

Explore the Bible®

DEAF PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle of Je-sus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Je-sus Christ, *which is our hope:*

2 Unto Tim-o-thy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Je-sus Christ our Lord.

Teach No Other Doctrine

3 ¶ As I thought thee to sleep, still an Eph-e-sian; when I went into Ma-ce-do-ni-a, that thou mightest charitably see, that they teach no other doctrine:

4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith to do.

5 ¶ Now the end of the commandment is charity, out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

6 from which some, having swayed have turned aside unto vain jangling.

7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

8 But knowing that the law is our tutor, to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith:

9 ¶ that we should not be proud, and despise them that are without the law, and disobedient, as though we had wisdom, because we have received the law.


10 ¶ Some men, as they have learned of men, they will worship the creature, rather than the Creator, who is blessed for evermore. Amen.

11 ¶ As thou hast diligently followed these things, thou shalt also prosper in thy teaching.

12 ¶ Study to show thyself approved unto God, a work that doeth not vainly. For thou shalt receive the wages of thy labour.

13 ¶ For we have loved thee, because thou hast loved the word which we have written unto thee, that thou shouldst be able to bring forth them that be without the law, to the word of Christ, that they should be obedient to the word of Christ.

1,2 Timothy; Titus



JESUS

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”

The reason for Jesus’ coming to earth was to save sinners. In Paul’s first letter to Timothy, he acknowledged that among sinners he was “the worst of them” (1 Timothy 1:15). Paul’s point was this: if Jesus would and could save someone like him, given who he was and what he had done, then Jesus is able to save anyone.

God’s grace abounds to all people who acknowledge their sin and place their faith in Jesus. The Bible tells us that God “wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” He has made a way possible for us to be forgiven of all our sin—it is through Jesus. “There is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all” (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). He is waiting for you now.

- **Admit** to God that you are a sinner. Repent, turning away from your sin.
- **By faith receive** Jesus Christ as God’s Son and accept Jesus’ gift of forgiveness from sin. He took the penalty for your sin by dying on the cross.
- **Confess** your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

You may pray a prayer similar to this as you call on God to save you: “Dear God, I know that You love me. I confess my sin and need of salvation. I turn away from my sin and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. In Jesus’ name I pray, amen.”

After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, tell a pastor or another Christian about your decision. Show others your faith in Christ by asking for baptism by immersion in your local church as a public expression of your faith.

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» Meet the writer



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Jeremy Parks grew up near Houston, Texas. Just like his father before him, he was born hearing but began losing his hearing as a young person. Now as

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Explore
the Bible®

DEAF PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

You will be blessed, encouraged, and challenged as you study 1,2 Timothy and Titus. Paul, in his Pastoral Epistles, speaks from seemingly every possible angle about the Christian life—who we are in Christ, how we are to live our new lives in Christ, and even the qualities and characteristics of effective church leaders.

The Bible is not just a truth to learn but the truth to obey. Deep within the heart of every true believer is a deep desire to know God better and to live the life of a difference maker.

As you engage in this study, you will quickly realize that the Christian life is a life of blessing, but it comes with its share of challenges. Whether the challenge is dealing with difficult people, false doctrinal teaching, or how to instruct a disciple, these three epistles will leave no rock unturned.

The studies in this book will give a clear understanding of each Scripture passage under consideration. They will tackle the tough passages with clarity and provide helpful answers that will lead you to have a better grasp of truth. Invite others to join you in your Bible study group for an enlightening journey with the apostle Paul.



INTRODUCTION TO

1,2 TIMOTHY; TITUS

Bible teachers call the books of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus the Pastoral Letters. They have that name because Paul wrote like a pastor encouraging the next generation of leaders. These three books are unique in the New Testament because they are personal letters Paul wrote to two young men. His other letters were for church groups. Even though these letters were for Timothy and Titus, Paul included information he wanted shared with the entire church.

Paul identified himself in the first few verses of each book. Most Bible teachers believe Paul truly wrote these books. Some Bible teachers, however, say a follower of Paul wrote the letters many years after Paul's death. Careful study of these three books show they are similar to Paul's other writing which supports the idea that Paul himself was the writer.

Paul was in Roman prisons from about 56-60 AD. He wrote other books of the New Testament while he was in prison. Later, after being released, he traveled freely and worked in Ephesus and Crete. He left Timothy in Ephesus to continue the work. Titus worked in Corinth for a time and later stayed in Crete to continue setting up the churches. After Paul left them, he wrote one letter to each man. He wrote the letters probably sometime between 63 and 64 AD. After Paul sent these two letters, he went into prison for the last time. He wrote 2 Timothy while in prison near the time of his death in 67 AD.

Paul wrote these letters for the young pastors, Timothy and Titus. Timothy had a Greek father and a Jewish mother. His mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures, and he grew in faith. Titus was also a Gentile, but we know very little about him. These two men worked with Paul as he traveled to spread the gospel. Paul trusted them to continue the work with the churches Paul planted in Ephesus and Crete. Paul was their mentor, and he sent the letters to guide them in their work. Even though the letters went to Timothy and Titus, careful study shows Paul expected the church to know and understand the letters, too.

Paul wrote with some specific concerns in mind. He repeatedly commanded Timothy and Titus to focus on the truth of the gospel. The first century ancient world had many religions. Paul was concerned for new Christians and churches. Some people tried to change the gospel message. They wanted to mix it with other religions. Paul did not want the new Christians to become confused. Paul also expressed concern for

leadership in the early church. He explained the qualifications for leaders in his letters. Paul emphasized godly character as most important. Paul wrote about other subjects also, including how to care for church members, order in worship, and suffering for the cause of Christ.

OUTLINES OF

1,2 TIMOTHY; TITUS

1 Timothy

- I. Greeting (1:1-2)
- II. Charge to Timothy (1:3-20)
- III. Proper Worship (2:1-15)
- IV. Proper Church Leaders (3:1-13)
- V. Proper Focus (3:14–4:16)
- VI. Respecting Others (5:1–6:2)
- VII. Conclusions (6:3-21)

2 Timothy

- I. Greeting (1:1-7)
- II. Always Faithful (1:8-18)
- III. Strong in Grace (2:1-13)
- IV. An Approved Worker (2:14-26)
- V. Facing Persecution (3:1–4:8)
- VI. Final Instructions (4:9-22)

Titus

- I. Greeting (1:1-4)
- II. Titus's Ministry in Crete (1:5-16)
- III. Sound Teaching (2:1-15)
- IV. Importance of Good Works (3:1-11)
- V. Conclusion (3:12-15)

WORD LIST

Crete—An island in the Mediterranean Sea, approximately 170 miles in length and 35 miles wide; Cretans were among those listed as present on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:11) and the gospel may have reached the island through them; Paul assigned Titus the responsibility of caring for the churches in Crete.

Damascus—A major city northeast of Jerusalem with many Christians. Paul was traveling to Damascus when he met Christ.

Elders—One of three terms in the New Testament used to define the office of pastor, including overseer (or bishop) and shepherd; it designated those who gave leadership to the church, particularly in the role of overseeing church ministries and preaching the gospel.

Ephesus—A city in Asia Minor (modern Turkey); at the time of Paul it was probably the fourth largest city in the world; Paul spent a short time there when returning from his second missionary journey; he assigned Timothy the task of helping the church at Ephesus with its difficulties.

Eunice—A personal name meaning “victorious”; the mother of Timothy, she was a Jewish woman who was married to a Gentile; instrumental in nurturing Timothy in the faith (2 Tim. 1:5).

Glorification—This is the final step of salvation, and will happen when God calls all His people home to heaven.

Gnostic—A belief during the early church period that taught false ideas about the nature of Jesus and His connection to God. Paul wrote against gnostic ideas that were developing during the first century.

Hymenaeus—He taught a false doctrine about the resurrection, along with Philetus (2 Tim. 2:17-18) and was put out of the church (1 Tim. 1:20).

Inspired—In the New Testament, this word means breathed out by the Holy Spirit and usually refers to the Scriptures.

Intercession—Praying to God for another person, and not for yourself.

Justification—This is God’s immediate removal of both our sin and the guilt of our sin when we become new creations.

Lois—the mother of Eunice and grandmother of Timothy; instrumental in nurturing Timothy in the faith (2 Tim. 1:5).

Macedonia—a region of southern Europe covering northern modern-day Greece.

Overseer—One of three terms in the New Testament used to define the office of pastor, including elder and shepherd; it designated those who gave leadership to the church, particularly in the role of overseeing church ministries and preaching the gospel.

Philetus—Along with Hymenaeus, he taught a false doctrine about the resurrection (2 Tim. 2:17-18).

Sanctification—A life-long process of becoming more holy and Christ-like. This begins at the moment of our salvation.

Stewardship—Managing something for the real owner. This word often applies to managing money or authority. Our possessions and spiritual gifts are not ours. Instead we manage them for the true owner—God.

Titus—A Gentile believer and associate of Paul; accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem (Gal. 2:1); assigned by Paul the responsibility of overseeing the churches of Crete.

BIBLE READING PLAN

MONTH 1

- 1. 1 Timothy 1:1-2
- 2. 1 Timothy 1:3-5
- 3. 1 Timothy 1:6-7
- 4. 1 Timothy 1:8-11
- 5. 1 Timothy 1:12-14
- 6. 1 Timothy 1:15-17
- 7. 1 Timothy 1:18-20
- 8. 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- 9. 1 Timothy 2:3-4
- 10. 1 Timothy 2:5-7
- 11. 1 Timothy 2:8-10
- 12. 1 Timothy 2:11-13
- 13. 1 Timothy 2:14-15
- 14. 1 Timothy 3:1
- 15. 1 Timothy 3:2-3
- 16. 1 Timothy 3:4-5
- 17. 1 Timothy 3:6-7
- 18. 1 Timothy 3:8-10
- 19. 1 Timothy 3:11-13
- 20. 1 Timothy 3:14-15
- 21. 1 Timothy 3:16
- 22. 1 Timothy 4:1-2
- 23. 1 Timothy 4:3-4
- 24. 1 Timothy 4:5-6
- 25. 1 Timothy 4:7-10
- 26. 1 Timothy 4:11-12
- 27. 1 Timothy 4:13-14
- 28. 1 Timothy 4:15-16
- 29. 1 Timothy 5:1-2
- 30. 1 Timothy 5:3-7

MONTH 2

- 1. 1 Timothy 5:8
- 2. 1 Timothy 5:9-10
- 3. 1 Timothy 5:11-13
- 4. 1 Timothy 5:14-16
- 5. 1 Timothy 5:17-18
- 6. 1 Timothy 5:19-21
- 7. 1 Timothy 5:22-25
- 8. 1 Timothy 6:1-2
- 9. 1 Timothy 6:3-5
- 10. 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- 11. 1 Timothy 6:11-12
- 12. 1 Timothy 6:13-16
- 13. 1 Timothy 6:17-21
- 14. 2 Timothy 1:1-4
- 15. 2 Timothy 1:5-6
- 16. 2 Timothy 1:7
- 17. 2 Timothy 1:8-10
- 18. 2 Timothy 1:11-12
- 19. 2 Timothy 1:13-15
- 20. 2 Timothy 1:16-18
- 21. 2 Timothy 2:1-2
- 22. 2 Timothy 2:3-7
- 23. 2 Timothy 2:8-10
- 24. 2 Timothy 2:11-13
- 25. 2 Timothy 2:14-15
- 26. 2 Timothy 2:16-19
- 27. 2 Timothy 2:20-21
- 28. 2 Timothy 2:22-26
- 29. 2 Timothy 3:1-5
- 30. 2 Timothy 3:6-9
- 31. 2 Timothy 3:10-11

MONTH 3

- 1. 2 Timothy 3:12-13
- 2. 2 Timothy 3:14-15
- 3. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 4. 2 Timothy 4:1-2
- 5. 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- 6. 2 Timothy 4:5
- 7. 2 Timothy 4:6-8
- 8. 2 Timothy 4:9-11
- 9. 2 Timothy 4:12-15
- 10. 2 Timothy 4:16-17
- 11. 2 Timothy 4:18
- 12. 2 Timothy 4:19-22
- 13. Titus 1:1-4
- 14. Titus 1:5-6
- 15. Titus 1:7-9
- 16. Titus 1:10-11
- 17. Titus 1:12-14
- 18. Titus 1:15-16
- 19. Titus 2:1-2
- 20. Titus 2:3-5
- 21. Titus 2:6-7
- 22. Titus 2:8
- 23. Titus 2:9-10
- 24. Titus 2:11-13
- 25. Titus 2:14-15
- 26. Titus 3:1-3
- 27. Titus 3:4-5
- 28. Titus 3:6-8
- 29. Titus 3:9-11
- 30. Titus 3:12-13
- 31. Titus 3:14-15



ENTRUSTED

God has given His great grace to believers, and now they are responsible to share the truth of the gospel message with others.

1 TIMOTHY 1:3-17

Every teacher has a subject to teach. Math teachers talk about math. English teachers discuss English. If a teacher gets off topic and wastes time, that teacher has not really done a good thing for his or her students. As teachers offer information about their subjects, they must give the correct information. They are accountable to the school for what they teach.

Church teachers face a similar situation. When leaders in church preach or teach, they must share correct information. They must lead people to understand God's Word. If they fail, they are accountable to God and to the church.

In the city of Ephesus, the local church had people who wanted to teach subjects that did not follow Jesus' teachings. Paul wrote to Timothy and told him what to do about this. He reminded Timothy that he must teach only the truth.

1 TIMOTHY 1:3-17

3 I asked you to stay longer in Ephesus when I went into Macedonia ④ so you could command some people there to stop teaching false things. **4** Tell them not to spend their time on stories that are not true and on long lists of names in family histories. These **things only bring arguments;** ⑤ they do not help God's work, which is done in faith. **5** The purpose of this command is for people to have love, a **love that comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a true faith.** ⑥ **6** Some people have missed these things and turned to useless talk. **7** They want to be teachers of the law, but **they do not understand either what they are talking about** ⑦ or what they are sure about. **8** But we know that the law is good if someone uses it lawfully. **9** We also know that the law is not made for good people but for those who are against the law and for those who refuse to follow it. It is for people who are against God and are sinful, who are unholy and ungodly, who kill their fathers and mothers, who murder, **10** who take part in sexual sins, who have sexual relations with people of the same sex, who sell slaves, who tell lies, who speak falsely, and who do anything against the true teaching of God. **11** That teaching is part of the Good News of the blessed God that He gave me to tell. **12** I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who gave me strength, because he trusted me and gave me this work of serving him. **13** In the past **I spoke against Christ** ⑧ and persecuted him and did all kinds of things to hurt him. But God showed me mercy, because I did not know what I was doing. I did not believe. **14** But the grace of our Lord was fully given to me, and with that grace came the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **15** What I say is true, and you should fully accept it: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,** ⑨ of whom I am the worst. **16** But I was given mercy so that in me, the worst of all sinners, Christ Jesus could show that **He has patience without limit.** ⑩ His patience with me **made me an example** ⑪ for those who would believe in him and have life forever. **17** To the King that rules forever, who will never die, who cannot be seen, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

- a. Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to continue the work. Macedonia at that time was north Greece. Today the area is still called Macedonia.
- b. Some issues divide people instead of uniting them.
- c. Love should flow out of our hearts, consciences, and faith. This is Paul's explanation of godly love.
- d. If we share our faith or teach, we must be sure we know what we are teaching. These teachers did not know the truth, so they could not teach the truth.
- e. Paul was writing about his sinful past before he became a believer. Even so, God used him greatly after he met Christ.
- f. This is the gospel, that Christ came to save sinners.
- g. Thankfully, Christ is patient with our mistakes and sins.
- h. Paul's salvation was an example. His salvation proved God can save anyone.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. How does discovering a truth make us responsible for sharing that truth?
2. Why should teachers be accountable for what they teach?
3. How can we make sure we understand our subject when we teach the Bible?
4. How did Paul hurt Christ through persecuting Christians?
5. Does our faith come from ourselves or from God? Explain.
6. Why did Jesus come into the world?
7. When we discuss Jesus with people who are not Christians, how do we explain His purpose?
8. How did God use Paul as an example of His great patience?

BIBLE SKILL

Read the verses below and find how they agree with Paul's words to Timothy in chapter 1. Write a few words about what sort of bad teachers the church had in the first century, and compare that to today's poor teachers.

Colossians 2:8-15 _____

Ephesians 4:14-15 _____

2 Peter 2:1-2 _____

Titus 1:10-14 _____

Acts 15:1-2 _____

IN MY CONTEXT

- Teachers are accountable to the church and God.
- People can find salvation only through faith in Jesus.
- Believers are an example of God's grace and mercy for everyone to see.

Discuss as a group how the church can hold teachers and leaders accountable to the truth of God's Word.

Since people can only find salvation through faith in Jesus, what can your Bible study group do to help Deaf people in your community come to saving faith in Jesus?

How can you make sure your salvation shows God's grace to your friends?

MEMORY VERSE

"What I say is true, and you should fully accept it: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst."

– 1 Timothy 1:15

DAY ONE

Read 1 Timothy 1:3-4, looking for why Paul and Timothy had the authority to stop false teachers.

Paul told Timothy to “command some people there to stop teaching false things.” Paul was an apostle and had authority. He could share his authority with Timothy. Think of how a parent gives authority to a babysitter or childcare worker. In the same way, Paul gave Timothy the right to command.

Timothy and Paul were working with the local church. The people teaching false ideas were not just members of the community. They were Christians within the local church. Teachers had a duty to teach God’s ideas, not their own.

Therefore, the command to Timothy was for people in the church. These people would listen to Timothy because he represented Paul. The teachers in the church at Ephesus needed to listen. Paul and Timothy spoke for both God and His church.

Why did Paul want people to stop teaching these ideas? The church was for the people to come together in Christ. They supported each other, learned about Christ, and worshiped. Teaching false stories and discussing family histories did not help with worship or learning. Arguing over ideas and family histories only produced more arguments and did nothing to help people grow in faith.

Why did Paul and Timothy feel responsible to stop the false teachers in Ephesus?

DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 1:5-7, underlining the characteristics of love.

There was another reason Paul wanted the people to stop teaching the wrong things—love. Paul wanted the people within the church to love one another. Useless arguments about names and family histories did not help people love one another. Arguments divide people. Love unites them.

Godly love comes from three characteristics: a pure heart, a clean conscience, and a true faith. Paul knew people would sin, but someone with a pure (cleaned) heart would not have a habit of sin. Someone with

a good conscience would listen to the Holy Spirit and confess sin. True (sincere) faith meant holding to Christ with all of one's heart. Together, these characteristics would lead people to love each other.

Paul wanted Timothy to correct some teachers in Ephesus. Some people wanted to teach the Old Testament law to the local church. They shared their opinions, but they really did not understand what they taught. Again, Paul and Timothy expected teachers in the church to know God's Word and to teach it correctly.

How can you know your teachers and preachers discuss topics from the Bible? How can you encourage them to teach correctly?

DAY THREE

Read 1 Timothy 1:8-11, finding the purpose of the law.

Paul was a Jew by birth and by culture. He grew up learning the Old Testament law. He respected the law, but he knew that obedience to the law could not save a person from sin. Only faith in Jesus can save. Nevertheless, the commands about moral living are still important.

The moral law taught people how to please God. The law also condemned people who refused to live holy lives. The law allowed people to compare their own actions with the words of God in the law, and to see how badly they failed. That is why Paul says, "...the law is not made for good people..." People who refuse to obey the Lord need the law.

Paul knew the moral commands in the law were good because the heart of the law leads us to honor the Lord and avoid sin. The wrong teachers in Ephesus did not know this. They did not know the law well enough to teach it. They were especially wrong when they connected obedience to the law with salvation.

How can knowing the law and our failure to fully obey the law lead us to true faith in Jesus Christ?

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-14, noticing what it meant to Paul to have God's grace.

Christ gave Paul strength. This strength helped Paul admit he was wrong for persecuting Christians. Christ also gave Paul strength to travel, teach, and endure many hardships. Paul continued to rely on Christ's strength to do all things (Phil. 4:13). Paul also thanked Christ for his life as an apostle and the chance to serve the Lord. Paul felt honored that God chose him to be God's servant.

Paul said he did not know what he was doing was wrong (verse 13). The Bible teaches us the difference between accidental sin and willful sin. (See Numbers 15:22-31 and Hebrews 10:26.) Willful sin usually means we know the truth of Christ but reject Him. Willful sin means we choose sin instead of right living.

God gave grace to Paul and forgave his sins. When Paul received forgiveness of sins through His grace, Paul also gained faith in Christ and love of God. When we truly trust in Christ, He forgives our sins. As true followers of Christ, we will love both God and His people.

What does it mean to you to have God's grace in your life? What can Christians do to understand God's grace more?

KEY DOCTRINE: *Salvation by Grace*

Christ came to this world to save sinners. His grace is not something we can earn. His grace is part of His love and mercy for us. God gives us grace because He is wonderful, not because we are special. We are all sinners who need His grace. When we gather to preach, worship, and learn, our teaching should emphasize His loving work in saving us.

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Timothy 1:15-17, signing how Paul responded to the good news of salvation.

Paul's salvation was not only for himself. By saving Paul, Jesus showed His mercy, love, and grace for all people. Paul was an example for us to see. We see God saved someone who persecuted Christ. This means God can save anyone.

How did Paul respond to the good news of salvation? He praised God! The psalmist said, "I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise is always on my lips" (Ps. 34:1). In the same way, Paul consistently praised God for all His great works.

We should find ways to express the joy we have because of our salvation. Our changed lives and joyful hearts show our friends and coworkers that Christ and His power are real. His great mercy changes us, and we should show those changes to all who watch us.

How can our lives become examples of God's mercy and salvation?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from 1 Timothy 1:3-17. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

How can your church hold teachers accountable for teaching correct ideas and doctrine?

Think of a lost friend who believes Jesus is not the only way to God. What can you do this week to help your friend know the truth about Christ?

How did becoming a Christian change you? Do you think you have changed as much as God wants and expects? How can you make sure your changing life shows God's grace and mercy to others?

Session 2



ON MISSION

Believers must be careful and think about how they represent God in this world.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-15

The positive and negative parts of the lives of a married couple will show up in the behavior of the kids. When children are angry, it may mean there are problems in the home. When children are happy, it could be because the parents are secure and content. The actions of the children often (but not always) represent the life of the family.

