers?**

Jim Byers has been a member of his church for fifteen years. He’s in his forties and has taught an adult Sunday School class for about ten years. His church needs a pastor, and Mr. Byers has expressed an interest in the position. His wife passed away five years ago. He believes taking the pastorate would help fill the void he has felt in his life ever since his wife died.

Mr. Byers filled the pulpit for the former pastor several times over the years. The people responded well to his preaching. Most agree that he is a gifted speaker even though he does not have a degree from a Bible college.

Mr. Byers drives an older car and is often generous toward others. He opens his home for church social events and Bible studies.

Mr. Byers likes to play basketball on Thursday nights with guys from the church and the community. He’s quite competitive. Sometimes his desire to win causes him to lose his temper. He has had to apologize for his behavior on several occasions.

* What strengths do you see in Mr. Byers?
* What concerns might you have about Mr. Byers based on the qualifications of pastors in 1 Timothy 3:1–7?

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**Deacon Carson?**

Gary Carson has been nominated for the position of deacon in a church that has a hard time getting men to run for deacon. He is faithful in his church attendance, but his wife is in church about every other servcie. She says she is too busy to be there every week.

Mr. Carson seems to be concerned about the church family, but there have been times when he has passed on gossip disguised as “prayer requests.” A couple people in the church have been hurt by his tendency to widely share people’s personal information.

Mr. Carson is married with three children ages six, nine, and eleven. The kids are well behaved and respectful of their parents.

Gary has a lot of Bible knowledge, but he has not volunteered much for ministry in the church.

* What strengths do you see in Mr. Carson?
* What concerns might you have about Mr. Carson based on the qualifications of pastors in 1 Timothy 3:8–13?