

WED NIGHT Small Group Discussion Guide

GABC

July 18, 2018

This passage of Scripture shows us how Paul the Apostle ministered to Timothy a discouraged pastor who needed someone to pick him up. Have you ever found yourself down and out? What was it about? How were you able to overcome that time in your life?

2 Timothy 1 (ESV) ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³ I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul refers to Timothy as his beloved child due to their deep relationship in which Paul has invested in Timothy as a son.
 - a. Who are some people who have done this for you over the years?
 - b. What impact did they have on your life?
 - c. How can we show more intentionality in investing in the next generation of church leaders?
2. Paul mentions that he thanks God with a clear conscience. How does the gospel of Jesus Christ allow us to sleep with a clear conscience?
3. How important is it to pray regularly for other believers? What are some tips you may give to someone who struggles to do this?

⁴ As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul mentions tears that Timothy had apparently shed. There was obviously some things in Timothy's life and ministry that had discouraged him. What are some ways we can find ourselves struggling emotionally over things that happen in our lives?
2. To comfort Timothy Paul first confirms his desire for Christian fellowship with him. How does being around other believers strengthen our faith fill us with joy?
3. Next Paul affirms Timothy's faith. He is showing Timothy that he trusts his ability to pull through whatever difficulty he is facing.
 - a. When we are struggling how important is the affirmation of those whom we look up to and respect? Do you make sure you help those around you by pointing out their faith?
4. Apparently the discouragement that Timothy had experienced had caused him to not continue to pursue his ministry the way that he had in the past.
 - a. How can discouragement keep us from the ministry God has called us? Think about the distractions, lack of confidence and other factors that come from discouragement.
 - b. Another factor was apparently fear on Timothy's part. How can knowing that God has given us a spirit of: Power, Love, Self-Control, help us get back on track after not being focused on our ministry?

WED NIGHT Small Group Discussion Guide

GABC

July 18, 2018

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹² which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul states clearly for Timothy and all who read this letter that he has no regrets in following Christ no matter the cost, and neither should anyone else. Can you point out a few reasons he gives to not be ashamed of the gospel?
2. How can this level of confidence in Christ's love for us and the power He has to transform our lives and all those who believe carry us through times of real pain and difficulty?
3. When is the last time you detailed out the ways that the gospel changes your life and the life of those around you? How can we make sure to not forget the power of God to carry us through each day?

¹³ Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. ¹⁵ You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, ¹⁷ but when he arrived in Rome he searched

for me earnestly and found me— ¹⁸ may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. This last section is Paul reminding Timothy that he is not facing these trials alone.
 - a. Verse 13 tells us that Paul has given him an example to follow by living out the gospel in front of Timothy. How can the life of those stronger than we are help us in our times of weakness? How much more can you learn by watching others walk through hard times than simply hearing a sermon on it?
 - b. Verse 14 reminds us that the Holy Spirit walks with us and gives us the strength we need to make it through challenges.
 - c. Verse 15 is Paul's way of sharing with Timothy that he isn't the only one who has struggles. Paul the great apostle even has those who desert him and leave him alone. How important is it for us to remember that God is not out to get us but that everyone who serves him finds times of difficulty?
 - d. Verses 16-18 are Paul's way of saying things aren't all bad. There are many who still serve the Lord faithfully and help him. How can someone else's positive outlook help us when we are stuck in a state of discouragement?
 - e. How can you help people in your life that are stuck and whose fire has dwindled down? What are some ways we can help each other to fan the flame of our love for God?