Paul wanted Timothy to understand this idea and apply it to the local church. The way believers behave in front of the world shows what they believe about God. If Christians fight, the world thinks bad about God. If the church prays peacefully, the lost world sees something different. The way we dress and act in the world says something important about our God and His church. What does the world learn about your church today by watching you? Christians must think long and hard about how we represent God in the world.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-15

1 First, I tell you to **pray for all people**, ^A asking God for what they need and being thankful to him. **2** Pray for rulers and for all who have authority so that we can have **quiet and peaceful lives** ^B full of worship and respect for God. **3** This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, **4 who wants all people to be saved and to know the truth.** ^C **5** There is one God and one mediator so that human beings can reach God. **That way is through Christ Jesus**, ^D who is Himself **human.** ^E **6** He gave himself as a payment to free all people. He is proof that came at the right time. **7** That is why I was chosen to tell the Good News and **to be an apostle.** ^F (I am telling the truth; I am not lying.) I was chosen to teach those who are not Jews to believe and to know the truth. **8** So, I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up their hands in a holy manner, **without anger and arguments.** ^G **9** Also, women should wear proper clothes that show respect and self-control, not using braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes. **10** Instead, they should do good deeds, which is right for women who say they worship God. **11** Let a woman learn by listening quietly and being ready to cooperate in everything. **12** But I do not allow a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to listen quietly, **13** because Adam was formed first and then Eve. **14** And **Adam was not tricked, but the woman was tricked** ^H and became a sinner. **15** But she will be saved through having children if she continues in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

- a. We must pray for all people and not only other Christians. God expects us in our prayers to reach out to the whole world.
- b. “Quiet and peaceful” means mostly an inner life of peace. When Paul lived, Christians often faced persecution from government leaders. Prayer was a way to reach for peace.
- c. Even though many people will reject Christ, God wants all people to know Him, and God is working to draw every person to faith in Christ.
- d. Paul is thinking about salvation in this sentence. Christ is the only way to God’s salvation.
- e. Here is a clear statement that Jesus was human. He was fully human. Yet, at the same time He was fully God.
- f. Even though Paul was not one of the 12 chosen by Jesus, he knew he was chosen and sent to the Gentiles. This made Paul an apostle just like the disciples.
- g. Paul expects unity and love among Christians, especially when they pray.
- h. Paul has the Adam and Eve story in mind. The serpent tricked Eve, and Adam followed Eve. Paul’s words here do not excuse Adam’s sin.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Why is it important to think about behavior in the church?
2. Does God want all people to be saved? How do we know?
3. What does it mean to have a quiet and peaceful life? Can we have peace even if we experience persecution?
4. What is the truth that God wants all people to know?
5. How can we explain that Christ is fully human and fully God?
6. How are people supposed to pray? Why does Paul talk specifically about men praying?
7. How should we define women's clothing when cultures are so different?
8. Why does Paul say the serpent did not trick Adam?
9. What can we learn about the role of men and women in church from these verses?

BIBLE SKILL

Read James 2:1-4. Compare what James said with Paul's words in 1 Timothy 2. Write a few notes on how they are the same and different.

Unity _____

Peaceful relationships _____

Attention to wealth _____

IN MY CONTEXT

- Believers must pray with a focus on lost people.
- God expects men to set an example in praying for others.
- Godly women must be aware of how their actions and how their clothing can hurt or help the witness of the church.

Does your church spend more time praying for other church members or for specific lost people? How can you lead your church to pray more for lost people?

What would your church need to do differently for men to become examples of how to pray for others?

What sort of good deeds should women (and men) begin to do in God's service that will build the witness of the church to the Deaf people around you?

MEMORY VERSE

First, I tell you to pray for all people, asking God for what they need and being thankful to him. – 1 Timothy 2:1

DAY ONE

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4, underlining all the ways we should pray.

Paul mentioned three kinds of prayer in verse 1. Some translations use the words *petitions*, *intercession*, and *thanksgiving*. When we ask God for help, we are making a petition. Praying for someone else is intercession. Showing gratitude for God's great work is thankfulness. Paul wanted Christians to pray for people in these three ways.

Paul told Christians to pray for all people. Christians should pray for other believers. But Paul also expected Christians to pray for non-believers. The rulers in Paul's time did not believe in Jesus. Paul still wanted Christians to pray for everyone. Ezra offered sacrifices for the pagan king (Ezra 6:9-10). We also see Jeremiah telling the people to pray for the Babylonian kings even though the Babylonians had captured Israel (Jer. 29:4-7).

Verse 4 shows us God's desire is for "...all people to be saved and to know the truth." Paul expected Christians to pray for the lost. God wants all people to know Him through Christ. Paul also wanted leaders to become Christians.

Do you spend more time praying for church members who are sick than for the lost to know Christ? Write the names of lost people you know and pray for them.

DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 2:5-7, finding the basic parts of the gospel message.

Paul summarized the gospel message for Timothy. He reminded Timothy of the basics—only one God is real. Without Christ, no one can meet God. Jesus was God in human form. He died so all people could know God. God sent Paul to the non-Jewish world to preach this message. God wanted everyone—Jews and non-Jews—to know the truth of Christ.

Paul often faced enemies who tried to make rules about who could follow Christ. Some believed only Jews could become Christians. Others did not trust the Roman government. They were not interested in loving Roman leaders and soldiers.

Paul clearly rejected these ideas. There is one God for all people. He provided one Person, Christ, who could save us. God expects us to pray for all people—Jews, non-Jews, men, women, leaders, and servants. The message to Timothy and to us is to pray for the salvation of all people and to share Christ with everyone.

Why should we pray for people who have different faiths and different backgrounds from us? How can we share the gospel with everyone?

DAY THREE

Read 1 Timothy 2:8, asking God to give you a holy attitude toward prayer.

Paul said, “So, I want the men everywhere to pray.” Paul wanted Christian men to set an example in prayer. They should pray at church, in large groups, and in small groups. They should pray at home with friends and with family. They needed to offer the prayers Paul mentioned in verse 1—petitions, intercession, and thanksgiving.

Paul mentioned praying with hands raised. Early Christians sometimes raised their hands as they prayed. This was a way to show they were asking God for help. This was a cultural practice, not a command from God. Having a holy attitude was more important than raising hands or lowering them. When Paul said to lift their hands in a holy way, he meant their lives should not show sinful habits. Living in sin does not fit with offering prayers to a holy God.

To pray without arguing or anger is part of praying in a holy way. Christians must approach God in holy unity with one another. Christians should forgive each other in a loving way before prayer.

Does your church have godly men setting this example? Why or why not?

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Timothy 2:9-10, finding what is most important in the Christian life.

Paul gave instructions about church and faith. We need to remember he usually did not spend time writing about things people already understood. Paul wrote because the people had a problem with these issues.

Women's clothes and their behavior seem to have been problems among the Christians in Ephesus. The women got attention through their clothing and jewelry. Of course, nice clothes and pretty jewelry are not sinful. God gives us beauty and material wealth. We can use these things. However, believers represent Christ to the world and in the church. We should wear proper clothing as each culture defines it. Instead of being known for the clothes we wear, Christians should show their good works and godly attitudes. If clothing and jewelry keep people from Christ, then we should be willing to change our appearance.

Everything Paul wrote about clothes, jewelry, and holy living applies to both men and women. In this situation, the women in Ephesus needed some special instruction. But Paul's words apply to all believers.

How can we make sure people see Christ in us and not our money or our possessions like clothes and jewelry?

KEY DOCTRINE: *God the Father*

The Bible tells us that we know God as Father. He has an attitude of love toward all people like a father has. But to those who know Him in Christ Jesus, God IS our Father. He cares for the whole world. He also cares for every living thing and He is the ruler, by grace, over all of human history. He is all powerful, He knows all things, and as the loving God He is fully wise in all He does.

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Timothy 2:11-15, thinking about the roles of men and women in the church.

God planned for men to be pastors. Men are not better than women. Women are not less holy or less intelligent than men. Male pastors have a great responsibility, and people should accept this part of God's plan.

Women at church should listen in a way that does not take authority away from the pastor. The Greek words for "listening quietly" in verse 11 mean without disturbing or trying to take over authority. Everyone must show respect for pastors. The pastor's spiritual authority comes from God.

Paul related teaching and authority in the church to the order of creation. God made man first and gave the responsibility of church leadership to men. The pastor had the role of teacher in the church. We should not interpret these verses to mean all men can teach. Nor do we interpret the passages to make women responsible for sin. (See Romans 5:12-21.) Paul was writing about the role of the pastor in teaching. Again, even personal rights are less important than the gospel message.

How does respect for the pastor and other leaders show our love for God to the community around us?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you learned from 1 Timothy 2. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

Create a list of Deaf people who need to know Him, and pray with your small group faithfully for them.

What can you do to help the men in your church boldly lead in prayer? How can women support men as they work to become godly leaders?

What are some specific ways that the women in your church need to change and grow? What projects and ministries can women do to bring the lost to Christ?



SETTING THE EXAMPLE

Healthy churches need godly leaders.

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

If you've ever been part of a committee or team, you know everyone has a role. Some help and some lead. Just sitting at the committee table is not enough. If you are on a sports team, sitting on the bench is not enough. Each member must do their duty.

Leadership is important. Teams without leaders do very little. Leaders provide direction, and they set an example for everyone else on the team. The character of the leader influences the team. Bad leaders form bad teams, and good leaders shape good teams.

The church is the same. Each member has a responsibility. Many church members help wherever they can. Some work at the church as deacons. Others lead the church as pastors. If we want the church to succeed in God's work, we need leaders who have good character. If we expect to be a godly church, we need godly leaders. Paul wrote to Timothy to guide him to choose godly leaders and workers in the church in Ephesus. His guidelines were from God. We can apply them to our churches today.

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

1 What I say is true: Anyone wanting to become an **overseer** **A** desires a good work. **2** An overseer must not give people a **reason to criticize him**, **B** and he must have only one wife. He must be self-controlled, wise, respected by others, ready to welcome guests, and able to teach. **3** He must not drink too much wine or like to fight, but rather be gentle and peaceable, **not loving money**. **C** **4** He must be a good family leader, having children who cooperate with full respect. **5** (If someone does not know how to lead the family, how can that person take care of God's church?) **6** But an elder must not be a new believer, or he might be too proud of himself and be judged **guilty just as the devil was**. **D** **7** An elder must also have the respect of people who are not in the church so he will not be criticized by others and caught in the devil's trap. **8 In the same way**, **E deacons** **F** must be respected by others, not saying things they do not mean. They must not drink too much wine or try to get rich by cheating others. **9** With a clear conscience they must follow the **secret of the faith** **G** that God made known to us. **10** Test them first. Then let them serve as deacons if you find nothing wrong in them. **11** In the same way, **women** **H** must be respected by others. They must not speak evil of others. They must be self-controlled and trustworthy in everything. **12** Deacons must have only one wife and be good leaders of their children and their own families. **13** Those who serve well as deacons are making an honorable place for themselves, and they will be very bold in their faith in Christ Jesus.

- a. The word "overseer" is what we normally translate as pastor. The Greek New Testament uses overseer, elder, and shepherd to mean pastor.
- b. Paul did not expect sinless perfection from pastors. All pastors receive criticism. Paul means pastors should not behave badly enough to deserve criticism.
- c. Paul was not teaching that pastors should not be paid. The point is pastors should not love money.
- d. Satan's main sin was and is pride.
- e. Just as pastors must have godly character, deacons must also.
- f. Deacon was the second official position in the church. The word "deacon" basically means "servant."
- g. Paul does not mean the Christian faith has a set of secrets. Most English Bibles use the word "mystery" here. Our faith does have mystery.
- h. The Christian Standard Bible translates this word as "wives." It could mean the wives of deacons or women who serve the church.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. How can a godly leader help create a healthy church?
2. What should be the character of a pastor?
3. Paul listed several characteristics of pastors and deacons. Do you believe all members should have the same characteristics, or are they only for pastors and deacons? Why or why not?
4. Why is the deacon's or pastor's family important?
5. Which of the characteristics listed do you think is most important? Why?
6. What should be the character of a deacon?
7. How can you know if someone is ready to become a deacon?
8. Why do you think Paul expected deacons to be able to teach?
9. Who are the leaders of a church, according to 1 Timothy 3?

BIBLE SKILL

Read Acts 6:1-7 and answer the questions below. Use a Bible Dictionary or go online to learn more about deacons and the Acts 6 story.

1. What was the problem the Jerusalem church faced? _____
2. What did they decide to do to solve the problem? _____
3. What kind of character did these men need? _____
4. Who were the men selected? _____
5. What was the final outcome in verse 7? _____

IN MY CONTEXT

- Believers should carefully think about how God wants them to serve their church.
- Believers can support men who show the characteristics of a faithful pastor.
- Believers should live in a way that honors God through service.

Discuss as a group the many ways believers can serve the church. What should be included in this list?

What are the characteristics of a godly pastor according to 1 Timothy 3? What are some good ways believers can give support to their faithful pastor?

What qualities should a deacon have? What are some ways both men and women could serve in your church? Make a list of all the way Deaf members are serving in the church today.

MEMORY VERSE

Those who serve well as deacons are making an honorable place for themselves, and they will be very bold in their faith in Christ Jesus.
– 1 Timothy 3:13

DAY ONE

Read 1 Timothy 3:1, drawing a line under the word Paul used for pastor.

In 1 Timothy 3 Paul discussed the main leadership roles in the church. Verse 1 talks about the pastor. The NCV Bible translates this word as “overseer.” The New Testament writers used several words for the job we call pastor: bishop, pastor, leader, ruler, elder, and shepherd. Each word means something a little bit different, but they all refer to a special role in leading and teaching the church.

Should all Christians want to serve the church as a pastor? Paul said men who want to become pastors want a good thing. Being a pastor means to shepherd and guide God’s people. Christ is our shepherd, and pastors are under-shepherds, assistants who do the job until Christ returns. Being eager for godly service is a good thing.

Being a Christian requires us to serve the local church. We each have a responsibility, and we should pray about how we can serve. Some will become pastors or deacons. Others will teach or guide new believers. Others will work as evangelists or serve in various ministries. We can eagerly desire to serve the church of God.

What role do you have in your church? Are you doing all God has called you to do? How can you find a way to serve fully?

DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 3:2-3, looking for qualifications for a pastor.

Not everyone can become a pastor. God’s plan allows men to serve as pastors, but not women. Women are equal to men, but in God’s plan men and women serve in different roles. Also, not all men can serve as pastors. Wanting to be a pastor is not enough. Some people want to become pastors because they desire authority. Others want attention or money. These are the wrong reasons for wanting to serve or lead in the church.

Paul helps us understand who can become pastors. Pastors should be men with good reputations among Christians and non-Christians. The pastor represents the church and must show godly character to

all people. He should control his own emotions and desires. He must be faithful to one woman. He must have godly relationships with all people and faithfully share the gospel with them. As a teacher, he must faithfully study the Bible.

When we look for a pastor to work in our churches, we must carefully study the candidates. We must use the Bible—God’s Word—to help us choose the right man to lead God’s church.

In what ways could you serve in your church? How can you use the gifts God has given you?

DAY THREE

Read 1 Timothy 3:4-7, finding additional qualities for a pastor’s life.

The Bible uses marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church. Christ protects and guides a church just as husbands protect and guide their families. Can a bad father and terrible husband become a good pastor? Paul said “no.” Any man who cannot lead his family along God’s pathway cannot lead a larger group either.

How long should a man be a Christian before becoming a pastor? Paul does not answer this question, but he warns against a new believer becoming a pastor. A new Christian can easily become proud of his new role. Pride leads to many sins. Also a new believer may not know enough about the Bible.

A good pastor will behave in ways which build a good reputation in the community. Satan would love to give people reasons to reject God and His church. The pastor must avoid Satan’s traps and plans. This will help the pastor have a good reputation. People may still criticize the pastor, but their criticism will not be the pastor’s fault.

Even if you are not a pastor, what do you learn about godly living from this passage?

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-10, identifying the qualifications of a deacon.

The Greek word for deacon means “humble servant.” Deacons serve the church and honor God by doing some of the serving work. This gives the pastor time to lead and teach. Paul expected deacons to be people of high character just like the pastors. Their service is also for God. However, the role of deacon is not the role of authority. But Paul did not describe deacons as the ruling body over a church.

The requirements for pastors and deacons are almost the same. Deacons should be worthy of respect. They should have self-control. The role of the deacon does not involve teaching, but God requires them to understand and believe the deep truths of the Christian faith. Deacons must live in ways that match the truth of the Bible. Churches can know if a deacon believes and lives properly by watching him over time. This is more than a simple vote or interview. Church members should carefully study the life of someone who wants to become a deacon.

If you had the right characteristics, would you be willing to serve as a deacon? What kinds of things would you do as a deacon?

KEY DOCTRINE: *The Church*

God created both man and woman in His image. They are equal before God. He pours His Holy Spirit out on both men and women in equal amounts. But being equal does not mean being the same. Men and women are different from one another because God created them to be different. While both men and women receive gifts from the Spirit for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Timothy 3:11-13, thinking about what a godly life looks like.

Some Bible translations say “women” while others translate this as “wives.” If Paul meant wives, this verse describes the wives of deacons. Whether you understand this to be wives or female deacons, Paul’s point is the same—these ladies should be godly. Paul said “in the same way” as the men, these women should be respectable, trustworthy, and self-controlled.

Deacons who serve well find two benefits. The first benefit is honor from their fellow church members. Deacons do not work for honor, but faithful service will bring honor. The second benefit will be to find great boldness in their walk with Christ. Serving others leads to confidence and strength in our faith.

How does serving others produce the benefits named by Paul?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from 1 Timothy 3:1-13. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

Make a list with your small group of the many roles each of you do in your church. What do you think God is now calling you to do?

How can your small group pray for your pastor and encourage him to be the kind of pastor God wants him to be?

How can each of you honor God through faithful service?



STAYING ON COURSE

Believers need to learn from God’s Word so they will know the truth.

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-13

Professional football players must focus on their health year-round. They need to be careful about what they eat. They need the right foods. Players must exercise, watch their weight, and pay attention to little injuries. With the right focus and discipline, the players will be ready for the season.

Christian living is similar. We cannot be lazy about our Christian living. We need to know the “playbook”—the Bible. We must focus if we want to know Him well. If we want to live well, we must have daily discipline and control. We must control our words, thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Paul encouraged Timothy to focus on God’s truth. Paul urged him to ignore distractions from that truth. He wanted the church to focus on God’s Word and discipline themselves to live well.

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-13

1 Now the Holy Spirit clearly says that in the **later times** **A** some people will **stop believing the faith**. **B** They will follow spirits that lie and teachings of demons. **2** Such teachings come from the false words of liars whose consciences are destroyed as if by a hot iron. **3** They **forbid people to marry** **C** and tell them not to eat certain foods which God created to be eaten with thanks by people who believe and know the truth. **4** Everything God made is good, and nothing should be refused if it is accepted with thanks, **5** because it is made holy by what God has said and by prayer. **6** By **telling these things** **D** to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus. You will be **made strong by the words of the faith** **E** and the good teaching which you have been following. **7** But do not follow foolish stories that disagree with God's truth, but train yourself to serve God. **8** Training your body helps you in some ways, but **servicing God helps you in every way** **F** by bringing you blessings in this life and in the future life, too. **9** What I say is true, and you should fully accept it. **10** This is why we work and struggle: We hope in the living God who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. **11 Command and teach these things**. **G** **12** Do not let anyone treat you as if you are **unimportant because you are young**. **H** Instead, be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith, and your pure life. **13** Until I come, continue to **read the Scriptures to the people**, **I** strengthen them, and teach them.

- a. By "later times" Paul is thinking about the end of time when Jesus returns.
- b. These people believed in the gospel but stopped. Paul was not talking about non-believers.
- c. God established marriage. Forbidding people to marry is against His divine plans.
- d. Lovingly speaking the truth to people is a sign of our love for God.
- e. Learning the truth from Bible teachers and preachers makes us strong. We will always need more teaching to keep us strong.
- f. Service to God brings more than just spiritual blessings. Serving Him blesses us in every way, including blessings in heaven.
- g. Teaching is not enough. Sometimes, we must command people to obey the Word of God.
- h. Young or old, deaf or hearing—all are important to God. Timothy was not a teenager, but he was younger than many of the people he was leading.
- i. People did not have Bibles, so to know the Scripture Timothy had to read it to them.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. How can Christians receive spiritual food?
2. How did Paul know believers would fall away from the faith?
3. When people teach false ideas about God, who is really behind their false ideas?
4. What makes marriage or the eating of food holy?
5. How could Timothy show he was a good servant of Christ?
6. Does everyone understand how to serve God? Why or why not?
7. Why is exercising our spiritual lives more important than physical exercise?
8. Why would some people in Ephesus not listen to Timothy?
9. What three jobs (in verses 11-13) did Paul give Timothy to help the people grow?

BIBLE SKILL

Jesus warned about false teachers. Here is His warning in Matthew 7:15-20. Read the verses and fill in the blanks.

“Be careful of _____ prophets. They come to you looking gentle like _____, but they are really dangerous like _____. You will know these people by what they _____. Grapes don’t come from thornbushes, and figs don’t come from thorny weeds. In the same way, every _____ tree produces _____ fruit, but a _____ tree produces _____ fruit.”

IN MY CONTEXT

- Believers must be aware of false teachers who will try to lead them away from the truth of the Bible.
- Believers must be disciplined in their lives. They should live in a way that shows the gospel message to others. This kind of life will honor God.
- Believers must focus on God's Word so they can become an example of godly living.

What should we do when we see people who call themselves Christians teaching false beliefs? Create your own action plan.

Discuss the characteristics of a disciplined Christian. List what the disciplined Christian life looks like and then list what the non-disciplined Christian life might look like.

What actions can you take that will lead you to live a godly life? How will these actions be an example to other people?

MEMORY VERSE

Until I come, continue to read the Scriptures to the people, strengthen them, and teach them. – 1 Timothy 4:13

DAY ONE

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-2 identifying the source of false teaching.

Paul warned Timothy that some people would leave the faith. These people were not non-believers who refused to believe the truth. They were people who seemed to believe but stopped following the truth. They would leave the gospel and follow false ideas. The false ideas would come from people whose ideas came from demons. The people may not even know their ideas were from demons.

Some preachers lie in their teaching. Do you wonder how those preachers can sleep at night? Paul would say these people can sleep peacefully because their hearts are numb. He said their consciences feel nothing. It is like their consciences were burned by a hot iron. A badly burned hand hurts at first, but heat destroys the nerve endings. Later when the skin heals, the area will be numb, feeling nothing.

Christians must carefully test what teachers and preachers say. We must compare their words with God's truth. Knowing the Word of God helps us stay on the right path.

How do you know when a teacher is speaking the truth or not? What should you do if a teacher teaches something false?

DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 4:3-5, finding what was wrong with the Gnostics.

The early Christians faced serious false teachings. A group called the Gnostics believed they had secret knowledge for salvation that no one else knew. They believed that things of the spirit were good, but things of the body were bad. They rejected the Old Testament teaching about God making the world. The Gnostics believed the body was evil, so they told people not to marry. Food is physical, so the Gnostics encouraged believers not to eat certain foods.

The Gnostics were wrong. God created marriage. Teaching people that marriage is sinful is against God's plan. Some people never marry, and God blesses single people. But the Gnostics were wrong in their teaching against marriage. Also, the Gnostic teaching about food was incorrect.

God gave all plants to Adam and Eve for food. After the flood, God told Noah that people could eat animals as well. Everything is acceptable because God made everything.

Paul wanted Timothy to stand against false teaching. Showing the truth to others and teaching them would help Timothy become stronger. For example, lifting weights makes your body stronger. For Christians, teaching the truth proves we are His servants, and we grow stronger in our faith along the way.

How does living faithfully help you resist false ideas? How does disciplined, faithful living honor God?

DAY THREE

Read 1 Timothy 4:6-8, looking for the importance of spiritual training.

We must not follow foolish stories or false thoughts about God. These things disagree with God's basic truth. Any time we listen to a preacher, we must test his teaching. Does he agree with the Word of God? If a preacher does not agree with God's truth, he is wrong. We must be careful, though. God's Word is perfect, but our understanding of His Word is not. Christians can often disagree about how to interpret the Bible, but the Bible must be our foundation for truth.

Instead of accepting bad teaching, we must train ourselves for the right. Paul compares spiritual training with physical training. If we want to become strong, can we train only one day a week? Of course we cannot. To become strong, we must train several times a week. Becoming a strong Christian is far more important, but the idea of hard training is similar. We must dedicate ourselves to learning and growing several times a week, not only on Sunday mornings. We should find new ways to train and exercise spiritually.

How can you apply the idea of faithful practice or discipline to living a godly life?

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Timothy 4:9-10, seeing why Christians have a firm hope for heaven.

Paul traveled through southwestern Asia and southern Europe. He preached to soldiers and kings, poor people and rich people. He worked hard to grow in his faith as a believer. He did these things to obey God's calling, but Paul had another reason for his hard work; he knew his eternal home was in heaven with God.

Christians have a great hope in Christ, our Savior. He offers salvation to all people, but only those who believe will be saved. Christians struggle and train. They grow in faith, thankful for God's great salvation. Christians focus and discipline themselves to follow God. We also pray, consistently study, and faithfully teach one another. All of this does not earn salvation. We do these things because we are thankful for our salvation, and we love God. On top of all this, we know when we die God will welcome us to our home in heaven. This is our sure hope.

How do you serve God? Do you serve Him because you love Him and are thankful? How does your service honor Him?

KEY DOCTRINE: *Scripture*

The Bible was written by people who were fully inspired by God. Therefore, the Bible shows us what God is like. God is the author of the Bible, and the Bible leads us to salvation. The Bible is fully true in every way, therefore we can trust the Bible completely. When we read the Bible we learn how God judges us, how He saves us, and how He will end all things. All Scripture leads us to Christ.

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Timothy 4:11-13, underlining the commands given by Paul.

Paul wanted Timothy to command believers to avoid false teachers and discipline themselves to grow. Timothy would not command non-believers. Remember, Paul wrote about the local church and Christian living.

Also, Timothy needed to be an example for the other believers. Timothy's words needed to teach. He needed to show how to speak to others kindly. His actions needed to be holy. His love had to be pure. His faith and his whole life should show other believers how to live as Christians.

We are like Timothy. If we live holy lives with pure hearts and committed minds, our words and actions will look like Jesus. If we follow Christ daily, we will be the example Paul wanted Timothy to be. We must do as Timothy did. We must read the Scriptures together. We must make sure we all understand what the Bible says. We must continually gather to help strengthen one another. Paul's commands for Timothy are commands for us, too.

What are some ways you are a good example for other believers?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from 1 Timothy 4:1-13. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

How can you help one another guard against following false teachers?

Discuss some ways you are spiritually disciplined as you serve the Lord. How can the church community help each other remain disciplined?

How is your Bible study with your small group helping you become a faithful example of godliness for other believers to follow?



BEING RESPONSIBLE

Believers should care for others, including widows and ministers.

1 TIMOTHY 5:1-8,17-21

Missionary kids often attend international schools. The students at these schools have often moved from place to place. They arrive at new schools from another country and do not know anyone. Usually, the current students help the new kids settle into the new school. Younger kids help older ones without being rude. These students care for each other regardless of age or gender.

Church members have a responsibility to care for each other. Like the missionary kids who help one another, Christians must help and support each other. Paul wrote to help Timothy understand how people of different ages and genders can interact in godly ways within the church. Some people in the church had no family support. Paul wanted the church to care for them. Paul also said the churches should support pastors and church leaders as well. Part of that support is financial; part of it is giving respect. Godly ideas lead Christians to support each other with love.

1 TIMOTHY 5:1-8,17-21

1 Do not speak angrily to an **older man**, **A** but plead with him as if he were your father. Treat younger men like brothers, **2** older women like mothers, and younger women like sisters. Always treat them in a pure way. **3** Take care of widows who are **truly widows**. **B** **4** But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to do their duty to their own family and to repay their parents or grandparents. That pleases God. **5** The true widow, who is all alone, puts her hope in God and continues to pray night and day for God's help. **6** But the widow who uses her life to please herself is really dead while she is alive. **7** Tell the believers to do these things so that **no one can criticize them**. **C** **8** Whoever does not care for his own relatives, especially his own family members, has **turned against the faith** **D** and is worse than someone who does not believe in God... **17** **The elders** **E** who lead the church well should receive **double honor**, **F** especially those who work hard by speaking and teaching, **18** because the Scripture says: "When an ox is working in the grain, **do not cover its mouth to keep it from eating**," **G** and "A worker should be given his pay." **19** Do not listen to someone who accuses an elder, without **two or three witnesses**. **H** **20** Tell those who continue sinning that they are wrong. Do this in front of the whole church so that the others will have a warning. **21** Before God and Christ Jesus and the chosen angels, I command you to do these things without showing favor of any kind to anyone.

- a. The Greek word for older man is the same word Paul used for church elder. However, the context here shows us Paul means an older man, not a church leader.
- b. Widows in the ancient world had no one to provide for them. A true widow did not have a husband or any family able to help her.
- c. Criticism here means an honest complaint of bad behavior.
- d. This does not mean to stop believing. The faith leads to acts of love. To neglect the needs of family is to stop acting in love. Even non-believers would take care of their family.
- e. Paul wrote here about a church leader and not just an older man. Elder in this context is about a church pastor.
- f. Most Bible teachers interpret double honor to mean both respect and financial gifts.
- g. Paul quoted Deuteronomy 25:4.
- h. See Deuteronomy 19:15.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Whose responsibility is it to care for people in the church with big needs?
2. How should we talk to people who are older than we are?
3. Do we have to agree with older Christians in order to show respect? Why or why not?
4. How should older Christians talk to younger believers?
5. Why are Christians who refuse to care for their families worse than non-believers?
6. Should Christians expect pastors to be poor? Why or why not?
7. Why do pastors deserve to be paid?
8. If someone says a pastor or church leader is sinning, how should the church handle the situation?
9. What does it mean to “show favor” and why is this wrong?

BIBLE SKILL

Read the verses below. Find the ideas about sin, discipline, and love. Write some ideas you find in the verses that will lead to solving problems with pastors and other church members.

Matthew 18:15-17 _____

James 5:19-20 _____

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 _____

2 Corinthians 5:19-20 _____

IN MY CONTEXT

- Believers must treat each other with respect as family members.
- Christians must give help to faithful believers who face life alone, without family to help.
- Believers are responsible to give support to pastors who lead the church.

Discuss as a group how we should treat older men, older women, younger men and women, and all fellow believers. What principles should we follow?

What can believers do to help church members (especially widows) who do not have family to support them? What can your group do?

What can you do today to support your pastor and his family?

MEMORY VERSE

So also good deeds are easy to see, but even those that are not easily seen cannot stay hidden. – 1 Timothy 5:25

DAY ONE

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2, looking for how Christians treat each other as a godly family.

Paul told Timothy how church members should treat each other. Paul wanted their actions to show godly attitudes and love for each other. Christians need to learn how to treat each other right so we will not sin.

Younger men should talk to older men and women with respect as if they were parents. Older men and women should not speak to the younger people as if they were little children. Paul wanted a brotherly relationship between older and younger men. He wanted a sisterly relationship between older women and younger women. Men and women should see each other as brothers and sisters.

Paul did not expect the older people to rule the church like bosses. He expected a brotherly type of guidance. Younger people do not have to obey everything older people say, but they should respect their opinions and ideas. Interactions within the church should look like a family reunion, not a boss leading a business. Christians should look for ways to love one another the way parents, children, and brothers and sisters love each other. (See Romans 12:10.)

How can you improve the way you interact with other believers in the church?

DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 5:3-6, drawing a line under when churches should help widows.

In Acts 6, the early church needed assistants. The church leaders taught about Christ, and the assistants served the people. Serving widows in the church seemed to be a problem, and the assistants helped. Helping widows and those who had great needs showed God's love for all people.

About 30 years later, Paul wrote the Book of 1 Timothy. Again, many widows needed help. Paul wanted to teach Timothy how to help them. However, he did not want people to take advantage of the church. A widow's Christian family had the responsibility of caring for her first.

Her sons and daughters had a duty to care for their mother.

Her grandchildren should care for her. The church should help a widow if she had no family to help her.

Today, widows in some parts of the world have more options for support than in the past, but we must apply the same ideas. Churches must help members who need support. Christian family members must help first. The church always becomes involved, but help is given especially if no one else will. The church should volunteer to help. Remember, everyone in the church should interact as though other Christians are true family members.

How do you personally help other members who have real needs?

DAY THREE

Read 1 Timothy 5:7-8, finding the two reasons Paul gave to care for widows.

Timothy needed to teach the Christians how to care for widows. He needed to show them which widows needed to receive help, and which widows should get help from their families. Timothy helped the people understand how to apply the life and teachings of Christ to their daily lives.

Paul gave two reasons for wanting the people to understand this idea. First, Christians needed to have a good reputation. Paul wanted non-believers to see Christians being responsible. They should care for their aging parents and grandparents. Paul also wanted Christians to set examples for each other. They should be models of godly living. Then no one could criticize them.

Paul had another reason he wanted believers to care for people with no family. He wanted them to truly live as Christ would want. A Christian who refused to care for his own family was living as if he had turned from the faith. He was failing to love others, as Christ loved. (See John 13:34-35.) He failed to do something even non-believers would do—care for their own family members.

How can you show God's love toward all people, especially widows?

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-18, signing the ways a church honors its pastor.

Paul focused on how to view leaders within the church. He specifically mentioned elders. The Greek word for *elders* is the same word we often translate to mean pastor, overseer, or bishop. Here Paul wrote about the men who would lead the church. He was not talking about deacons.

The elders led the church and helped people understand the work of Christ. They also taught and preached. They resolved arguments and made decisions. Paul expected the church to honor their leaders. Christians must respect church leaders (pastors, elders, and others). Remember, in 1 Timothy 3 Paul required Timothy to choose pastors who had very good character. They deserved respect because of their hard work and godly character.

Pastors also deserved financial support. In verse 18, Paul quoted from the Old Testament (Deut. 25:4). Even an ox at work deserved payment. Of course, an ox wanted food, not money. Paying a pastor is a form of honor he deserves. Churches owe emotional and financial support to their pastors. Members have a duty to support the pastor.

How can you support your pastor financially? How does your church support the pastor in other ways?

KEY DOCTRINE: *The Christian and The Social Order*

As believers in Christ we should be like Him. Like Jesus we should care for all people and especially for those with great needs. We should care for those who are abused, those who are old, those who are sick and helpless. We should do all we can to protect babies who have not yet been born. In the same way we should see that all human life, from birth to death, is holy and important to God.

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Timothy 5:19-21, identifying ways we can support a pastor.

Paul knew pastors would sometimes sin. Our response to sin and blame is part of our support for pastors. If a pastor sins, we can support him by talking to him directly. Talking to the pastor shows support and respect for a brother in Christ.

If just one person accuses the pastor, we should not rush to condemn him. We should find evidence from two or three others who know about the problem.

If a pastor continues to sin, church members should try to pull the pastor back from his sin. Paul taught the church to openly address the pastor's sin in love. The goal must be to help the pastor return to a godly pattern of living, and not simply to punish him. Even our correction is a form of our support.

What can you and your family do to support your pastor and his family?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from 1 Timothy 5:1-8,17-21. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned. You can meet by VP if needed.

How can you show greater respect in the family of God?

What role can you play in helping widows and others in need?

What are some ways you and your small group can support your pastor and his family?



LASTING INVESTMENTS

Believers should be motivated by the value of living a godly life and not by material gain.

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

What are the reasons people live the way they do? Many people are afraid to fail. Their fear leads them to work hard so others will accept them. Some people want power. They work hard to control others. Often, the real reason people do what they do is to get money. The love of money can lead people to cheat, lie, steal, leave their spouses, and leave their faith.

Paul warned Timothy about the dangers of thinking that money will make life good. The early church had many members who were poor. But they also had members who were rich. It would have been easy for the church to be separated into the rich and the poor.

Being rich should not motivate Christians. Being like Christ should motivate us. Living a godly life should be the reason for our actions. Paul wanted Christians to have the right reason for their actions: a desire for godly living.

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

6 Serving God does make us very rich, if we are satisfied with what we have. **7** We brought nothing into the world, so **we can take nothing out.** **8** But, if we have food and clothes, we will be satisfied with that. **9** Those who **want to become rich** bring temptation to themselves and are caught in a trap. They want many foolish and harmful things that ruin and destroy people. **10** The **love of money** causes all kinds of evil. Some people have left the faith, because they wanted to get more money, but they have caused themselves much sorrow. **11** But you, **man of God,** run away from all those things. Instead, live in the right way, serve God, have faith, love, patience, and gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of faith, grabbing hold of the **life that continues forever.** You were called to have that life when you confessed the good confession before many witnesses. **13** In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, **I give you a command.** Christ Jesus made the good confession when He stood before **Pontius Pilate.** **14** Do what you were commanded to do without wrong or blame until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. **15** God will make that happen **at the right time.** He is the blessed and only Ruler, the King of all kings and the Lord of all lords. **16** He is the only One who never dies. He lives in light so bright no one can go near it. No one has ever seen God, or can see Him. May honor and power belong to God forever. Amen. **17** Command **those who are rich** with things of this world not to be proud. Tell them to hope in God, not in their uncertain riches. God richly gives us everything to enjoy. **18** Tell the rich people to do good, to be rich in doing good deeds, to be generous and ready to share. **19** By doing that, they will be saving a treasure for themselves as a strong foundation for the future. Then they will be able to have the life that is true life.

- a. Job affirmed this same idea in the Old Testament; we are born naked and die with nothing (Job 1:21).
- b. Chasing after wealth is different from wanting to have enough or wanting to be free of debt.
- c. Having money is not a problem. Loving money is the problem.
- d. Paul changed the topic from people who love money and focused on living as a person of God.
- e. A “forever life” is different from earthly wealth that is temporary.
- f. The command was the entire teaching Paul gave to Timothy, not just one command.
- g. Pilate was the Roman governor who condemned Jesus to die. See Mark 15:15.
- h. Paul always said Christ would soon return, but he did not know when. Only the Father knows.
- i. Paul changed the topic from people who wanted to be wealthy and focused on people who were already rich.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Is money evil? Why or why not?
2. How can living a godly life help us focus less on wealth and comfort?
3. How does serving God make us rich?
4. How does loving money lead to temptation?
5. How can loving money cause people to leave the faith?
6. What is the opposite of loving money?
7. Instead of holding on to this world, what sort of life should we desire?
8. When God blesses us with wealth, what is our responsibility?
9. How does using money to bless others help us prepare for our future?

BIBLE SKILL

In 1 Timothy 6:11, Paul listed some characteristics he wanted Timothy and all Christians to develop. Read the verses below, and compare this list with what Paul wrote in other places. How are these lists the same, and how are they different?

1 Timothy 6:11 _____

Galatians 5:22-23 _____

1 Timothy 3:1-3 _____

IN MY CONTEXT

- When believers focus on godliness, they will find purpose and contentment.
- Believers must remember the promise of eternal life as they live each day.
- Believers must use what they have to bless other people.

Discuss as a group how the group can help other people find real purpose and contentment. What actions need to be taken by the group based on the discussion?

What changes do you need to make in life so that you may truly show the character of Jesus? How can these changes make you rich? How does an eternal hope make us content in life?

How can you use all that you have—your time, your talents, and your money—to bless and help other people?

MEMORY VERSE

The love of money causes all kinds of evil. Some people have left the faith, because they wanted to get more money, but they have caused themselves much sorrow. – 1 Timothy 6:10

DAY ONE

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-8, finding Paul’s source of true riches.

When Paul said “serving God does make us very rich,” he did not mean we would have lots of money. Serving God and godliness makes us content with what we have. It changes us, and it helps us know what is most important. With new values and priorities, becoming wealthy is not important. Paul did not criticize wealth, but he said godliness is not a way to get more money.

In Philippians 4:10-13, Paul said he was satisfied with wealth or with poverty because he had learned how to be happy in any situation. Our joy should not depend on how much money we have. We should be content because we serve God. We can accept financial struggles and realize the joy and peace we have in Christ.

Wealthy, famous people commit suicide just as much as poor people do. Rich families have struggles just like poor families. People will never find peace in money, because God created us in a special way. We only find peace in Him.

Why do so many people think money will solve all their problems? How does money create less peace and more discontentment?

DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10, circling the root of all evil.

Christians who chase money often have problems. They fall into temptation because they want money. Christians spend too much with their credit cards so they have things they don’t need. Then they can’t pay their bills. Some cheat on their taxes. Others take advantage of someone buying and selling on the Internet. They refuse to give money to the church or help poorer family members. They want to keep all their money for themselves. They look for ways to get everything free. These are some unhealthy ways Christians chase money.

Many English versions of the Bible use these words: “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” Paul used the idea of roots of a plant or tree. Like roots feed a plant, loving money can feed many different kinds of sinful and harmful desires. Please notice Paul did not say it is

wrong to have a good job or a nice house. God blesses some people with wealth. The problem is loving money. Having money is not a sin. People who want more and more money are not content with God.

What ideas about money do you need to change so you may live a life that is more content and godly?

DAY THREE

Read 1 Timothy 6:11-12, looking for the acts of a godly person.

Paul used words in verse 11 to change the focus from the love of money. He focused on Timothy, a man of God. He told Timothy to flee the love of wealth. He should not use serving God as a way to become rich. Paul wanted Timothy to focus on faith, love, patience, and gentleness.

Instead of focusing on money, believers must focus on the life that continues forever. This is a life that depends on Christ and His work for us. We must live here on earth, knowing the promise of a life to come. This hope should influence what we think is important in life. God promises eternal life to those who are willing to be men and women of God.

Paul reminded Timothy of his “good confession” in front of many witnesses. Most likely, Paul meant Timothy’s baptism. Baptism is something done before people. When we choose to follow Christ and obey Him, we confess our faith before people just like Timothy did. That public act of confession requires us to live in a godly way.

When you were baptized, what did you “announce” to your church? What did your baptism mean to you?

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Timothy 6:13-16, thinking about who must have first place in your life.

Paul commanded Timothy, but we cannot find in this chapter any clear command for Timothy to obey. When we read the last half of verse 13, we see Paul's comment about Jesus's confession before Pilate. His confession was of His own work as Messiah. The command for Timothy in verse 14 is probably all of the gospel message. Paul expected Timothy to obey Christ in all things. Perhaps Paul also meant he commanded Timothy to be godly, and to love Christ more than money.

In Matthew 6:19-24, Jesus taught His disciples to love God instead of loving money. Money is spent, but His love is forever. We cannot serve both God and money. God expects to be first in our lives. Chasing money uses all our time and energy.

Christians must obey God's teaching throughout their lives or until Christ comes again. Paul had a hope Christ would come soon. Here Paul said God knows when Christ will return—at the right time. God has the right to decide the timing of all things. He is God and King above all else. From His throne God gives us salvation, godliness, and a great promise of life everlasting.

Why is it important for God to be first in your life? What do you need to change so He will be first above all, especially money?

KEY DOCTRINE: *Stewardship*

God is the source of all blessings. Christians must be good stewards of all the blessings they have from God. As a steward they manage their time, talents, and all the possessions they have in the world knowing that everything belongs to God. Christians give back to God with joy to accomplish God's work on earth.

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19, drawing a line under what people can do to bless others.

In the last few verses of the chapter, Paul wrote about people who were already rich. He wanted these wealthy Christians to have godly lives. Rich Christians should not believe their wealth makes them better than poor Christians. Paul warned them not to trust in money. Paul was probably talking about the hope of salvation. Our salvation comes from God through Christ, not through our money.

Finally, Paul commanded rich Christians to be generous and share with many people. When God blesses us with a little bit, we can help just a little. But when He blesses us greatly, we have a greater responsibility to help others even more. Helping others is godly and leads us to be content in Him.

How can you use what you have to bless others?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you learned from 1 Timothy 6:6-19. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

How can Christian brothers and sisters help each other change and grow in godliness?

**How can we live each day with the promise of eternal life in mind?
How will remembering God's promises change the way we live?**

**Make a list of faithful Christians in your church who need help.
What can you and your group do to meet some of these needs this week?**



CONFIDENCE

Believers can have confidence in Christ in all circumstances.

2 TIMOTHY 1:3-14

Have you ever watched a small child walk on a balance beam or on top of a wall? Maybe his father was walking by him, making sure he was safe. The father probably taught the child how to walk, how to balance, and how to run. Now, the child is trying things on his own. The child may seem nervous at first, but he sees Daddy is there to help. The child becomes brave, walking faster and trying more new things. Even if he falls, the child knows his father will be there to care for him.

When he was younger, Timothy had spiritual teachers and guides. Paul was one of them. Now, Paul wanted Timothy to live and preach boldly. As a mature Christian, Timothy could depend on the power of the resurrected Christ and the Holy Spirit. With that power, Timothy could share the good news of Christ to the next generation. We, too, have people who help us grow. As we grow, we can take risks and walk boldly because of our confidence in the power of God.

2 TIMOTHY 1:3-14

3 I thank God as I always mention you in my prayers, day and night. I serve Him, doing what I know is right as my ancestors did. **4** Remembering that you cried for me, I want very much to see you so I can be filled with joy. **5** I remember your true faith. That faith first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your **mother Eunice**, **A** and I know you now have that same faith. **6** This is why I remind you to keep using the gift **God gave you when I laid my hands on you**. **B** Now let it grow, as a small flame grows into a fire. **7** God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid but a spirit of power and love and self-control. **8** So do not be ashamed to tell people about our Lord Jesus, and **do not be ashamed of me**, **C** in prison for the Lord. But **suffer with me** **D** for the Good News. God, who gives us the strength to do that, **9** saved us and **made us his holy people**. **E** **That was not because of anything we did** **F** ourselves but because of God's purpose and grace. That grace was given to us through Christ Jesus **before time began**, **G** **10** but it is now shown to us by the coming of our Savior Christ Jesus. He destroyed death, and through the Good News he showed us the way to have life that cannot be destroyed. **11** I was chosen to tell that Good News and to be an apostle and a teacher. **12 I am suffering now** **H** because I tell the Good News, but I am not ashamed, because I know Jesus, the One in whom I have believed. And I am sure He is able to protect what He has trusted me with until that day. **13** Follow the pattern of true teachings that you heard from me in faith and love, which are in Christ Jesus. **14** Protect the truth that you were given; protect it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

- a. Timothy's mother and grandmother were Christians and taught Timothy. Paul never mentioned Timothy's father.
- b. Laying hands on new believers was often done in the early church. See Acts 19:4-6 for example.
- c. People were normally embarrassed to admit they had friends in jail. Paul did not want Timothy to be ashamed.
- d. Paul believed sharing the gospel would lead to suffering.
- e. This is a key part of the gospel—God makes us holy.
- f. We cannot earn salvation; it is a gift.
- g. God planned to show us grace before He made the world.
- h. Paul was in prison again when he wrote 2 Timothy.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. How does being a Christian help a person deal with life no matter what happens?
2. How did Timothy's family influence his life?
3. What did Paul want Timothy to do with his spiritual gifts?
4. How did Paul find the strength to endure many hardships and trials?
5. When did God first plan to give grace to us? Why is the timing important?
6. How do we know God's grace?
7. Why was Paul in prison?
8. What did Paul tell Timothy about suffering and persecution?
9. Was Paul ashamed of his time in prison? Why or why not?

BIBLE SKILL

Read the following verses. Discuss how Paul could continue to work even while he suffered. Write a short sentence about what you learn from each text.

2 Corinthians 6:5-10 _____

2 Corinthians 11:23-29 _____

Acts 9:15-16 _____

2 Timothy 1:8-12 _____

IN MY CONTEXT

- Believers can find strength from those who help them grow spiritually.
- Believers can act boldly with the power of the Holy Spirit working through them.
- Believers can live confidently, knowing that Christ showed His power through the resurrection.
- Believers have a responsibility to share the gospel with the next generation.

Who has helped you grow spiritually? How can you show them appreciation?

Pray together for the boldness of the Holy Spirit to act through you and your class.

How can you remove fear from your life and start to obey Him with confidence?

Look around your church or Bible study group. Who is the next generation? How can you make sure the generation after you learns about the gospel?

MEMORY VERSE

I am suffering now because I tell the Good News, but I am not ashamed, because I know Jesus, the One in whom I have believed. And I am sure He is able to protect what he has trusted me with until that day. – 2 Timothy 1:12

DAY ONE

Read 2 Timothy 1:3-5, finding the people who helped Timothy grow in his faith.

Paul encouraged Timothy by reminding him of their spiritual history. Paul served the Lord, just as his Jewish family before him served the Lord. Paul continued in the path of faithful servants of God. Also, Paul reminded Timothy of his own family. Timothy's grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice, were believers. Timothy's faith was his own, but he continued in the spiritual traditions of his family.

Paul never mentioned Timothy's father, but Paul often called Timothy his son. In 1 Timothy 1:2, 2 Timothy 1:2, and 2 Timothy 2:1, Paul said Timothy was his son or child. Paul was a spiritual parent to Timothy. Eunice was both a physical and spiritual parent to him. Timothy had several people invest in him spiritually.

The church is a spiritual family. Within that family, we have mature believers and new Christians. Each generation of believers should help the next generation. When we live this way, we strengthen individual workers like Timothy, and we build up the whole church family.

Who taught you about Jesus and helped you grow in your faith? How can you help the next generation grow in their faith?

DAY TWO

Read 2 Timothy 1:6-7, comparing how the Spirit is like a fire.

Timothy received the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit gave him the ability to serve. Paul wanted Timothy to continue to use these gifts faithfully. All Christians receive the Holy Spirit when they become believers. The Spirit pours on His people spiritual gifts which we must use to encourage and build the body of Christ.

Paul wanted Timothy's gift to grow the same way a small fire becomes a large fire. At first, the fire's flames are small and weak. Slowly you add a little more wood and blow a little more air. Through your careful work, the tiny spark becomes a big fire for cooking, light, and warmth.

The Spirit works in us, giving us power and strength. We can depend on the Spirit's strength as we use His gifts to serve. However, we cannot

keep the gifts of the Spirit to ourselves. We must use them and improve our skills. We must take the spark of the Spirit's gift in teaching, service, or prayer and boldly practice it until it burns brightly, calling all people to Jesus.

What spiritual gift or gifts do you have? How can you use your spiritual gifts to build up the kingdom of God?

DAY THREE

Read 2 Timothy 1:8-10, looking for our source of courage to share the good news.

In verse 8, Paul used his point about the Spirit's power to encourage Timothy. When Timothy remembered the power of the Spirit, he could be brave. Timothy knew that Paul had suffered beatings, prison, and stoning. Timothy also knew that he and Paul had the same Spirit. If that Spirit could inspire and strengthen Paul, the Spirit could give Timothy power as well. While Paul suffered in prison, he talked about strength. He had a life the Roman soldiers could not destroy, even when they executed him. While Paul suffered, he called Timothy to join his suffering. Paul did not mean for Timothy to volunteer to be in prison. He meant that Timothy should accept suffering that comes with sharing the gospel. True, we may suffer, but we have the Spirit and eternal life.

Before Adam and Eve sinned, God already planned our salvation. We do not save ourselves. He saves us. Once saved, we have the Spirit of God in us. Through His death and resurrection, we have life which no one can destroy. This should give us great confidence, no matter what we face.

What gives you courage to share the good news of salvation?

DAY FOUR

Read 2 Timothy 1:11-12, drawing a line under why Paul was not ashamed.

God chose Paul to be an apostle. Chosen by God, Paul taught the good news of Christ to all people, especially the non-Jewish world. Paul obeyed God and preached in much of the Roman Empire. He was confident in the God who chose him. Having God's blessing did not mean Paul had an easy life. Paul obeyed God's commands to teach and he suffered for it. Paul suffered the chains of prison and also the shame of being treated like a law breaker. Even so, Paul said, "I am not ashamed." What helped Paul avoid feeling ashamed of his chains and his jail cell? Paul answered this question by saying, "I am not ashamed, because I know Jesus, the One in whom I have believed."

Many people know about Christ, but Paul knew Him. He had a deeply personal relationship with the Son of God. Paul placed all his trust in Jesus of Nazareth. My grandmother used to say, "Never put all your eggs in one basket." She meant not to rely too much on one thing. Paul disagreed. He placed all his hope and confidence in Christ who died and rose again.

What makes you personally bold for Christ? How can you trust Him more?

KEY DOCTRINE: *Evangelism*

Evangelism is the word we use for spreading the gospel to all people. All people of God have the duty to share the good news of Christ with the nations. We must teach our neighbors and friends the truth of Christ. We must go around the nation and the world, teaching the truth of God. Pastors lead the local church, but all members share the responsibility to share and teach the gospel.

DAY FIVE

Read 2 Timothy 1:13-14, looking for what Paul told Timothy to guard.

Paul taught only the truth of Christ—His death and resurrection—this was the treasure given to both Paul and Timothy. Paul taught the truth boldly and wanted Timothy to teach that same truth. Teaching the truth requires us to rely on the Spirit speaking to our hearts. Teaching only the truth forces us to resist changing the Bible’s message. Knowing the truth requires us to read and study our Bibles. Like Paul, sometimes we will teach the truth to people who do not yet believe. They need the good news. Sometimes, also like Paul, we will teach other believers. Teaching each other helps the church grow strong.

What responsibility do you have to pass on the gospel to the next generation of Deaf people?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from 2 Timothy 1:3-14. Meet with one or two people from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

What can you do this week that will boldly depend on the Holy Spirit working in you?

What does resurrection power look like in a believer’s life? How can you encourage each other to live with confidence of the resurrection power of Christ?

What plans do you have to share Christ this week with people who do not know Him?



FOCUSED

Believers can find strength for life's hardships by focusing on God's grace and the gospel.

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13

Suffering is terrible, but people often find a way through it. Some of the people who suffered and lived through World War II often had hope. They lived for something more important than themselves. Their lives had a purpose. Focusing on their hope instead of their pain helped them through the worst times.

People who have hope can suffer through nearly anything. Christians prove this when they suffer for the gospel. They depend on the promise of God's grace. They trust in the gospel of Christ. Paul wrote to Timothy and encouraged him to find strength in the gospel. With this strength Timothy could lead the church. We can survive and grow when we face troubles if we will focus on the hope of God's grace.

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13

1 You then, Timothy, **my child**, **A** be strong in the grace we have in Christ Jesus. **2** You should teach people **whom you can trust** **B** the things you and many others have heard me say. Then they will be able to **teach others**. **C** **3** Share in the troubles we have like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** A soldier wants to please the enlisting officer, so no one serving in the army **wastes time with everyday matters**. **D** **5** Also an athlete who takes part in a contest must obey all the rules in order to win. **6** The farmer who works hard should be the first person to get some of the food that was grown. **7 Think about what I am saying**, **E** because the Lord will give you the ability to understand everything. **8** Remember Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead, who is from the family of David. This is the **Good News I preach**, **F** **9** and I am suffering because of it to the point of being bound with chains like a criminal. But God's teaching is not in chains. **10** So I patiently accept all these troubles so that those **whom God has chosen** **G** can have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus. With that salvation comes glory that never ends. **11 This teaching is true**: **H** If we died with him, we will also live with him. **12** If we accept suffering, we will also rule with him. If we say we don't know him, he will say he doesn't know us. **13** If we are not faithful, he will still be faithful, because he must be true to who he is.

- a. Paul often used words of a father/son relationship with Timothy because Paul was a spiritual father to Timothy.
- b. Paul meant people Timothy could trust with the duty of teaching.
- c. Verse 2 is an example of the plan to pass on the faith—one generation teaches the next and on and on until the return of Christ.
- d. Paul did not mean we should not take care of daily responsibilities. He only gave an example of how soldiers focus and thus, how Christians should be focused.
- e. Paul wanted Timothy to think deeply or meditate. He shared important ideas, not simple ones.
- f. The gospel message is salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. If we teach something different from this, we are not being faithful to His message.
- g. God chooses to save all who believe in Jesus.
- h. Verses 11-13 seem to have been a saying the churches used or perhaps the words to a song they sang.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. When we learn the gospel message, what should we do next?
2. Why did Paul want Timothy to teach others?
3. Where did Paul tell Timothy to find strength?
4. What did Paul mean when he wrote about a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer?
5. How did the ideas about a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer relate to suffering for the gospel?
6. How did Paul summarize the gospel message?
7. Why was Paul in chains? Why did Paul accept suffering?
8. If we are saved, what will we experience at the end?
9. If we gladly accept suffering for the gospel, what will we receive?

BIBLE SKILL

Paul used three examples of a Christian: soldier, athlete, and farmer. Jesus and Paul used farming examples often. Read the verses below. How do these examples help make a clear picture of the careful work of a farmer? What is the focus all Christians must have?

Matthew 13:24-30 _____

Matthew 13:1-23 _____

Luke 9:61-62 _____

John 4:34-37 _____

IN MY CONTEXT

- Believers must invest in the lives of future church leaders.
- When believers face hard times, they must focus on the gospel. Believers know God will reward their faithfulness.
- Believers can find strength when they remember their faithful witness gives opportunities for people to know and believe the gospel.

How does your church train new teachers and leaders? How can you develop a plan to find people who can become the next generation of leaders?

When you have faced hardship in the past, how well did you stay focused on Christ and the gospel? What can you do differently the next time you face hardship to help you do better?

Discuss with your group some things the group can do to share the gospel with Deaf people who do not know Him.

MEMORY VERSE

So I patiently accept all these troubles so that those whom God has chosen can have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus. With that salvation comes glory that never ends. – 2 Timothy 2:10

DAY ONE

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2 looking for God’s plan to pass leadership into the future.

Paul started many churches in Asia and Europe. He left leaders in these areas and sent letters to help them lead well. Part of Paul’s instructions for Timothy in this chapter focus on how to continue the spread of teaching beyond Timothy and Paul. Paul taught Timothy the words and teachings of Christ. Timothy taught the same information to the people in his church. Paul then wanted Timothy to find people he could trust and teach them the Word of God. The goal was to train people to teach others.

Many churches struggle because they have a pastor and only a few teachers. When the pastor retires or the Sunday School teachers move away, who will replace them? When a community needs another church, who knows how to teach and preach? We must set a goal to train dependable people to teach the next generation of Christians. Paul understood the need to train new leaders and teachers. He required Timothy to train people to teach after Timothy left. Timothy would be able to teach well if he remained strong and committed. The grace of Christ would give Timothy the ability to faithfully teach the next generation of teachers.

What plan does your church have to train teachers and leaders?

DAY TWO

Read 2 Timothy 2:3-7, learning the lessons of a soldier, athlete, and farmer.

Paul called Timothy to join him in suffering in chapter 1. Here Paul warns Timothy that teaching the next generation would mean suffering. Paul encouraged Timothy by comparing him to a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer. Timothy was likely familiar with all three. Each job had some things in common. Soldiers, farmers, and athletes must dedicate themselves to their work. They must focus on the task. All three roles required sacrifice and some suffering, too. Soldiers suffered under rough conditions. Athletes suffered pain and fatigue from exercise. Farmers suffered from hard work and long hours. Each job was different, too.

Soldiers focused on satisfying their commanding officers. Athletes needed to follow the rules. Farmers worked hard for a final reward. Paul wanted Timothy to copy the dedication, the focus, and the sacrifice.

Paul told Timothy to think about the things he was saying. In time, the Spirit of God would help Timothy understand the meaning of Paul's lesson. Just like Timothy, we need to stay focused on the gospel when we face hardship. God will reward our faithfulness just like soldiers, athletes, and farmers experience rewards for their faithful work.

Why must believers stay focused on the gospel even when facing hardship? How does the work of a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer help you understand this idea?

DAY THREE

Read 2 Timothy 2:8-9, drawing a line under the central part of Paul's message.

When we have difficult times, we must decide if the problems are worth solving or if we should change our focus. If we train for a marathon, we need to decide if the goal is worth all the time and effort. If we want to lose weight, we must decide if limiting our food is worth the goal of better health. Paul warned Timothy that teaching the next generation would require sacrifice. Next, Paul explained how to stay focused on the goal even in hard times.

Paul told Timothy to remember Christ more than anything else. He needed to remember His great sacrifice in death and the power of His resurrection. Thinking about Christ would give Timothy power to work hard through difficult times. Also, the death and resurrection of Christ was the central part of the gospel message Paul taught Timothy. Paul suffered for preaching this gospel. The Roman soldiers chained Paul the same way they chained criminals. Paul was limited by his chains, by Roman law, and by the walls of the prison. But God's teaching was free. The gospel of Christ spread far beyond the walls of Paul's prison.

What troubles do you face while sharing the gospel? How will your patience and continued work be worth it someday?

DAY FOUR

Read 2 Timothy 2:10, finding the good result that came from hardship.

So far, Paul only talked about the sacrifice and suffering which comes from preaching the gospel. In verse 10 he focused on his own attitude. He shared the reason he was able to accept the suffering. Paul accepted his chains. He willingly lived with his loss of freedom and the shame of prison. He did not complain about the problems he had because of the gospel. He accepted his sufferings so people could know Christ.

The grace of God gave Paul strength and gave him a goal for his teaching and suffering. The goal was for people to know Christ. He accepted his suffering and continued to teach. This allowed more people time and opportunity to know Christ. He wanted teaching opportunities while knowing he would suffer because of it.

The result of teaching and suffering would be for people to know Christ. Salvation would lead to glorification. Glorification is the last step in bringing people from a sinful condition to a perfect condition. We will experience glorification at the end times when Christ returns to gather His people. We can gladly suffer all things, knowing the reward for us and others will be glorification.

How can our hardships lead people to Jesus?

KEY DOCTRINE: *Salvation*

Salvation is when God works in our lives to make us fully new. Jesus, by His own blood, provides salvation. He offers it freely. People receive salvation through personal faith in Jesus. Salvation includes new birth, complete forgiveness, godly growth, and a final perfection in heaven. Often we use these English words to describe this: regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

DAY FIVE

Read 2 Timothy 11-13, thinking about each of the four pairs of sayings.

Verses 11-13 seem to record a saying or song. Paul did not introduce the saying, so perhaps Timothy already knew it. Paul used this to teach Timothy an important lesson. The saying was in four parts. The first pair tells the story of baptism. Baptism pictures our dying with Christ, and rising to live eternally with Christ. Paul was not writing about dying for faith. He wrote about becoming a new creature when we become alive in Christ. The second pair is about troubles. Accepting our suffering as we work for Him will lead to a glorious future.

The third and fourth pair are more negative. If we deny knowing Christ, He will deny us. In the fourth set, we see Christ will be faithful even if Christians fail, sin, or stray from the faith. Our failure will not cause Him to fail. Being faithful to Christ often leads to suffering. We can find courage in knowing our pain has a goal. If we endure, people will come to Christ. We will find peace someday in heaven, glorified with those who come to Christ because of our faithful witness.

How can your struggles and faithfulness to Christ lead some people to know Him?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from 2 Timothy 2:1-13. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

What role do you play in passing on leadership in your church?

Focus on the soldier, athlete, and farmer. How can we work together to remember God's promises for our future when we are struggling today?

What helps you to stay faithful to the gospel even when life is hard?



DILIGENT

Believers find truth and direction by studying God's Word.

2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

What should we do when a Christian shares an idea which seems to conflict with the truth in the Bible? We've all seen people share ideas in church. Sometimes, these ideas come from other faiths or from our culture. We might not feel comfortable with their ideas, but we say nothing. Sometimes others begin to discuss the idea. They agree or disagree. Maybe they argue over the issue. Perhaps they disagree so much people leave the church, or the peace in the body goes away. What should we do? Paul taught Timothy how to handle this exact problem in church.

The answer for Timothy and for us begins with the Word of God. When we study God's Word and apply His Word to our lives, we can avoid the false ideas that lead us away from Christ. As His Word takes root in our lives we become the clean kind of vessel that He can use. And finally, the ones who teach and lead in the church must gently direct people into truth. Angry arguments seem to get us nowhere.

2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

14 Continue teaching **these things**, **A** warning people in God’s presence not to argue about words. It does not help anyone, and it ruins those who listen.

15 **Make every effort** **B** to give yourself to God as the kind of person he will approve. Be a worker who is not ashamed and who **uses the true teaching in the right way**. **C** **16** Stay away from **foolish, useless talk**, **D** because that will lead people further away from God.

17 Their evil teaching will **spread like a sickness** **E** inside the body. Hymenaeus and Philetus are like that.

18 They have left the **true teaching**, **F** saying that the rising from the dead has already taken place, and so they are destroying the faith of some people. **19** But God’s strong foundation continues to stand. These words are **written on the seal**: **G** “The Lord knows those who belong to him,” and “Everyone who wants to belong to the Lord must stop doing wrong.” **20** In a large house there are not only things made of gold and silver, but also things made of wood and clay. Some things are used for special purposes, and others are made for ordinary jobs. **21** All who **make themselves clean** **H** from evil will be used for special purposes. They will be made holy, useful to the Master, ready to do any good work. **22** But run away from the evil desires of youth. Try hard to live right and to have faith, love, and peace, together with those who trust in the Lord from pure hearts. **23** Stay away from **foolish and stupid arguments**, **I** because you know they grow into quarrels. **24** And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, a good teacher, and patient. **25** The Lord’s servant must gently teach those who disagree. Then maybe God will let them change their minds so they can accept the truth. **26** And they may wake up and escape from the trap of the devil, who catches them to do what he wants.

- a. “These things” refers to verses 1-13.
- b. Becoming like Christ requires hard work.
- c. This is the key concept for Paul, using truth and using it as God intended.
- d. “Foolish talk” refers back to the argument about words in verse 14.
- e. Paul taught the need for church discipline in other verses because sin and false teaching tends to spread and ruin the church.
- f. They stopped teaching what was theologically correct. We do not know who Hymenaeus and Philetus were.
- g. The “seal” is a symbol of a stamp of approval.
- h. Only Christ can clean our sins, but we can choose to remain pure.
- i. We can discuss many things, but arguing about human ideas does nothing to help the church.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Why is the Bible so important?
2. Why did Paul compare false teaching to a sickness?
3. How had Hymenaeus and Philetus left the faith?
4. To what wrong idea about the resurrection had false teaching led?
5. What were the three characteristics Paul wanted Timothy to have? (See verse 22.)
6. Why did Paul want Timothy to avoid arguing about human ideas in the church?
7. How should Timothy respond to people who opposed his teaching in the church?
8. What was the key to changing people's minds?
9. Who created the trap of false teaching? Why do we need to know this?

BIBLE SKILL

We must be careful how we use the Bible. We must not change it or twist its words to meet our needs. Read the verses below. What does the Bible say about itself? How should we treat it, study it, and know it?

Deuteronomy 4:1-2 _____

Psalms 119:11 _____

2 Timothy 3:15-17 _____

Hebrews 1:1-2 _____

1 Peter 1:25 _____

Revelation 22:6-7 _____

Revelation 22:18-19 _____

IN MY CONTEXT

- Believers must continually study God's Word to avoid straying from the truth.
- Believers must flee from sin and pursue righteousness. Then God can use them in His work.
- Believers must share God's Word with all people in love and kindness.

What does it mean to study the Bible? What habits do you need to change so you can study the Bible more often?

What do you need to do this week for God to be able to use you in His work?

Discuss as a group the right way to share God's Word with people. What changes do you need to make in the way you share the Word?

MEMORY VERSE

Make every effort to give yourself to God as the kind of person he will approve. Be a worker who is not ashamed and who uses the true teaching in the right way. – 2 Timothy 2:15

DAY ONE

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-15, underlining the key to being a faithful Christian.

When people gathered at church, they wanted to discuss God's truth. They looked to their teachers and pastors to guide them into understanding. Some people, though, came to teach something different. They wanted to debate human ideas and philosophies instead of God's truth. These were Christians who were distracted with worldly ideas. They tried to bring those ideas into the church. Paul wanted Timothy to ignore those debates. Discussing human ideas, especially false ideas, offered no help and ruined people.

The key to being a faithful Christian in God's church is clear—use the “true teaching in the right way” (2 Tim. 2:15). We must always begin our understanding of God by using the Scriptures. We must work to understand the entire truth of the Bible because it contains the true teaching. When we understand the truth, we must use it in the right way. We cannot twist or change the truth or use it to hurt people or lead them in the wrong way. Knowing the Scripture and using it rightly was Paul's word for Timothy and God's word for us.

How can you make sure your teachers and pastors use the truth of the Bible in the correct way?

DAY TWO

Read 2 Timothy 2:16-19, finding the strong foundation for our lives in Christ.

The useless debate of philosophy and human ideas wasted time. Worse than that, discussing these ideas led people away from the truth of God's Word. These wrong ideas disagreed with the teachings of the Bible. The wrong ideas began to spread among the church members. Their faith became weak and began to fail. Teaching false ideas leads people away from the truth, but teaching the Bible makes our faith strong. The truth of God's Word provides a strong foundation for our lives. His Word will never fail.

In history, people have misused the Bible to support their prejudices and false ideas. They might focus on one verse, but ignore the rest of what the Bible teaches. These Christians destroyed the faith of many by using the Bible to support a human idea. We must focus on the truth of the whole Bible. We rely on a firm foundation of biblical truth to avoid being led away from God.

How can you be sure you follow the truth of the Bible?

DAY THREE

Read 2 Timothy 2:20-22, looking for how to be a useful servant for God.

Fleeing from false teaching helps us remain pure. In verses 20-22, Paul used an example of household items to teach Timothy the difference between staying close to the truth and wandering far away. Many homes have fancy items for special tasks. Other things in the house are for everyday use. Fancy items have clean purposes. Simple items often have simpler, dirty purposes.

Paul wanted Timothy to be clean and useful. How could Timothy be clean and ready for special use by the Master? Look back at verse 15. The key to God's approval is to use the truth and to use it well. Paul called for Timothy to be set apart from false teachings and to be pure. When people teach false ideas, God cannot use them. Knowing the truth makes us clean and pure.

Paul also encouraged Timothy to leave the desires of youth. Timothy needed to live in faith, with love and peace. These same three characteristics appeared in 1 Timothy 6:11. In both passages, Paul encouraged Timothy to leave sinful desires and develop a proper character of faith, love, and peace. This way he would become a useful servant to God.

How does fleeing sin help prepare you for service to God? What sin do you need to run away from?

DAY FOUR

Read 2 Timothy 2:23-24, identifying the marks of a good teacher.

As Paul mentioned in verse 22, young men often struggle with evil desires. Young leaders often become impatient and proud. Young leaders often think disagreements are challenges to their authority. Paul wanted Timothy to avoid arguments. Paul wanted Timothy to be a kind teacher who was patient with everyone, including people who disagreed with him. In 1 Timothy 3, Paul gave advice to Timothy about pastors and deacons. Paul wanted church leaders to be good teachers who avoided arguments. They needed to be self-controlled and focused on the truth. In 2 Timothy, Paul showed Timothy how to apply these characteristics to a problem of false teaching in the church.

As the leader, Timothy needed to avoid fighting. He needed to be kind to all people. He had to teach them the truth. As he avoided arguments, he had to be patient, waiting for people to understand. When people bring wrong ideas to our churches, we should be patient. Instead of arguing about their ideas, we should focus on the truth of God's Word. By teaching the truth with kindness, we create opportunities for people to change.

Why is it important for a servant of the Lord to be kind to everyone? What characteristics should a good teacher avoid and what ones should he or she embrace?

KEY DOCTRINE: *Man*

God made humans perfect and without sin. But the first people made a free choice to sin and all of us since then have made the same choice. Through Satan's temptation, the first people disobeyed God's command and fell from their innocence. Humans now have a fallen nature and as soon as they can make moral decisions they turn to sin and away from God. The evils of this world all come from the sinners that we are and the sin that we do.

DAY FIVE

Read 2 Timothy 2:25-26, searching for the right way to present God's Word.

Paul advised Timothy simply to teach the truth. Timothy, as a servant of God, needed to be gentle with those who disagreed with him. Remember, those who disagreed were still Christians. They did not persecute Christians or try to destroy churches. They were people who misunderstood something and taught wrong ideas.

The goal for Timothy's teaching was not to win an argument. The goal was to change their minds. He wanted them to accept the truth. Once they knew the truth, they would be able to escape Satan's trap. All false teaching comes from Satan in some way. Even Christians can sometimes support the devil's work. Paul encouraged Timothy to lead people away from Satan's path and toward the light by gently teaching the truth to them.

What is the right way to present God's Word to others?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from 2 Timothy 2:14-26. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

How do you study the Bible? What can you do to improve your study time?

How can the members of your small group help each other avoid sin? Pray for each other, and use Bible study to guide you to become more pure.

Open your Facebook page with your friends. Read various posts that seem to share God's Word. Are those posts kind and gentle? How would you share those same truths in a loving way, face to face?



ENDURING

Believers must remain faithful to God's truth even when facing persecution.

2 TIMOTHY 3:12-17; 4:1-8

Paul warned Timothy that true Christians would face persecution. He said they should continue to trust in God. Paul used his own life as an example of what it meant to continue faithfully until the very end. Paul was in prison and would be killed for his faith in Christ, but he continued to serve the Lord.

What can we learn from Paul's example and his letter to Timothy about suffering? Do Christians in America truly suffer persecution? As we study this lesson, consider how to continue faithfully even when suffering. Look for ways Paul continued to serve in difficult situations. Think about how we can faithfully continue serving God, whether we suffer persecution or not.

2 TIMOTHY 3:12-17; 4:1-8

12 Everyone ④ who wants to live as God desires, in Christ Jesus, will be persecuted. **13** But people who are evil and cheat others will go from bad to worse. They will fool others, but they will also be fooling themselves. **14 But you** ③ should continue following the teachings you learned. You know they are true, because you trust those **who taught you**. ④ **15** Since you were a child you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise. And that wisdom leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is inspired ⑤ by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right. **17** Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be capable, having all that is needed **to do every good work**. ⑥

4:1 I give you a command in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, the One who will judge the living and the dead, and by His coming and His kingdom: **2** Preach the **Good News**. ⑦ Be ready at all times, and tell people what they need to do. Tell them when **they are wrong**. ⑧ Encourage them with great patience and careful teaching, **3** because the time will come when people will not listen to the true teaching but will find many more teachers who please them by saying **the things they want to hear**. ⑨ **4** They will stop listening to the truth and will begin to follow false stories. **5** But you should control yourself at all times, accept troubles, do the work of telling the Good News, and complete all the duties of a servant of God. **6** My life is being given as an offering to God, and the time has come for me **to leave this life**. ⑩ **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Now, a crown is being held for me—a crown for being right with God. The Lord, the judge who judges rightly, will give the crown to me on that day—not only to me but to all those who have waited with love for him to come again.

- a. Paul said everyone who wanted to live godly will face persecution. Not all persecution is the same. Some is spiritual and some is psychological. Not all suffer physical persecution.
- b. Paul made a point to tell Timothy to be unlike those who persecute others and stray from God.
- c. Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him. Paul did too.
- d. Inspired means "God breathed." God gave us His Scripture. He did it in such a way that we can trust what we have to be true.
- e. This means to serve God in every way, growing in our faith and working to spread the gospel.
- f. The Good News is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Most English Bibles say "preach the word."
- g. Paul wrote about how Timothy should teach other Christians. He did not expect Timothy to go out and criticize everyone he met.
- h. People often want to hear pastors tell them everything will be alright instead of hearing the truth of God.
- i. Paul was killed shortly after he wrote this letter. It is his last writing we have in the Bible.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. How should believers respond to persecution?
2. What did Paul mean by saying believers would suffer persecution?
3. What did Paul tell Timothy to do if he experienced persecution?
4. What did Timothy study as a child to understand Jesus?
5. What did Paul mean when he said all Scripture is inspired by God?
6. What are the four things Scripture does? How does it do these things?
7. What makes us able to serve God in the right way?
8. What was the command Paul gave to Timothy?
9. Why would people stop listening to the message?
10. How did Paul knowing he would soon die impact his life?

BIBLE SKILL

Galatians 1:11-24 tells Paul's testimony about his life before Christ, how he met Jesus, and how his life changed. Make a summary of Paul's testimony. Think about how you could make a summary of your own personal testimony.

Paul's testimony: _____

My testimony: _____

IN MY CONTEXT

- Believers should expect persecution.
- Believers can trust the Scriptures because it is God's Word.
- Believers must be ready to share the gospel at any time.
- Believers can show their true faith by continuing to be faithful to Christ until the end.

How can believers prepare to face troubles because of their faith? How can you prepare?

Discuss what you believe about the Scriptures. How can we depend on the truth of the Bible?

Who do you know that needs to know the gospel? What can you do to share the gospel with this person this week?

Why do believers drift away from God and His Word? What can we do to help one another stay faithful to Christ until the end of life?

MEMORY VERSE

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. – 2 Timothy 4:7

DAY ONE

Read 2 Timothy 3:12-13, finding why suffering for Christ is normal.

In these verses, Paul warned Timothy that one result of holy living would be non-Christians would persecute Christians. Over time, evil behavior would become worse, and persecution would grow. Persecution happens because the world rejects Christ and those who obey Him.

One could think about oppression and persecution like this: oppression usually lasts for a longer period of time and often comes from authority. A government might oppress Christians by not permitting them to work in certain jobs. The oppression comes from authority, and not from individuals within society. Persecution is often more severe, and comes from either authority or individuals. A Christian suffers persecution when his neighbors force him to move because of his faith. They may burn his car or chase his family to make them feel unwelcome.

In the United States, Christians face increasing oppression, but most believers do not yet experience persecution. Even so, Paul warned Timothy we should expect to suffer for our faith. Suffering should be normal and not something strange or unexpected.

Have you ever suffered because of your faith? What should you do when you are oppressed or persecuted because you follow Jesus?

DAY TWO

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-15, looking for what we gain by studying the Bible.

Paul now warned Timothy not to follow those who rejected Christ and persecuted others. Timothy needed to follow what he had learned in the past—the truth of God. In 2 Timothy 1, we read about Timothy’s mother and grandmother. They taught him to love God and taught him using the Scriptures. Timothy trusted the godly people who taught him. He knew he could trust their teaching.

The Scriptures Paul mentioned are the Old Testament. When Timothy was a child, the New Testament was not written yet. Studying the Old Testament made Timothy wise. Wisdom led him to trust in Jesus. Trusting in Jesus led to salvation. We can trust all of the Bible.

It leads us to understand God's character and purpose and helps us trust in Christ who reveals God to us. All we need to know and understand about God and His Son is in the Bible. We must study the Bible to know God and how to follow Him.

What can you do that will help you read and follow God's Word every day?

DAY THREE

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17, numbering four specific tasks of the Bible in our lives.

Paul explained the Bible is "inspired by God." That word is not easy to understand. Inspire in this sentence does not mean it simply makes one feel good or uplifted. It actually means "God breathed." Through His Spirit, God gave His words and ideas to godly people who wrote the words that now make up our Bible.

Paul's famous verse about Scripture (verse 16) shows four specific tasks the Word of God does. Scripture teaches people. The Word of God rebukes (shows people their sin). The Bible helps improve people (correcting faults). And His Word guides people in holy living. Doing these four tasks, the Bible helps people understand their need for Christ leading them away from sin and into holiness.

The Bible is enough for us. The Word of God equips and prepares us to serve Him. The Bible does not prepare us for our jobs, but it does give us principles about work. The Bible completely trains us in holy living and service to God. His perfect Word makes us completely able to serve Him.

Of the four specific ways the Bible works with us, which one most recently made a difference in your life? What do you need to do now as a result?

DAY FOUR

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-4, drawing a line under Paul's great command.

Paul commanded Timothy in the presence of God and Jesus, who would judge all people. That's a lot of power! No way Timothy could ignore this command. Timothy needed to obey. What was His command? Preach the good news. Timothy had a duty to share the good news of Christ with all people. We have the same duty. As Paul said, we must be ready to share the gospel at all times, in any situation. Our teaching should be patient and careful, done with great love. We must teach people every chance we have.

Paul wanted Timothy to feel the importance of this command. Like Timothy, we must see the great need to teach while we can. Even in Paul's time, people started to ignore the truth. They wanted to hear lessons that made them feel good. They wanted to feel good more than they wanted the truth. You probably have Deaf friends who are this way as well. That is why it is still important that we obey this command to preach the good news!

Are you living obedient to this command of Paul's? What do you need to change to be ready always to tell the good news about Jesus?

KEY DOCTRINE: *God's Purpose of Grace*

True believers stay with Christ until the end of life. The people God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from His grace, but will continue as believers until death. Believers may fall into sin and temptation, but they will not be lost again. A true child of God will always continue to be His child. The power of God keeps us safe through all our troubles until He takes us home.

DAY FIVE

Read 2 Timothy 4:5-8, looking for who is waiting for us at the end of life.

Timothy needed to continue in the faith, just like Paul continued. Paul knew his time was ending. He compared himself to a drink offering poured out on the altar as a free gift to God (Num. 28:4-7). Even though he was near death and in prison, Paul continued to teach and work. Many scholars believe he was pointing back to the soldier, athlete, and farmer in chapter 2. Paul wanted Timothy to copy his example by continuing in the faith until death. He warned Timothy to endure troubles and trials. Someday Christ will give a reward to all those who remain faithful to Him.

Sometimes being a Christian in America has been easy. We've had wonderful churches and our communities accepted our faith easily. However, as the years pass our culture likes our faith less. Churches shrink and friends leave. We have less support. Paul's words can encourage us to keep the faith and run all the way to the end. Jesus is waiting for us.

What changes do you need to make to remain faithful to the end?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from 2 Timothy 3:12–4:8. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

Discuss with your small group what Christians can do when they experience persecution and oppression.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16 together. How have you seen the Bible do the four specific tasks explained in the Day 3 reading?

Practice sharing the basics of the Christian faith with each other in your small group. How can telling others about Jesus help you stay faithful to Jesus to the very end of life?



LIVING WITH OPPOSITION

Believers are accountable for rejecting false teachers and teachings.

TITUS 1:1-5,10-16

The church in the first century struggled with false ideas. People tried to trick Christians into believing wrong ideas about God. Paul wrote to Titus and commanded him to teach the local believers to reject false teaching. They needed to hold to the truth and share that truth with everyone.

We also have the same duty to listen only to the Word of God. We must reject everything which disagrees with it. We will face bad teaching from within the church. We will also hear people outside the church who challenge our ideas and demand we change. We must continue to trust in the truth of God's Word. We must share that truth even when people oppose us.

TITUS 1:1-5,10-16

1 From Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I was sent to help the faith of God's **chosen people** **A** and to help them know the truth that shows people how to serve God. **2** That faith and that knowledge come from the hope for life forever, which God promised to us before time began. And God cannot lie. **3 At the right time** **B** God let the world know about that life through preaching. He trusted me with that work, and I preached by the command of God our Savior. **4** To Titus, **my true child** **C** in the faith we share: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. **5** I left you in Crete so you could finish doing the things that still needed to be done and so you could appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

10 There are many people **D** who refuse to cooperate, who talk about worthless things and lead others into the wrong way—mainly those who insist on circumcision to be saved. **11** These people must be stopped, because they are upsetting whole families by teaching things they should not teach, which they do to get rich by cheating people. **12** Even one of their **own prophets said**, **E** “Cretans are always liars, evil animals, and lazy people who do nothing but eat.” **13** The words that prophet said are true. **So firmly tell** **F** those people they are wrong so they may become strong in the faith, **14** not accepting **Jewish false stories** **G** and the commands of people who reject the truth. **15** To those who are pure, all things are pure, but to those who are full of sin and do not believe, nothing is pure. Both their minds and their consciences have been ruined. **16 They say they know God**, **H** but their actions show they do not accept Him. They are hateful people, they refuse to obey, and they are useless for doing anything good.

- a. In the Old Testament, God's chosen people were the Jews, but in the new covenant all people who trust in Jesus are God's chosen people.
- b. God divinely prepared the world for the coming of Christ at the exact moment He needed.
- c. Paul referred to both Timothy and Titus as his children in the faith. He probably led them to faith in Christ.
- d. These were people who said they were Christians and were part of the Christian community in Crete but opposed Paul and the true gospel.
- e. Epimenides lived 600 years before Christ. He was a poet. This is a quote from his writing.
- f. Paul wanted Titus to be bold and talk to the people firmly. He was not making suggestions.
- g. Paul was a Jew, but he rejected Jewish religious traditions in the church because they distracted or misled people away from the true gospel.
- h. There have always been people who connected themselves to the Christian church who claimed to be followers of Jesus but who taught false teachings and lived in ways that showed they did not truly follow Jesus.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Why is it so important to reject false teachers and their teachings?
2. What did God call Paul to do?
3. When did God promise eternal life to His people?
4. Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete?
5. What did false teachers tell the people?
6. Why did Paul want Titus to make them stop?
7. What was the goal in telling the people to stop teaching false ideas?
8. How did Paul know the false teachers were not truly of God?
9. How does obeying God lead to doing good things for Him?

BIBLE SKILL

Most Bibles have several maps in the back. Look for a map of Paul's journeys. Find these cities so you can follow the outline of Paul's life and ministry.

1. Find Tarsus. Paul was from Tarsus.
2. Identify Jerusalem. Paul often went to Jerusalem.
3. Locate Damascus. Paul was traveling to Damascus when he met Jesus.
4. Identify the three missionary journeys of Paul.
5. Look for Rome. Paul spent years in prison in Rome and later died there.
6. Where is Crete? Titus lived in Crete when Paul wrote a letter to him.

IN MY CONTEXT

- God has entrusted the gospel message to believers. We must share the good news with others.
- God calls believers to help start local churches and strengthen those churches and church leaders.
- Believers must be willing to confront false teachings directly.

**How does your church prepare members to share the gospel with others?
What more could you do to learn how to better share your faith?**

Discuss as a group what responsibility church members have to help strengthen other churches and church leaders. What can your group do?

What should you do if you see someone teaching something false in church? How could you lovingly confront false teaching and try to correct it?

MEMORY VERSE

That faith and that knowledge come from the hope for life forever, which God promised to us before time began. And God cannot lie.
– Titus 1:2

DAY ONE

Read Titus 1:1-3, thinking about what it means that Jesus trusted us with the gospel.

The Bible often refers to God as our Father. We must never forget He is also Lord. Christ is our King. Paul showed his understanding of this idea by introducing himself as a “servant of God.” We serve Him because He is God, and He deserves our service. Just as a servant obeyed his master in the past, we also must completely obey God.

Paul served God by teaching His people about the good news of Christ. Paul’s instruction helped others become faithful servants of God too. They learned the truth and became faithful through the hope of eternal life. Our heavenly reward is a key part of our knowledge and faith.

God trusted Paul with the gospel and commanded him to teach it. Jesus also trusts all Christians with the gospel and sent us out to tell the world about His life, death, and resurrection. We can read about this great responsibility in Matthew 28:16-20. We call it the Great Commission. We must serve faithfully, like Paul, and take the good news to all people—across the street or around the world.

Read the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20. What do you learn from this verse that Jesus expects you to do?

DAY TWO

Read Titus 1:4-5, looking for the job that Paul asked Titus to do.

Titus and Timothy were both Paul’s spiritual sons. Many scholars believe Paul led them to Christ and helped them grow in their faith. They were faithful men who worked for years with Paul. Paul spent a short time on the island of Crete. After he left, he asked Titus to stay on the island. Paul was not able to stay long enough to finish the work so Paul asked Titus to stay and choose pastors in each town that had a group of believers.

It seems Titus did not pastor the churches himself. Instead, he worked to make the churches strong. He chose good leaders who were qualified. Paul sent both Timothy (1 Timothy 3) and Titus (Titus 1). Having good leaders helped the local churches grow and remain strong. God planned for the church to have leaders. He established qualifications

for those leaders. Part of our duty as Christians is to help make the church strong, just as Titus did. We must help choose the right leaders and support the leaders we have. All church members share this responsibility.

How does your church select new pastors and leaders? How do the qualifications used compare to Paul's list?

DAY THREE

Read Titus 1:10-11, searching for the problem in the churches in Crete.

The churches in Crete had a common problem: they had people who taught wrong ideas. They would not work together because they were busy teaching ideas that divided people. These people wasted time in church arguing about worthless topics. The worst idea they taught was if a man wanted to follow Christ, he must first obey the Jewish law and be circumcised. Paul was very direct. Titus needed to stop these people. These people were upsetting entire families with their teaching. Also, they taught for the wrong reason—money.

Christians must be willing to speak clearly when false ideas enter the church. We have a duty to protect other Christians and stop false teaching. Be careful, though. Christians can disagree on issues not central to the gospel such as music, carpet colors, and how to best reach neighbors with the gospel. The opponents of Titus in Crete taught salvation came through circumcision and the Jewish law, and this was clearly false. Salvation is by God's grace.

How can you recognize false teaching? What should you do when false teaching enters your church?

DAY FOUR

Read Titus 1:12-14, identifying Paul's goal for the false teachers.

Paul wrote some hard words of criticism. His statements almost seem racist. We must be careful, though, and remember Paul was writing about a very specific group of people from Crete. He wrote about people teaching false ideas and making trouble. He quoted a Cretan poet who called his own people liars. Paul's hard words were against the false teachers, not all the people of Crete. All people in the world suffer from dishonesty, laziness, and gluttony, not just the people in Crete.

Titus needed to tell these Christians they were wrong. Paul's goal was for these false teachers to stop their lies and to become strong in the faith. Discipline and rebuke in the church always has a goal to bring people closer to God. We should confront lies in the church with a goal to bring people to a right relationship. Conflict and hatred have no place in the church. Our reason for correcting people should be our love for them and for God's work. Confronting false ideas shows love because it makes the body of Christ stronger.

How can you correct people and show love at the same time?

KEY DOCTRINE: *Evangelism and Missions*

Every Christian has a responsibility to tell others about Christ. When we become His children, we learn to love men and women around us. That love should cause us to share the good news with them and bring them to Christ. The Bible often tells believers to go and spread the Good News of Christ to all people. Jesus clearly told us to make disciples in all the world (Matt. 28:19-20) Evangelism and missions are two terms we use to describe going to others and sharing the gospel of Christ with them.

DAY FIVE

Read Titus 1:15-16, drawing a circle around the difference between words and actions.

In verse 14, Paul talked about people giving commands. Paul did not say what they commanded. However, verse 15 seems to mean the false teachers expected people to follow Jewish laws about eating. Paul reminded Titus that what comes out of us shows purity or sin. The rebellious teachers had sin in their hearts, and this showed up by what they taught. Their teaching and lives showed their true character. Their words said, “We know God!” but their actions showed they truly had not accepted Him. They did not fully understand who God was. Thus, they were hateful, disobedient, and useless for God’s service.

We must confront wrong ideas because wrong ideas have consequences. The Cretans believed wrong ideas about salvation, and those ideas ruined their hearts. As a result, they could not obey Him. They could not serve God. Wrong beliefs lead to moral problems. If we do not confront bad theology in our churches, our congregations will become like the rebellious Cretans—good for nothing.

How do your actions show that you really do know God?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from Titus 1:1-5,10-16. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

Make a list of Deaf people in your area who do not know Christ. How can your small group try to lead these people to Christ?

Pray together for pastors in your area and for new churches in your area. What can you do to help the leaders in your church?

What ideas do you have to help you know the truth and to avoid false teachers? How can you hold each other accountable to the truth?



LIVING WITH INTEGRITY

Believers should live in a way that honors Jesus.

TITUS 2:1-15

Members of the U.S. Army must live carefully. Every time a person puts on the uniform, that person represents the U.S. Army. People watch their actions and words. Soldiers must live right and speak in ways that honor the Army and America.

Paul wrote to Titus about a similar idea. Christians needed to know how to represent Christ well. Male or female, young or old, all the Christians in Crete needed to understand how to represent Jesus in a good way to a world of non-believers. Amazingly, Paul made it clear that representing Christ well was even more important than being free or being a slave.

In today's world, people watch Christians carefully. They wait for us to make mistakes. They want to find reasons to make fun of Christians. They want reasons to reject Christ. We need to help each other live in godly ways so we may always show the beauty of Christ to a lost world.

TITUS 2:1-15

1 But you must **tell everyone** ④ what to do to follow the true teaching. **2** Teach older men to be self-controlled, serious, wise, strong in faith, in love, and in patience.

3 In the same way, teach older women to be holy in their behavior, not speaking against others or enslaved to too much wine, but **teaching what is good.** ⑤

4 Then they can teach the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, **5** to be wise and pure, to be good workers at home, to be kind, and to yield to their husbands. Then no one will be able to **criticize the teaching** ⑥ God gave us. **6** In the same way, encourage young men to be wise. **7** In every way be an example of doing **good deeds.** ⑦ When you teach, do it with honesty and seriousness. **8** Speak the truth so that you cannot be criticized. Then those who are against you will be ashamed because there is nothing bad to say about us. **9 Slaves should yield** ⑧ to their own masters at all times, trying to please them and not arguing with them. **10** They should not steal from them but should show their masters they can be fully trusted so that in everything they do they will make the **teaching of God our Savior attractive.** ⑨ **11** That is the way we should live, because God's grace that can save everyone has come. **12** It teaches us not to live against God nor to do the evil things the world wants to do. Instead, that grace teaches us to live in the present age in a wise and right way and in a way that shows we serve God. **13** We should live like that while we wait for **our great hope and the coming** ⑩ of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. **14** He gave Himself for us so He might pay the price to free us from all evil and to make us pure people who belong only to Him—people who are always wanting to do good deeds. **15** Say these things and encourage the people and tell them what is wrong in their lives, with all authority. Do not let anyone treat you as if you were unimportant.

- a. Paul mainly means everyone in the church, though all people need the truth of the gospel.
- b. Paul expected women to teach, even if they were not part of leadership in the church. Older women had a duty to teach younger women.
- c. In the ancient world, people did not understand Christian beliefs and often criticized believers. Paul wanted Christians to show an excellent example so no one would have a reason to criticize them.
- d. Church leaders teach, but they also have a responsibility to work and serve people.
- e. Paul did not write in support of slavery. Christians who were slaves had to see that the cause of Christ was even more important than personal freedom.
- f. Earlier, Paul taught Christians to avoid criticism. Now he added more. He wanted others to see Christianity as attractive.
- g. "Great hope and the coming" is referring to the return of Christ.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. How does godly living bring honor to Christ?
2. What inner characteristics should the older men have?
3. How should older women behave?
4. What should older women teach the younger women?
5. How did Paul want Titus to set an example?
6. How must Christians live so that outsiders will not have a reason to criticize us?
7. What kind of attitude should slaves have toward their masters?
8. How can people be saved?
9. What did Jesus do to make us free?

BIBLE SKILL

Slavery is a great evil. However, Paul taught that the cause of Christ is more important than being a slave or being free. Read the story of Joseph in Genesis 39:1-6. Answer the questions below.

1. How do we know Joseph was a slave? _____
2. Who was with Joseph? _____
3. What did Potiphar think of Joseph? _____
4. Who blessed Joseph? _____
5. How did Joseph honor God even though he was a slave? _____

6. What do you learn about serving Christ? _____

IN MY CONTEXT

- Believers must teach the truth of the gospel through what they say.
- Believers must show godliness in their lives no matter who they are or how old they are.
- Believers can live godly lives through the power of the gospel.
- Believers must boldly teach godliness with the authority of Jesus.

Discuss what is wrong with this sentence and why: “Believers do not need to talk about Jesus. It is enough just to live a good life so others can see how you live.”

Read verses 2-10 again. After reading, then what actions in your life do you need to change? What new things do you need to do?

How does the power of the gospel help you to live a godly life?

Jesus clearly commanded all believers to teach. How can you begin teaching others about Christ?

MEMORY VERSE

We should live like that while we wait for our great hope and the coming of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

– Titus 2:13

DAY ONE

Read Titus 2:1, drawing a line under our great duty.

Paul spent most of chapter 1 warning Titus about false teachers and wrong ideas. As he continued writing in chapter two, Paul told Titus to reject false teaching and focus on teaching the truth. Paul consistently taught Timothy and Titus by showing them the wrong approach to teaching before saying, “But you...”

We can tell people how to follow the truth of God’s Word in different ways. Among Christians, we can focus on the Word of God. The Bible defines truth for us, and we have a responsibility to obey it. Preachers show us the Scriptures. Bible teachers explain the truth. We meet with our friends to discuss how to apply the truth of the Bible.

Among non-Christians, we must continue to teach His truth. We teach through what we do and what we say. We must tell people truth in a gentle way. We need to graciously show the truth knowing people may not agree with us. However, we cannot remain silent. We have a duty to tell all people, hearing and Deaf, God’s truth.

What are some ways you discuss God at church? What are some ways you talk about God with non-Christians?

DAY TWO

Read Titus 2:2-5, learning how men and women live for Christ.

Paul gave examples to help Titus teach different groups. Remember, Paul wrote to people two thousand years ago. Titus had to teach the Bible to the needs of that culture. People in our culture today expect different things than the first century culture. But the same basic truths apply.

Older men needed to learn three inner characteristics which would lead to three marks of Christian character. The inner characteristics were self-control, wisdom, and seriousness. Seriousness means the ability to realize the important things of life. The three marks of Christian character were faith, love, and peace. The older women were probably widows or women with grown children. They needed to behave in holy ways. They should avoid gossip and wasting time. They should teach younger women through words and actions. Older women were mentors for the younger ladies.

Younger women during Paul’s time usually had families. He encouraged them to have godly homes. Women should be wise, pure,

hard workers, kind, loving, and in a healthy relationship with their husbands. This way the women in the church could help the community see the goodness of Christ.

How can you help your community see that the teachings of Christ are good?

DAY THREE

Read Titus 2:6-10, looking for examples of godly wisdom.

In verse 6, Paul wrote about young men. Titus needed to teach the men to be wise. Wisdom means “skill in living” and the ability to make good decisions. True wisdom comes from the Lord as James 1:5-6 teaches. Proverbs 9:10 says respect for God is the first step to wisdom. We should use God’s Word and the advice of our Christian community to make good choices.

As Titus continued to teach and live, he needed to show integrity and a commitment to the truth. If he committed himself to follow God’s commands each day, he would not be embarrassed as he faced non-believers.

In ancient times, slavery was different than slavery was in America. People of all races were slaves. Paul did not say slavery was right, and he did not support slavery. But he did expect Christian slaves to be honest and to live for Christ. Living for Christ did not mean they would become free. But slaves could “make the teaching of God our Savior attractive” by how they worked. We must learn with Titus that Christ is more important than anything else in life.

How can we represent Christ regardless of our status in society?

DAY FOUR

Read Titus 2:11-14, drawing a circle around the word grace each time it shows up.

Paul emphasized the need to teach and obey the truth. What is this truth? It is the grace of God. Grace gives us power to live godly lives. Grace teaches us how to honor God with our lives. Grace teaches us how to avoid evil. Grace gives us wisdom for living and showing our service to God. Grace should cause us to want to be godly. Christ died to pour this grace on us, and we should be thankful. Our gratitude and respect for His sacrifice will make us want to live in a holy way while we wait for His coming. Without grace, we will not have enough encouragement or desire to live holy lives.

Paul always encouraged Titus to teach truth to all people, both those who believed and those who did not believe. Non-Christians need to know the truth even if they do not believe it. The truth of Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection is for all people. His salvation is for all people. But only those who know the truth and accept it will be saved.

How does Christ's sacrifice help you to live in a godly way? How can your life show you are thankful for His grace?

KEY DOCTRINE: *The Holy Spirit*

The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible. He also gives power to the church and individual believers to worship, teach, and work for Him. All Christians receive the gift of the Holy Spirit when they decide to follow Christ. The Holy Spirit will never leave us. But it is possible to live in a way that grieves the Spirit and reduces His active role in our lives. We must live holy lives with the help of the Holy Spirit to have His power in our work.

DAY FIVE

Read Titus 2:15, praying for boldness to teach the truth.

Titus had a duty to teach truth to the people in the church. Paul's instructions about holy living were for Titus. He also needed to share what he learned with everyone. We learn through prayer, reading our Bibles, and participating in worship. We need to share what we learn with our Christian friends. Like Titus, we need to encourage each other with words about grace, holy living, and the work of Christ.

When we teach, we should do it boldly and without fear even though sometimes Christians do not want someone to teach them. They do not want to learn about their sin and how to change their lives. They say, "Jesus says not to judge!" They have misunderstood. Jesus does not want people to judge harshly, hypocritically, or in a self-righteous way. However, Jesus commands us to teach all the world. Paul says we are responsible to teach in the church. When we teach, we are working under the authority of Jesus Himself. We can teach boldly because we obey His commands.

What does it mean to teach with authority? How can you teach others without appearing to judge them?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from Titus 2:1-15. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

What should godliness look like in your life?

What is the gospel and how can the message of the gospel change your life and the lives of Deaf people you know?

How can you teach godliness to another Christian? Ask God to help you kindly and humbly help each other have godly lives.



LIVING TO DO

Believers should look for opportunities to do good works as acts of worship.

TITUS 3:1-11

When two people love each other, their actions show it. Husbands who love their wives often buy them flowers or take them to a nice restaurant. Loving wives give their husbands gifts or cook favorite meals. They think of each other, and their actions show their love clearly. They do not serve each other to earn love. Instead, their love for each other leads to acts of service and giving.

Paul encouraged Titus to lead the Cretan Christians to live in a way that showed God had changed their lives. Their behavior needed to show their love for Christ and their thankfulness for His gift of salvation. Knowing and understanding the truth about God would lead them to honor Him through their good works.

We also serve God because of our love for Him. We respond to His love for us with good works. Our good works do not save us or earn His love. His salvation and love for us lead to good works. We can honor Him through our actions, words, and attitudes.

TITUS 3:1-11

1 Remind the believers to yield to the **authority of rulers and government leaders,** **A** to obey them, to be ready to do good, **2** to **speak no evil about anyone,** **B** to live in peace, and to be gentle and polite to all people. **3** In the past we also were **foolish.** **C** We did not obey, we were wrong, and we were slaves to many things our bodies wanted and enjoyed. We spent our lives doing evil and being jealous. People hated us, and we hated each other. **4** But when the kindness and love of **God our Savior** **D** was shown, **5** he saved us because of his mercy. It was not because of good deeds we did to be right with him. He saved us through the washing that made us **new people** **E** through the Holy Spirit. **6** God poured out richly upon us that Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Savior. **7** Being made right with God by his grace, we could have the hope of receiving the life that never ends. **8** This teaching is true, and I want you to be sure the people understand these things. Then those who believe in God will be careful to use their lives for doing good. These things are good and will help everyone. **9** But **stay away from those** **F** who have foolish arguments and talk about useless family histories and argue and quarrel about the law. Those things are worth nothing and will not help anyone. **10** After a first and second warning, avoid someone who causes arguments. **11** You can know that such people are evil and sinful; **their own sins prove** **G** them wrong.

- a. Christians are to obey the laws of government unless those laws conflict with obeying Christ.
- b. The second greatest commandment—to love one another—requires us to treat each other well.
- c. Foolishness is more than just being silly or irresponsible. Wisdom leads to holiness, and foolishness leads to sin.
- d. Christ is our Savior, and Paul clearly calls Him God.
- e. Paul often said becoming a new believer was like being made into a new person. See also 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- f. These are Christians Paul wants Titus to avoid. We cannot avoid a world full of non-Christians.
- g. As Christ said, we know a tree by the fruit it produces. A continuing pattern of sinful arguing would show those who were sinful at heart.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. How should believers show thankfulness for their salvation?
2. If we disagree with specific laws in our country, are we free to disobey? Why or why not?
3. Before people meet Christ, what do their lives look like?
4. How does God change us when we become His children?
5. How do we get our salvation?
6. How do we receive the Holy Spirit? Why is it important to know we receive the Holy Spirit at our salvation?
7. How should we respond to knowing we have a hope of life that never ends?
8. How does believing in the grace of God change how we use our lives?
9. What should we do about people who waste the church's time with divisions and arguments?

BIBLE SKILL

In Titus 3:9-11, Paul wrote to Titus about what to do with church members who cause arguments in the church. In the past, churches used discipline to make sure their members did not stray into sin. Today, we do not use church discipline very often. We do not like putting people out of the church. Should we discipline church members? Read the verses below and note what we should do with people who continue to sin in our churches.

Matthew 18:15-17 _____

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 _____

Titus 3:9-11 _____

1 Corinthians 5:1-5 _____

IN MY CONTEXT

- Believers show their faith through godly actions.
- Salvation through faith in Christ leads believers to do good works.
- When believers avoid worthless arguments, they can focus on doing good works that honor God.

What are some ways your faith or beliefs influence your actions? What kinds of habits or attitudes should godly Deaf Christians show?

Think about the difference in the actions of a non-believer and the actions of a godly believer. How do your actions show the difference?

List with your group some topics people argue about in church. How do these arguments help or hurt the church? How can we graciously lead our church away from these arguments?

MEMORY VERSE

Our people must learn to use their lives for doing good deeds to provide what is necessary so that their lives will not be useless.

– Titus 3:14

DAY ONE

Read Titus 3:1-2, searching for how Christians show their faith.

Paul wanted Titus to remind the Christians in Crete to respect all people, even non-Christians. During the first century, most people who worked for the Roman government were not believers. Some even persecuted Christians. Paul told believers to respect and obey government rulers, even if they were wrong. In their churches and in the cities where they lived, believers needed to treat all people with kindness. They needed to live in peace and always do good things.

Today people watch what Christians do. When we work well with others, live in peace with our neighbors, and are good citizens, we show our faith. We must tell people about our beliefs, of course, but our actions show our faith, too.

Our love of God should influence how we talk. Our salvation should lead us to forgive others and to be kind. Our belief that God loves all people must influence our relationships with friends and strangers. We are children of the King. This pushes us to serve, help, and encourage everyone around us. In this way, even non-believers cannot criticize Jesus because of our actions.

When you disagree with people, how can your words and attitudes show that you love God and people?

DAY TWO

Read Titus 3:3, finding what life before Christ is like.

Paul wrote about how we lived before we knew Christ. We refused to obey God. We sinned and did not think about God. We had the wrong ideas about what it meant to be a person or how to have relationships with other people. We were slaves to many different sins. We enjoyed things that were wrong, and our sin left us separated from God and separated from the people around us.

In Acts 22, Paul told his story of who he was before he met Christ. Paul told his testimony again in Galatians 1. Both times, he wrote how his past sins hurt people and went against God's plans. Sin hurts us, and sin hurts those around us. Sin makes God sad and angry.

Paul tried to please God by obeying the Jewish laws. He sinned even though he was working very hard to obey. Before we knew Christ, our actions were sinful. Like Paul, even our good acts did not please God because we did not act in obedience to His commands. How can we possibly know Him and remove all our sins if our hearts are sinful? The only answer to that question is that Jesus makes it possible.

What was your life like before you decided to trust Christ? How did your life change?

DAY THREE

Read Titus 3:4-7, looking for how a person is saved.

Verses 4 and 5 are a beautiful summary of the gospel message. God saved us from our sins because of His great kindness and love. He had mercy on us even though we were sinners. He washed us through the Holy Spirit. Washing us did more than clean us. He made us into new people.

We are not good enough for His salvation. We do not deserve it. As Paul wrote, our good works do not earn us salvation. Our actions cannot take away our sins or make us good enough for God to save us. We cannot punish ourselves or suffer enough on earth to pay for our sins. The only way to salvation from our sins and into the hope of a new life is belief in Christ.

When we become new people in Christ, God lives in us through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit guides us to live in godly ways, helping us do good works. Our good works do not save us. Our good works show we are thankful for Christ's death and sacrifice. We have a responsibility to have lives filled with good works. We must show our love for Christ to the rest of the world.

What changes can you make in how you show Christ you are thankful for your salvation?

DAY FOUR

Read Titus 3:8, underlining what leads to right behavior.

In Titus 3:1, Paul said to remind believers. This means they knew but perhaps needed some help remembering. Part of teaching the Bible is reminding one another of what we believe. Titus needed to make sure the people knew and understood the basic truths Paul talked about in verses 1-7.

Paul said believing the right things would lead to the right behavior. If the people understood the truth of God's grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, they would spend their lives working for good. Right ideas would lead to right behavior.

Throughout 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus, Paul often wrote about the need to rely on correct teaching. We must have the right ideas about God and ourselves. Then we can become what God wants. Wrong ideas and useless debates have no place in the church of God. They do not lead us to the right actions and attitudes. Correct doctrine and theology from the Bible taught through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, will lead us to correct behavior, words, and attitudes.

How can true biblical ideas lead you to live the way God wants you to live?

KEY DOCTRINE: *Salvation*

Salvation comes to us as God's free gift. We cannot earn salvation by the good things we do. However, in God's plan, salvation leads to good works. It is not right for a saved person to live like a non-saved person. Therefore, believers live in right and holy ways. Believers grow into a life of kindness and gentleness. This way of life is a result of God's Spirit living in us. (See Gal. 5:22-23.) When someone claims to be a believer but his or her life does not show Christ, then something is terribly wrong.

DAY FIVE

Read Titus 3:9-11, thinking about what arguments can do to the life of a church.

Paul also said to avoid time-wasting arguments in church. We should not debate topics which do not build a healthy, holy church. Paul repeated this idea in 1 Timothy 1:4, 1 Timothy 6:4, 2 Timothy 2:23, and Titus 1:14. Debating these useless topics would help no one and accomplish nothing. The debates might even lead to wrong ideas and wrong behavior.

Paul told Titus to offer two warnings to the people arguing. After the second warning, the church people should avoid them. While this seems like a strong response, we must remember that arguing about wrong ideas would lead people down a wrong path. As some people went the wrong way and others went the right way, the church would split.

As Deaf Christians meet to worship, they naturally discuss topics important to them. Chatting about interpreters, politics, ASL issues, and events at the Deaf school is normal. We help each other walk carefully through life when we discuss important ideas. However, when these topics become too important to the church, they distract us. We stop focusing on the Bible and begin wasting time on things that are not important. We too must pay attention to this warning from Paul.

What are some important social topics you discuss at church? How can you make sure these ideas do not replace biblical teaching?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from Titus 3:1-11. Meet with one or two members from your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

List some godly actions you do weekly outside the church. How do these actions show your faith in Christ to other people?

How does becoming a Christian change your behavior?

List kinds of arguments that harm the life of the church. What are some topics that you and your group need to give up? How will this help you concentrate on honoring God?

Lord Je'-sus Christ, *which* is our hope;
2 Unto *Tim'-o-thy, *my* own son in the
faith: *Grace, mercy, and peace, from God
Father and Je'-sus Christ our Lord.

Teach No Other Doctrine

3 ¶ As I besought thee to abide still at Eph'e-
sus; *when I went into Ma'e-do'-ni-a, that
thou mightest charge some, that they teach
no other doctrine;

4 Neither give heed to fables and endless
genealogies, which minister questions, rather
than godly edifying which is in faith: *so do*.

5 ¶ Now the end of the commandment is
charity, out of a pure heart, and of a good con-
science, and of faith unfeigned:

6 From which some having swerved have
turned aside unto *vain jangling*;

7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; *under-
standing neither what they say, nor whereof
they affirm.

8 But we know that *the law is good*, if a
man use it lawfully;

9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for
a righteous man, but for the lawless and dis-
obedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for

Titus 1:1
Gal. 1:3, 2 Tim
1:2, 1 Pet. 1:2
Eph. 4:17, Phi
1:11 These
1:14
1:15
1:16 ch. 4:7
4:20, 2 Tim
2:14, 16, 23, Titus
3:14, 9:7
1 Ch. 6:4
11:8 Rom.
13:3, 10, Gal.
3:12
2 Tim. 2:22
1:16 ch. 4:12, 20
1:18 Rom. 7:32
1:19 Gal. 3:17
3:23
1:20 ch. 4:12
2:18, 4:3, 19
1:9, 2:1
1:11 ch. 4:16
1:14, 2:7, 1 Cor.
9:19, Gal. 2:7
Col. 1:25
1 Thess. 2:1
2 Tim. 1:11
Titus 1:1
1:12 2 Cor. 12:4
1:1 Cor. 7:25
1:2 Cor. 3:14
Act. 1:20, 1:25
1:13 Act. 2:1
1:1, 1 Cor. 15:1
Phi. 3:1
1 Luke 22:32

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1:1 Some people deny that Paul wrote 1 Timothy. This raises significant issues for their view of the reliability of the Scrip-

1:9-14 The

LEADER HELPS

As the leader of the group, you can build disciples through the group Bible study time, encouraging daily Bible engagement, and by facilitating smaller groups.

Building Disciples through the Group Time

Each week, you will introduce the group to the Bible passage, examine the key message in that passage, and challenge the group to act on that passage. Doing so requires preparation. Here is a way to prepare that gives you adequate time to study the lesson and will make the session fresh in your own life.

Early in the Week (Sunday or Monday)

- Ask God to open your mind and heart to His Word as you study.
- Study the Bible passage.
- Pay careful attention to the In My Context section for that session, looking for ways you need to apply the Bible in your own life.

Through the Week

- Ask God to direct your creation of the group plan.
- Create a group plan, adapting the group plans to fit the needs of your group. (Consult *QuickSource* and the weekly Extra post for additional ideas Blog.LifeWay.com/ExploretheBible/Adults/LeaderExtras).
- Complete the Daily Exploration activities in the days leading up to the group time.
- Meet with a group of three to four other teachers to share and pray for each other. Use Connect and Share to start your conversation.
- Create your own using Visual Ideas on pages 144-145).

The Day of the Group Study Time

- Arrive early.
- Pray for the study and the group members.
- Lead the study, adjusting as you go.

After the Group Study Time

- Contact all group members, encouraging them to complete the Daily Exploration section and sharing gathered prayer requests.
- Record insights gained about teaching, group members, and Scripture.
- Do it all again.

Building Disciples by Encouraging Daily Bible Engagement

- Encourage everyone on your ministry list (class roll, membership list, etc.) to engage daily in Bible study. Here are some ways to encourage your group to engage with the Bible daily.
- Ask them. Learn to comfortably ask if group members are studying the Bible. You may want to use a statement such as, "I hope you took a look at the Day 3 activity for this week."
- Tell them. Let them know that you are using the Daily Exploration section as well. Set the standard.
- Show them. Point to the Daily Exploration section at the conclusion of the group study. From time to time, demonstrate how to use the section, guiding them through Day 1 as a group.

- Invite them. Call on volunteers to share with the group what they are learning and how they use the Daily Exploration section.

Building Disciples through Smaller Groups

At the end of every session, you will find a section entitled Connect and Share. This section is designed for smaller groups of three to four people to meet weekly, holding each other accountable for living a Christ-honoring life.

Create smaller groups:

- Allow group members to form their own initial groups of three by gender (men's smaller groups and women's smaller groups)
- Allow groups to add one person from the names on the ministry list of people who are not present.
- You may want to encourage the groups to form based on neighborhoods or proximity to work.
- Make sure some of the groups have extra space for new group members and guests.
- As the Bible study group grows, you may need to reorganize the smaller groups, but try not to regroup too often so that trust can be built within each smaller group.

Support the smaller groups:

- Provide opportunities for the members of the smaller groups to pray with each other during the group time.
- Make study assignments in the weekly group time based on the smaller groups.
- Pre-enlist a volunteer to share with the larger group how participation in the smaller group is impacting his or her life.
- Periodically organize fellowship events built around the smaller groups. The smaller groups could be the basis for teams during the event.
- Be in a smaller group as well. You may even want to host a smaller group for guests and new group members.

ENTRUSTED

1 Timothy 1:3-17

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members. Pray they will understand the responsibility believers have to share the true gospel message.

ENLIST a group member to study the introduction to the Books of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus and summarize it for the class.

WRITE the outline on the board.

ENLIST a volunteer to be prepared to sign the story of the three servants from Matthew 25:14-18 for the group session.

PREPARE to answer questions members might have from the daily readings for last week.

FOCUS ATTENTION

INVITE the volunteer to share the introduction to the Books of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus with the group.

EXPLAIN: *Today's session is about the responsibility God gives to all Christians. The word "entrust" (the title of our session) means to give a job or responsibility to someone else. The person who gives that job trusts the other to do the job well. One example of this idea is in Matthew 25. **CALL ON** the volunteer to sign the story of the three servants.*

ASK: *When the master came back, how do you think he felt about the servants who earned more gold? How did he feel about the one who buried the gold?*

God has entrusted us with something more valuable than gold.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Accountable (1 Tim. 1:3-7)

ASK: *What does it mean to be accountable?* Discuss the information about teaching and accountability for staying on topic from the introduction to Session 1 (p. 11). **EXPLAIN:** Some of the teachers in Ephesus were off topic. They were not teaching the truth of the gospel. Paul wanted Timothy to keep them accountable. **SIGN** 1 Timothy 1:3-7. **ASK:** *What topics did the teachers talk about? Why did Paul tell Timothy to command them to stop teaching false things?*

EXPLAIN: *Believers are responsible to teach the truth of the gospel message. We are accountable to God to do it in the right way. Some of the teachers in Ephesus focused on the law instead of the gospel, and they did not understand the purpose of the law.*

2. Only Jesus Saves (1 Tim. 1:8-11)

SIGN 1 Timothy 1:8-11. **EXPLAIN:** *In these verses Paul reminds Timothy how the law helps people understand they are sinners. In Paul's letter to the Romans he told them the law is holy, right, and good (Romans 7:12). However, the law cannot save people. Only Jesus can save us through His grace. Ask members to find Galatians 1:8-9 in their Bibles. In these verses Paul warned the Galatians to watch out for false teaching.*

3. Responding to God's Grace (1 Tim. 1:12-17)

EXPLAIN: *Paul experienced God's grace.* **ASK:** *What do you remember about Paul's life before he followed Jesus? (He was a Jew who followed the law closely. He was against Jesus and Christians.)*

SIGN 1 Timothy 1:12-17. **ASK:** *How did Paul describe his experience with God? (He talked about God's mercy toward him, God's grace and patience. Paul was thankful.) How was his life an example to others?*

DISCUSS the questions from Explore the Text for this session (p. 13).

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points from In My Context (p. 14). **DISCUSS** the questions. Encourage members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share. Close with prayer. **ASK** God to help us be faithful to the true gospel message.

ON MISSION

1 Timothy 2:1-15

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members. Pray they will grow in their desire to tell others about the gospel message.

WRITE the outline on the board.

PREPARE to answer questions members might have from the daily readings for last week.

ENLIST a volunteer to be ready to sign Matthew 28:18-20 for the group session.

WRITE the following questions on three pieces of paper (one question per paper): 1) Why should we pray for other people? Who should we pray for? 2) What characteristics should a godly leader in the church have? 3) How can women serve in the church?

FOCUS ATTENTION

SHARE the following story: Jane was ready to go to school on a cold day. Her mother told her to put on a coat. Jane did not want to wear a coat. Jane's mother said, "If you don't wear a coat, people will think I am a bad mother!" **ASK:** *Did your mother ever say something like this to you? What did she mean?*

In a similar way, our actions as believers can help non-believers think about God in a positive or negative way. When we behave in wrong ways, others do not learn about God's love. When we behave in godly ways, we help others see God in a positive way.

EXPLAIN: *In today's session we will look at Paul's instructions for the church (believers). The church has a big responsibility.* **CALL ON** the volunteer to sign Matthew 28:18-20. Paul taught practical ways for us to begin the work of reaching others with the good news of Christ.

CREATE three smaller groups. **GIVE** each group one of the three questions. **DIRECT** the groups to discuss answers to the questions while

remembering Matthew 28:18-20. Allow five minutes for discussion then come back together as a group.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Through Prayer (1 Tim. 2:1-7)

INVITE group 1 to share the answers to their question. **SIGN** 1 Timothy 2:1-7. Compare the group's answers to what Paul said. **DISCUSS** questions 1-5 from Explore the Text (p. 21).

2. Godly Men Lead (1 Tim. 2:8)

INVITE group 2 to share the answers to their question. **SIGN** 1 Timothy 2:8. **EXPLAIN:** *Godly men (like the men group 2 described) should set an example in the church. One of the ways they should lead is in prayer. Their lives should be holy so their prayers will be holy.*

ASK: *Do people have to raise their hands when they pray? Deaf people use their hands to communicate their prayers. We know we can pray standing, sitting, or lying down. The point is that the prayers come from a holy life.*

3. Godly Women Support the Church (1 Tim. 2:9-15)

INVITE group 3 to share the answers to their question. **SIGN** 1 Timothy 2:9-15. Paul emphasized how women should dress and behave in church. **ASK:** *Why is it important for women to dress in a proper way? How would you describe "proper"? What does it mean in different cultures? Remember, when we come together for worship, we should help each other focus on God and His message. If men are arguing or women are focused on clothes and jewelry, it will hurt our worship. **ASK:** *How can we encourage each other to worship?**

DISCUSS questions 7 through 9 from Explore the Text for this session (p. 21).

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points from In My Context (p. 22). **REMIND** members that our actions can help others see Jesus. (See John 15:8.) Discuss the questions. Encourage members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share. Close with prayer. Ask God to help our lives show the world how wonderful He is.

SETTING THE EXAMPLE

1 Timothy 3:1-13

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members. Pray they will eagerly support and pray for their church leaders.

ENLIST a volunteer to prepare to sign the story in Acts 6:1-6. They will sign the story during the session.

WRITE the passage outline on the board.

PREPARE to answer questions members might have from the daily readings for last week.

FOCUS ATTENTION

ASK: *When parents want their child to play a sport, what kind of coach do they want for the team? (Some characteristics might include: know a lot about the sport, able to teach the children how to play well, honest, encouraging, positive, etc.) Why are those characteristics important? (The coach will influence the children and set an example for them. Parents want children to have a good experience.)*

EXPLAIN: *In the same way, churches need good leaders. In today's session we will see what characteristics church leaders should have.*

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. A Pastor's Heart (1 Tim. 3:1)

SIGN 1 Timothy 3:1. **EXPLAIN:** *The word overseer means pastor. Some Bible translations use the word supervisor or elder. The idea is the leader of the church. Paul said the job of a pastor is a good work.* **ASK:** *Why do you think it is a good work?* **DISCUSS.**

Often men who want to become pastors feel strongly that God wants them to do this work. They may say God has called them to serve God in this way. Truly God calls all believers to serve Him and His church.

ASK: *What are some ways believers can serve the church?*

2. A Pastor's Character (1 Tim. 3:2-7)

EXPLAIN: *When a man desires the position of pastor, the church has a responsibility. They must see if the man has good character and if his life sets the right example. Paul listed qualities the pastor should have. **INVITE** a volunteer to sign verse 2. **ASK:** *What does "not give people a reason to criticize him" mean? One example of this could be: if a woman needed a ride to church, it would not be wise for the pastor to go alone to her house and pick her up. Others could suspect he is doing wrong things and blame him.**

INVITE another volunteer to sign verses 3-5. **DISCUSS** the characteristics listed. **ASK:** *Why is the pastor's family important?*

INVITE a third volunteer to sign verses 6-7. **ASK:** *Why should the pastor not be a new believer? Why is respect from the community important?*

3. A Deacon's Character (1 Tim. 3:8-13)

CALL ON the volunteer to sign the story from Acts 6:1-6. **EXPLAIN:** *This story is a good example of the work of service that deacons do. Their service supports the church and allows the pastor to focus on his work.*

SIGN verses 8-10 and **DISCUSS** the characteristics listed. **SIGN** verse 11. **EXPLAIN:** *Some Bible teachers believe this verse is talking about the deacon's wife. Other teachers believe it is talking about women who serve as deacons. The important thing is that women leaders should live in a right way. Their lives should bring honor to God in the same way as the men leaders.*

SIGN verses 12-13. **LEAD** the group to discuss the qualities listed. Compare the qualities of a deacon with the qualities of a pastor.

DISCUSS question 2 from Explore the Text (p. 29).

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points from In My Context (p. 30). **DISCUSS** the questions. Encourage members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share. **CLOSE** with prayer. **ASK** God to help all church members desire to serve the church in the way He wants.

STAYING ON COURSE

1 Timothy 4:1-13

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members. Pray they will understand God's truth and reject false teaching.

ENLIST a volunteer to be prepared to share the introduction to the session from the personal study guide.

READ Day Two in the daily readings for this week. Be ready to share information about the Gnostic teaching from the reading.

PREPARE to answer questions members might have from the daily readings for last week.

FOCUS ATTENTION

ASK the volunteer to share the information from the introduction with the group. **DISCUSS** how the Bible is the playbook for Christian living.

EXPLAIN: *If we do not know what is in the playbook for our lives, we will not know how to live in the right way. People will be able to trick us into doing wrong. In today's session we will see Paul's warning about false teachers and his encouragement for godly living.*

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Be Aware (1 Tim. 4:1-5)

EXPLAIN the information about the Gnostics from the Day Two reading. Gnostics were the false teachers Paul talked about in the following verses. **SIGN** 1 Timothy 4:1-5. **LEAD** the group to discuss questions 1-4 from Explore the Text (p. 37).

EXPLAIN: *People in banks and places that work with money must be able to recognize fake bills. You might think they practice by looking at fake money. But that is not the way they learn. They practice by studying real bills. They know what real bills feel like and look like. They know the bills so well that when they see a fake bill they recognize it quickly.*

In the same way, believers must study the Bible so they will know the truth. The Holy Spirit lives in us also. The Holy Spirit will help us remember what we have learned. When someone teaches wrong ideas, the Bible and the Holy Spirit will help us know the truth.

2. Be Disciplined (1 Tim. 4:6-10)

ASK: *What does it mean to be disciplined?* The sign we use for discipline comes from the sign for practice or train. We must train ourselves in Christian living. **INVITE** a volunteer to sign 1 Timothy 4:6-10. **LEAD** the group to discuss questions 5-7 from Explore the Text (p. 37).

ASK: *What things distract believers from studying our Bibles? Do we spend more time on our phones or watching TV than finding ways to serve God? How can we encourage each other to live better?*

3. Be an Example (1 Tim. 4:11-13)

SIGN 1 Timothy 4:11-13. Direct the group to look at verse 12 in their books. Paul asked Timothy to be an example in actions, love, faith, and a pure life. **ASK:** How should we love each other? What does true faith look like? How would we describe a pure life?

LEAD the group to discuss questions 8 and 9 from Explore the Text (p. 37).

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points from In My Context (p. 38). **DISCUSS** the questions. **ENCOURAGE** members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share. **CLOSE** with prayer. Ask God to give us a hunger for the Word.

BEING RESPONSIBLE

1 Timothy 5:1-8,17-21

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members. Pray that God will touch their hearts to minister to others who need help.

ENLIST a volunteer to be prepared to sign Romans 12:10. **ENLIST** another volunteer to be prepared to sign John 13:34-35.

PREPARE to answer questions members might have from the daily readings for last week.

FOCUS ATTENTION

EXPLAIN: *God calls all different kinds of people to follow Him. He calls men and women, young and old, all different races and backgrounds. Some believers have a college education, some have little education. Some are rich, others struggle to pay bills. Whatever our differences, God expects us to love each other. Jesus told His disciples to love each other like He loved them. Their love for each other would cause others to know they followed Jesus (John 13:34-35). In our session today, we will learn more about how believers should treat each other.*

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Respect All (1 Tim. 5:1-2)

SIGN 1 Timothy 5:1-2. **ASK:** *As you read the verses, what did you picture in your mind? Did you see a family? Paul encouraged us to treat each other as family. **DISCUSS** questions 1-3 from Explore the Text (p. 45).*

If members of the group attended a school for the Deaf, ask them to share their experience. **ASK:** *Did it feel like family at the school? Did different ages cooperate well? Why or why not?*

CALL ON the volunteer to sign Romans 12:10. **ASK:** *How can we honor others? What does it mean?*

CALL ON the other volunteer to sign John 13:34-35. **ASK:** *Why is it so important for us to love each other?*

2. Care for Widows (1 Tim. 5:3-8)

SIGN 1 Timothy 5:3-8. **EXPLAIN:** Notice in verse 7 the same idea we talked about last week. Believers should not do things that give others a reason to criticize them. We should act in a way that honors God.

DIRECT the group to find James 1:27 in their Bibles. **CALL FOR** a volunteer to sign the verse. **EXPLAIN:** *James also taught that believers should help people who are alone and do not have family to help them.*

GUIDE a discussion of questions 4 and 5 from Explore the Text (p. 45).

DISCUSS ways your church can help members who do not have family to help them.

3. Care for Pastors (1 Tim. 5:17-21)

In the next group of verses, Paul explains how to care for the pastor of the church. **SIGN** 1 Timothy 5:17-21. **ASK:** *What are the ways Paul encouraged churches to care for pastors?* Discussion should include: support for pastors financially, showing respect and honor for pastors, helping pastors who are caught in sin. **LEAD** the group to discuss questions 6-9 from Explore the Text (p. 45).

In many churches today, pastors work as bi-vocational pastors. This means they work another job in addition to working in the church. Usually this is because the church is small and cannot provide a full-time salary. In this situation, members can support their pastor by understanding the time limits the pastor may have because of the two jobs they do.

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points of the session and discuss the questions from In My Context (p. 46). **ENCOURAGE** members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share. **CLOSE** with prayer, thanking Him for giving us a Christian family.

LASTING INVESTMENTS

1 Timothy 6:6-19

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members.

ENLIST a volunteer to be ready to sign the story from Matthew 6:19-24. They will sign it for the group session.

ENLIST another volunteer to study the information about stewardship in the Key Doctrine in the Personal Study Guide (p. 57). They will share this information during the session.

PREPARE to answer questions members might have from the daily readings for last week.

FOCUS ATTENTION

INVITE the volunteer to sign Matthew 6:19-24. **ASK:** *What does it mean to have treasure in heaven?* **SIGN** verse 21 again. **ASK:** *Where should our hearts be?* **DISCUSS** the information from the introduction to the session in the Personal Study Guide (p. 51). **ASK:** *What does "motivation" mean? It is the desire to do something—the reason behind what a person does. For example, if I love money, my reason for working will be to have more money. If I love God and desire to please Him, my reason for working will be to honor Him through my work day.*

EXPLAIN: *In today's session we will talk about how believers should think about money and wealth. We will also discuss where our contentment comes from.*

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. True Contentment (1 Tim. 6:6-10)

DIRECT a volunteer to sign 1 Timothy 6:6-10. **DISCUSS** questions 1-5 from Explore the Text (p. 53). **ASK:** *Why is it difficult to be satisfied with what we have?* **GUIDE** members to find Philippians 4:11-13. **EXPLAIN:** *In these verses Paul explained how he could be happy in any situation. When he said he could do all things through Christ, what did he mean? (Some people mean we*

can do anything we decide to do because God will give us the ability. In the context, it means we can be happy in any situation—rich or poor—because we have strength from Christ in us. We can do the things He calls us to do.)

2. True Riches (1 Tim. 6:11-16)

SIGN 1 Timothy 6:11-16. **ASK:** What did Paul want Timothy to run away from? Does this apply to all Christians? What should our lives show instead of a love for money? (Right living, service to God, faith, love, patience, and gentleness)

EXPLAIN: In verse 12 Paul talked about the "good confession." He probably meant when Timothy was baptized. **ASK:** What does baptism communicate to others? When you were baptized, what did it mean to you? What do people expect from a person who says they follow Christ?

3. Stewards of Good Works (1 Tim. 6:17-19)

SIGN 1 Timothy 6:17-19. **EXPLAIN:** In these verses, Paul was not talking to people who loved money. He was talking to people who already have money. Remember, having money is not wrong. Loving money and desiring it more than God is the problem.

ASK: What did Paul expect from the believers who were rich? **DISCUSS** questions 8 and 9 from Explore the Text (p. 53).

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points of the session from In My Context (p. 54) and discuss the questions. **ENCOURAGE** members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share. **CLOSE** with prayer. Ask God to help us remember that all things belong to Him. Pray that we will be good managers of what He has given us.

CONFIDENCE

2 Timothy 1:3-14

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members. Pray they will trust God more in every situation in life.

ENLIST volunteers to be prepared to sign the verses in the sections below.

PREPARE to answer questions members might have from the daily readings for last week.

FOCUS ATTENTION

ASK: *Have any of you been punished for doing something good or right?*

EXPLAIN: *In the United States people have freedom of speech and freedom of religion. We can meet openly and worship God without fear. This is not true in all parts of the world. We have missionaries who teach the gospel in places that are not friendly to Christians. Some governments put Christians in prison just because of their faith.*

Paul was in prison when he wrote the second letter to Timothy. He was in prison because he believed in Jesus. He shared the good news boldly. He trusted in God and obeyed Him. In this letter he encouraged Timothy to be bold too.

ASK: *When you tell others about Jesus, how do you feel? Does it make you nervous? Is it easy to do, or is it difficult?* **DISCUSS** reasons we might be afraid to share the good news. **EXPLAIN:** *Now we will see what Paul said about trusting God in any situation.*

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Spiritual History (2 Tim. 1:3-5)

CALL ON a volunteer to sign 2 Timothy 1:3-5. **ASK:** *What does the word "invest" mean? In the financial world it means to put money into savings or buy something. A person does this expecting to earn interest. He expects his investment to do well.* **ASK:** *What does it mean to invest in*

someone spiritually? It means to spend time with them, teaching them about the Christian life. **ASK:** *Who invested in Timothy?*

2. Gifted (2 Tim. 1:6-7)

REMINDE members that when we make the decision to follow Christ, God gives us the Holy Spirit. **ENCOURAGE** them to watch for what Paul says about the Spirit as you **SIGN** 2 Timothy 1:6-7. **ASK** question 3 from Explore the Text (p. 61). Also **ASK:** *What does verse 7 say about the Spirit God gave us? How does the Holy Spirit help us?*

3. Unashamed (2 Tim. 1:8-12)

CALL ON a volunteer to sign 2 Timothy 1:8-12. These verses are full of good teaching. **USE** questions 4-9 from Explore the Text (p. 61) to lead a discussion about this section. **EMPHASIZE** how God's power through the Holy Spirit gave Paul the strength and confidence to do God's work.

4. Loyal (2 Tim. 1:13-14)

SIGN 2 Timothy 1:13-14. **ASK:** *How did Paul invest in Timothy?* He set an example. He taught the truth. He showed faith and the love of Christ. **ASK:** *What did Paul ask Timothy to do in these verses?* He asked Timothy to follow the pattern of the true teaching. Paul lived in a way that Timothy could follow.

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points of the session from In My Context (p. 62). **DISCUSS** the questions. **ENCOURAGE** members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share. **CLOSE** with prayer. Ask God to help us depend on Him more.

FOCUSED

2 Timothy 2:1-13

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members. Pray that God will give them opportunities to reach young Deaf people for Christ.

PREPARE three pieces of paper. On one, write: Soldier—2 Timothy 2:4. On the second, write: Athlete—2 Timothy 2:5. On the third, write: Farmer—2 Timothy 2:6. On all three, write: Compare this person to a Christian. What characteristics do they have that Christians should have?

PREPARE to answer questions members might have from the daily readings for last week.

FOCUS ATTENTION

SHARE: *In many Deaf churches today there are few young people. Most members are over forty years old.* **ASK:** *What will happen to the churches when the older people are gone? What will happen to the young Deaf people?*

EXPLAIN: *Paul wrote to Timothy about issues like this. He explained what the work would be like and how Timothy could get the strength to do the work. As we study today, think about what you can do to reach others.*

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Future Focused (2 Tim. 2:1-2)

SIGN 2 Timothy 2:1-2. **LEAD** the group to discuss questions 1-3 from Explore the Text (p. 69). **EXPLAIN:** *Last week we talked about investing in others. Paul emphasized how important it is to invest in future teachers and leaders. He said to find people Timothy could trust for this job.* **ASK:** *How can you know who to trust with your investment of time and teaching?*

2. Mission Focused (2 Tim. 2:3-7)

For this part of the study, **CREATE** three smaller groups. **GIVE** each group one of the papers you prepared. **EXPLAIN:** *Paul compared the work*

of a Christian to three pictures/roles. **READ** verses 3-7 together and discuss the role from your paper. **ALLOW** time for the smaller groups to discuss. After a few minutes, **BRING** the groups back together and **DIRECT** them to share their answers with the larger group.

ASK: *What do you think Paul meant in verse 7?* Often the lessons in the Bible are not easy. Christians sometimes skip those lessons because they are hard. Paul reminded Timothy that he had help. The Lord would help him. It is the same for us today. Christ lives in us through the Holy Spirit. He helps us to understand. We need to think on His Word, and He will make it clear to us (see John 14:26).

3. Christ Focused (2 Tim. 2:8-13)

INVITE a volunteer to sign 2 Timothy 2:8-10. **LEAD** the group to discuss questions 6-9 from Explore the Text (p. 69). Explain the idea of continuing through pain and suffering from the introduction of the lesson in the Personal Study Guide (p. 67).

EXPLAIN: *Many Bible teachers believe verses 11-13 are a song.* **INVITE** another volunteer to sign the verses. **DISCUSS** each line and focus on verse 13. It is important for us to remember God's faithfulness. He is always the same; we can always trust Him and His Word.

IN MY CONTEXT

At the beginning of the session we talked about the need to reach young Deaf people. What ideas came to mind for doing that?

REVIEW the main points of the session. **DISCUSS** the questions from In My Context (p. 70). **ENCOURAGE** members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share. **CLOSE** with prayer. Thank God for His faithfulness.

DILIGENT

2 Timothy 2:14-26

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members to focus on the truth of the Bible.

WRITE the outline on the board.

PREPARE to answer questions about the daily readings from last week.

FOCUS ATTENTION

EXPLAIN: *You may remember in Paul's first letter to Timothy, he warned about false teachers and false ideas (see 1 Timothy 1, 4, and 6). Apparently false teaching was a big problem in the early churches. In Paul's second letter he warns Timothy again about people teaching wrong ideas in the church. Paul also gave Timothy practical advice to help him face this problem.*

ASK: *Is false teaching still a problem in our world today? We can learn from Paul's letter how to deal with false ideas and false teachers. Before discussing the verses in 2 Timothy for today, **DIRECT** the group to take turns signing the verses from the Bible Skill (p. 77). **LEAD** the group to discuss what the verses say about the Bible.*

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Focus on True Teaching (2 Tim. 2:14-19)

SIGN 2 Timothy 2:14-19. **DISCUSS** questions 1-4 from Explore the Text (p. 77).

ASK: *Imagine if Paul wrote about you in the Bible. What would you want Paul to say about you? In 1 Timothy 1:20, Paul talked about Hymenaeus. Paul said his faith was shipwrecked. Paul mentioned Hymenaeus again in today's verses. He and Philetus left the true teaching. Their false teaching hurt other people's faith. **GUIDE** members to find 1 John 2:10 and Matthew 18:6 in their Bibles.*

ASK: *What do these verses say about leading others in the wrong way? How can we be sure we are leading others in the right way? How can we be workers who are not ashamed?*

2. How to be Useful (2 Tim. 2:20-22)

SIGN 2 Timothy 2:20-22. **EXPLAIN:** *Paul wanted God to use Timothy in a special way. He used a picture to communicate this idea. Paul talked about things in a home that have a special purpose.* **ASK:** *What kinds of people have a special purpose? What did Timothy need to do?* **LEAD** the group to discuss question 5 from Explore the Text (p. 77).

NOTICE in verse 22 Paul encouraged Timothy to “have faith, love, and peace, together with those who trust in the Lord from pure hearts.” Timothy was not supposed to do all this alone. Believers need each other. We need the support of our brothers and sisters. We encourage and strengthen each other.

3. The Right Response (2 Tim. 2:23-26)

GUIDE the group to watch for words that describe the kind of attitude Paul wanted Timothy to have as you sign 2 Timothy 2:23-26. **CALL** for the group to describe the attitude leaders should have when facing people who disagree. (Leaders should be kind, patient, and gentle. They should be good teachers.)

ASK: *Is it difficult to be kind and patient when others disagree with us?* Sometimes believers become frustrated with people who disagree with them. They are tricked into arguing about things that are not important. We must study God’s Word so we will know it well. That way when people disagree with us, we can kindly bring the focus back to God’s Word. We may have an opportunity to win them to Christ.

DISCUSS questions 6-9 from Explore the Text (p. 77).

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points of the session from In My Context (p. 78).

DISCUSS the questions. Encourage members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share. **CLOSE** with prayer thanking God for His Word, the Bible.

ENDURING

2 Timothy 3:12-17; 4:1-8

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members to grow in faith so they can continue to the end.

WRITE the outline on the board.

INVITE four volunteers to be prepared to sign the four sections of Scripture.

BE READY to answer questions about the daily readings from last week.

PREPARE a “go bag” that you would use in case of an emergency like a tornado. You could include a flashlight, bottled water, snacks, medicine, first-aid kit, and a blanket.

FOCUS ATTENTION

EXPLAIN: *Government agencies recommend people prepare for emergencies. Often they recommend putting together a “go bag” filled with things people would need. If preparing to go to a shelter during a tornado, you might need things like this (take items out of your bag and show them to the group).* **ASK:** *What other things would be good to pack?*

In the same way, believers must be prepared. Paul encouraged Timothy to be ready for persecution. Paul knew about persecution. He suffered many things because of his faith in Jesus. He wanted Timothy to be ready to face the future.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Persecution Coming (2 Tim. 3:12-13)

INVITE the volunteer to sign 2 Timothy 3:12-13. **DISCUSS** question 1 from Explore the Text (p. 85). **ASK** if they know of any stories about Christians suffering persecution.

ASK the group to find 1 Peter 4:12-14 in their Bibles. Peter said not to be surprised at the terrible trouble (persecution) facing Christians. **ASK:** *How did Peter say we should feel about suffering?*

INVITE the group to find 1 Peter 5:8-10 in their Bibles. Peter said Christians all over the world experience suffering. **ASK:** *How can Christians continue through suffering? (God will keep us strong.)*

2. Get Ready (2 Tim. 3:14-17)

INVITE the volunteer to sign 2 Timothy 3:14-17. **DISCUSS** questions 2-6 from Explore the Text (p. 85). **EXPLAIN:** *Paul encouraged Timothy to continue to follow the teaching from Scripture. Timothy's mother, grandmother, and Paul had taught him. He knew what was right. Then Paul explained the important jobs the Scripture does. It is able to prepare believers for whatever comes.*

The word inspire in verse 16 means "breathed out." It means God breathed the message to the people who wrote it down.

3. Preach His Word (2 Tim. 4:1-4)

INVITE the third volunteer to sign 2 Timothy 4:1-4. **DISCUSS** questions 7 and 8 from Explore the Text (p. 85). **EXPLAIN:** *In verse 1 Paul said he gave Timothy the command in the presence of God the Father and God the Son. This means his command had the support of God. It was a serious command. We also should be ready to preach the Word. We may never stand on a stage and preach. But each of us can share our testimony with another.*

FORM small groups of two or three. **DIRECT** each group to use the directions in the Bible Skill and practice sharing testimonies. When each person has had a chance to try, **CALL** the group back together.

4. Be Faithful to the End (2 Tim. 4:5-8)

INVITE the fourth volunteer to sign 2 Timothy 4:5-8. **EXPLAIN:** Paul was killed soon after he wrote this letter. He was able to continue in the faith to the end of his life. This is the goal for every believer.

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points of the session. **DISCUSS** the questions from In My Context (p. 86). **ENCOURAGE** members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share (p. 90). **PRAY**, asking God to help us all share the good news with boldness.

LIVING WITH OPPOSITION

Titus 1:1-5,10-16

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members to be bold witnesses for the truth.

FIND the Bible map located inside the back cover that shows the area where Crete is located.

WRITE the outline on the board.

PREPARE to answer questions about the daily readings from last week.

FOCUS ATTENTION

EXPLAIN: *Titus is another pastoral letter Paul wrote. Titus was a young pastor working on the island of Crete. (Show where Crete is on the map. See inside back cover.) As we study today's verses you may notice some of the same topics Paul talked about in his other letters. Different churches had similar issues. Today's churches have issues, too. It is important to face the issues and make our churches strong.*

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Servant's Heart (Titus 1:1-3)

SIGN Titus 1:1-3. Paul said he was a servant and an apostle. **ASK:** *What does it mean to be a servant? (Answers could include: a servant does what the master wants; it means someone else owns the servant.) Paul said God trusted him to do specific work. ASK: What was that work? How did Paul obey?*

ASK: *Do you think Christians today should do the same work Paul did? Guide the group to find Matthew 28:19-20 in their Bibles. ASK: How does this command apply to us?*

DISCUSS question 2 from Explore the Text (p. 93). **EXPLAIN:** *Verse 2 also says God cannot lie. Why do you think Paul said this? GUIDE the group to find Numbers 23:19 in their Bibles. INVITE a member to sign the verse.*

DISCUSS how knowing God's character helps believers to trust Him.

2. Purposeful Action (Titus 1:4-5)

ASK a volunteer to sign Titus 1:4-5. Discuss question 4 from Explore the Text (p. 93). **EXPLAIN:** *Paul started churches in Crete but was not able to stay long enough to choose leaders for the churches. He left Titus there to do the work. The churches needed good leaders to help make the churches strong. In verses 6-9 (not a part of our study today), Paul explained the characteristics of good leaders. The list is similar to what Paul wrote to Timothy.*

3. Opposition Addressed (Titus 1:10-16)

SIGN Titus 1:10-11. **LEAD** the group to discuss questions 5 and 6 from Explore the Text (p. 93). **EXPLAIN:** *Those who taught that a man must be circumcised and then become a Christian were called Judiazers. They caused problems in other areas too. The churches in Antioch (Acts 15:1) and Galatia (Gal. 6:12-13) faced this same problem.*

SIGN verses 12-14. **EXPLAIN:** *The words about the Cretans seem mean. Paul did not mean all Cretans were bad. He was talking about those teaching false ideas.* **LEAD** the group to discuss question 7 from Explore the Text (p. 93). **EXPLAIN:** *The purpose for correcting our fellow believers is always to make them stronger and to help the church.*

SIGN verses 15-16. **LEAD** the group to discuss questions 8 and 9 from Explore the Text (p. 93). **ASK:** *Why are the actions of believers important?* **NOTICE** Paul said the people claimed to believe in God but their actions showed the opposite. Our goal as believers should be to bring others to Christ. We will have more opportunity to do that if our actions show we believe in God. **ASK:** *What kinds of actions show our belief in God and His good news?*

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points of the session. **DISCUSS** the questions from In My Context (p. 94). **ENCOURAGE** members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share. **CLOSE** with prayer asking God for wisdom to know the truth.

LIVING WITH INTEGRITY

Titus 2:1-15

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members.

ENLIST two or three volunteers to help sign some of the verses in the session.

WRITE the outline on the board.

PREPARE to answer questions about the daily readings from last week.

FOCUS ATTENTION

USE the information from the introduction (p. 99) to start the session today. **LEAD** the group to discuss how soldiers represent the Army. It is important to understand how the actions of the soldier will influence others. If the soldier behaves in a good way, people will think the Army is good. If the soldier behaves in a bad way, people may think the Army is bad.

In the same way, people watch Christians. When we show God's love to others, they will think God is good and the Christian life is right. When we live the same as worldly people live, people will not see a need for God. **ASK** question 1 from Explore the Text (p. 101). As we study together today, watch for ways believers can make God look good to others.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Share the Truth (Titus 2:1)

INVITE a volunteer to sign Titus 2:1. **EXPLAIN:** *The verse begins with "But..." Paul connected Titus 1:16 to the command in Titus 2:1. Remember last week we talked about Paul's warning about false teaching.* **SIGN** Titus 1:16.

EXPLAIN: *Titus was to be different from the people described in verse 16.*

ASK: *What did Paul mean by "the true teaching"?*

2. Acting in a Godly Way (Titus 2:2-10)

SIGN Titus 2:2. **LEAD** the group to discuss question 2 from Explore the Text (p. 101). **ENCOURAGE** members to give examples of the different characteristics.

INVITE a volunteer to sign verses 3-5. **DISCUSS** questions 3 and 4 from Explore the Text (p. 101). Note that Paul expressed this idea in other verses—"no one will be able to criticize..." **ASK:** *Why is it important for believers to behave in a way so others cannot criticize them?*

SIGN verses 6-8. **LEAD** the group to discuss questions 5 and 6 from Explore the Text (p. 101).

SIGN verses 9-10. **LEAD** the group to discuss question 7 from Explore the Text (p. 101). Slavery was a part of life in Bible times. Paul did not say slavery was right or support it. He taught Christian slaves how to behave so others could be attracted to the Christian life.

3. Power for Right Living (Titus 2:11-14)

EXPLAIN: *The next verses give the reason behind all the instructions Paul gave in verses 2-10. The only reason Christians can have godly lives is because of the gospel. Jesus said we can do nothing without Him (John 15:5). Our power for living right comes from Him.* **ASK** a volunteer to sign Titus 2:11-14. **LEAD** the group to discuss questions 8 and 9 from Explore the Text (p. 101).

4. Authority (Titus 2:15)

SIGN Titus 2:15. **ASK:** *What does it mean to have authority?* It is having permission from someone in a higher position to do something. For example, when a pastor does a wedding, he usually announces the couple are "now husband and wife." He may say he has authority from God and from the state where he lives. This means he has permission to perform the wedding. **ASK:** *Where did Titus get his authority?* As Christians, we can share God's Word with authority. God entrusted us with the good news to share. We should be brave in teaching others about His love and salvation.

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points of the session. **DISCUSS** the questions from In My Context (p. 102). **ENCOURAGE** members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share. **CLOSE** with prayer, thanking God for trusting us to share His message with others.

LIVING TO DO

Titus 3:1-11

PLAN AHEAD

PRAY for group members to find joy in doing good works.

ENLIST two or three members to be ready to share their testimonies. Their testimonies should include 1) what their life was like before they became Christians, 2) how they met Christ, 3) and how their lives changed. They should keep the testimony under three minutes as we practiced a few weeks ago.

WRITE the outline on the board.

PREPARE to answer questions about the daily readings from last week.

FOCUS ATTENTION

Begin today's session with the testimonies from the three volunteers. After their testimonies, **EXPLAIN:** *God's salvation is a gift to us. We do not earn it. How can we show God we are thankful for His salvation? Our good actions are one way we can show God our thankful hearts. It is a form of worship.*

GUIDE the group to find Romans 12:1-2 in their Bibles. **INVITE** a volunteer to sign the verses. **EXPLAIN:** *Giving our lives to God is a way to worship Him. Our good works are a way to give thanks.*

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Good Deeds (Titus 3:1-2)

SIGN Titus 3:1-2. **LEAD** the group to discuss question 2 from Explore the Text (p. 109). **ASK:** *Why is it important to obey the laws in our country and state? (Obeying and cooperating with those in authority over us goes along with what Paul taught before. When we do right, people will not be able to criticize us. We will make God look good.)*

2. Because of His Mercy (Titus 3:3-7)

INVITE a volunteer to sign Titus 3:3-7. **LEAD** the group to discuss questions 3-7 from Explore the Text (p. 109).

REMIND the group that the word "hope" in verse 7 is used in a different way than we normally use the word. We often say things like, "I hope it will rain today" or "I hope I can go to the party tomorrow." In those sentences "hope" means we are not sure. That thing might happen or it might not. But our hope in eternal life is different. It is a sure thing. We KNOW we have a home in heaven. We KNOW we will be with Jesus forever there. It is a wonderful, confident knowledge, with no doubt.

3. Do Good on Purpose (Titus 3:8-11)

SIGN Titus 3:8. **EXPLAIN:** *In this verse, Paul emphasized the gospel message was a true teaching. He had warned about false teachers and their wrong teaching earlier in his letter. Now he wanted to be sure everyone understood the good news was true. They could trust this message they had believed.* **LEAD** the group to discuss question 8 from Explore the Text (p. 109).

SIGN Titus 3:9-11. **EXPLAIN:** *Several times we have seen Paul warn the believers to avoid arguments about foolish topics. What specific topics were problems in Crete? (Family histories and arguments about the law)*

ASK: *Why are these arguments a waste of time?* Remember, Scripture is full of topics that are helpful and worthy of our discussion. It will always be better to focus on the truth of God's Word than to spend time arguing.

LEAD the group to discuss question 9 from Explore the Text (p. 109).

ASK: *How can we avoid someone who is a part of our church?* We must be sure to communicate with them in a loving way the reason for our actions. We should also pray for them to learn and change their hearts.

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points of the session. **DISCUSS** the questions from In My Context (p. 110). **ENCOURAGE** members to do the daily readings this week and meet with someone for Connect and Share. **CLOSE** with prayer that our good works will be acceptable gifts of thanks to Him.

LEADER PACK

»» PACK ITEM 1

Map: The World of Paul, Timothy, and Titus

Sessions 1-13

Use the map on page 155 or locate a map in a Bible atlas that shows the locations of Ephesus and Crete.

»» PACK ITEM 2

Outlines of 1,2 Timothy; Titus

Sessions 1-13

Refer to the outline printed on page 7.

»» PACK ITEM 3

Poster: Metaphors in Paul's Letters

Sessions 2,8,9

Create a poster that defines metaphors and includes some of the metaphors Paul used in his letters (1 Tim. 2:5; 2 Tim. 2:3-6).

»» PACK ITEM 4

Poster: 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-9

Sessions 3,11

Create a poster that lists 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Circle the similar characteristics. Highlight the qualities that are unique to each letter.

»» PACK ITEM 5

Poster: First-Century Heresies

Sessions 1,4,9,10

Write on a board or create a poster that gives simple definitions of legalism, antinomianism, and gnosticism.

➤➤ **PACK ITEM 6**

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

Sessions 4,5,6,9,12

Create a poster that lists 2 Timothy 2:15: “Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.”

➤➤ **PACK ITEM 7**

Handout: 1,2 Timothy; Titus Time Line

Sessions 3,7,10

Locate a study Bible with a time line of the major people and events in 1,2 Timothy; Titus (from AD 5–AD 67). Use it as a reference during this study.

➤➤ **PACK ITEM 8**

Handout: Memory Verse Bookmark

Sessions 1-13

Make a list of these suggested memory verses to distribute to your group:

- 1 Timothy 1:15
- 1 Timothy 2:1
- 1 Timothy 3:13
- 1 Timothy 4:13
- 1 Timothy 5:25
- 1 Timothy 6:10
- 2 Timothy 1:12
- 2 Timothy 2:10
- 2 Timothy 2:15
- 2 Timothy 4:7
- Titus 1:2
- Titus 2:13
- Titus 3:14

➤➤ **PACK ITEM 9**

Handout: Models of Church Structure

Sessions 3,8,12,13

Make a handout that defines common roles in the church according to Scripture. Include deacons, elders/bishops, and pastors.

➤➤ **PACK ITEM 10**

Handout: Timothy: A Snapshot

Sessions 1,5,7,8

Use a Bible dictionary or commentary to review Timothy's background and his relationship with Paul.

➤➤ **PACK ITEM 11**

Handout: Titus: A Snapshot

Sessions 11,13

Use a Bible dictionary or commentary to review Titus's background and his relationship with Paul.

➤➤ **PACK ITEM 12**

Handout: Paul's Letters

Sessions 1,7,10,11

Create a chart that lists Paul's letters, his recipients, the dates written, and the theme of each letter. Paul's letters include Galatians, 1–2 Thessalonians, 1–2 Corinthians, Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians, 1–2 Timothy, and Titus.

➤➤ **PACK ITEM 13**

Handout: First-Century Heresies

Sessions 1,4,9,10

Use a Bible dictionary or commentary to create a handout that expounds on the information in Pack Item 5.

The World of Paul, Timothy, and Titus



1,2 Timothy; Titus

The Christian life is a life of blessing but comes with its share of challenges.

Whether the challenge is dealing with difficult people, confronting false

doctrinal teaching, or how to disciple another believer, Paul's letters

to Timothy and Titus leave no rock unturned. The apostle speaks

from seemingly every possible angle about the Christian life.

The Pastoral Letters resound with passion for the gospel,

priorities for church leadership, prescriptions against

false teaching, and practical guidelines for godly

living. These studies from 1,2 Timothy and Titus

tackle challenging issues with clarity and

provide helpful answers that will lead

you to have a better grasp of truth.

 **Explore**
the Bible.

Let the Word dwell in you.

The Promise of

18 But with thee
enant; and thou sh
thou, and thy sons, ar
wives with thee.

19 And of every livin
of every sort shalt thou
keep them alive with
and female.

20 Of fowls after the
ter their kind, of ever
earth after his kind,
come unto thee, to ke

here, and its meaning is
tions include "roof" or "t
then the text probably in
inches over the sides of
dow," then it refers to ar
four sides of the boat fro

6:17 Only after He com
did God tell him why it
a flood—a term used onl
all—destroying flood in No
earth shall die. The bibli
in Genesis 6–8 most nat
covered the entire globe.
this (2 Pet. 2:5, 3:6). That
dominant Christian unde
remains so today. Helen
explain the flood's impac
also tackle questions s
quired to flood the entire
pre-flood geography, so
have needed four times
the flood to cover the b
in the light some defen
ged that pre-flood ge
graphy. Specifically, the
was flatter in the preflo
to flood and that the voi
geographical and geolog
and approach, suggestin
ity is largely the same.
greater quantity of water
lost by an unknown mec
has greatly diminished a

6:18 The term **covenant**
ment between two part

6:19 Paul's presentation
of a part history of a
male and one female on