

Instructions

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and pick 3-5 questions to discuss, which pertain to your group's unique needs and style.

For the video related questions, look up the video in RightNow Media. You can do this on a phone, tablet, computer, or SmartTV device. You can easily find the video by clicking on the "Revolution Church" channel within the app. If you or a group member needs access to RightNow Media, email info@revolutionky.org.

Series Synopsis

Do you have a letter from someone close to you that you hold on to because its words remain important? Maybe it holds words of encouragement, affirmation, or even love? Maybe you go back to them on really bad days? They are special because they remain words to live by in all seasons of life and faith. The New Testament is full of letters written to churches and groups of believers, but did you know it also includes a few shorter letters to individuals as well? These letters give us a snapshot into the relationships among the early apostles and church planters and can reveal to us some important words to live by as faithful followers of Jesus Christ still today. Join us for this two-week series on 2 Timothy where we explore the words written by Paul to encourage his friend, Timothy to keep the faith in a very complicated world.

Message Synopsis

In the last two chapters of Paul's letter, he specifically warns Timothy of coming difficult days when people will be lovers of self and money, proud, brutal, not loving good, and "having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power" (3:5). He says people will find teachers to suit their own passions and will turn away from the truth. How should Timothy navigate this? By following Paul's example, studying Scripture, and continuing to preach the word. In this way Timothy can be ready in every season as God equips him for every good work.

Key Scriptures

2 Timothy 3:1-4:8

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. In the third chapter of 2 Timothy, Paul encourages Timothy to "continue in what he has learned and firmly believed" about the gospel from Paul, his mother and grandmother, and other traditions of his religious education. Who or what has instilled the faith in you over the years like Paul, Eunice, or Lois? Take a moment to celebrate them or to share a story about that person and what they mean to you.
2. What do you think are the most formative and powerful ways that we can continue the teaching and preaching of the true gospel today through our church community, homes, and neighborhoods? When have you seen a faith community do this well? And what are our greatest challenges right now?
3. It is easy to point to examples of where *other* people have turned away from "sound teaching" and to myths of their own echo chambers and liking. But are you ever tempted to do the same? What keeps you balanced, challenged in good ways, and "sober-minded" in those moments?
4. As we approach the season of Lent, what are you planning to do, begin, or let go of that can become an intentional time of preparation for you? Will you commit to praying for our church weekly, that it might be a time for our community to journey with Christ in preparation for what God has in store for us this spring?

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: “First Timothy – Session 14: True and False Christians” by Matt Moore (6 min)

(located in the “Renovation Group Bible Studies” channel)

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/370280?episode=14>

1. Take a moment to discuss this video freely. What stuck out to you? What bothered you? What questions did this raise for you? Even consider where and why your mind wandered as you watched, as it might reveal something of your heart or something of significance in the message.
2. The subject of this video is another letter from Paul to Timothy, but it has some very similar content. Read 1 Timothy chapter 6 alongside this week’s scripture passage (2 Timothy 3:1-4:8). What are the similarities between these two passages? What are the differences?
3. How does this passage enhance your understanding of this week’s teaching?
4. What are some of the false teachings you’ve heard in the name of Christianity? (Note, this is not a question about false *teachers* but about false *teachings* – you do not need to mention any names). How do you know they are false? If these teachings do not serve Christ and the Gospel, what (or whom) do they serve instead?
5. Both scripture passages warn against lovers of money, the ungrateful and conceited. What does this have to do with the dangers of false doctrine Paul warns of in the same passages? Why and how do these things lead to idolatry and false doctrine?
6. Think of the time and culture Paul was writing in and then consider where you fit in. Are you the rich in these passages? Explain. Pick one of these two scripture passages and consider it from the perspective of the rich, of Timothy, of the false teachers, of Paul, and any other roles you see addressed and put yourself in their place. What is the warning and instruction for each, and what can you take away personally that you need to be mindful of this week?

Family-Related Questions:

1. Watch the video “Be Prepared: Equipping Kids to Face Today’s World: Session 1 – Protect or Prepare?” at <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/506?episode=1> (34 minutes, found in the Renovation Group Bible Studies channel). What is the difference between protecting and preparing your kids to face the world?
2. What are the long-term dangers of sheltering your children? What are the benefits?
3. We are often quick to teach our kids to play defense in this life (we love to say “no”). How are you teaching your kids to play offense?
4. How do you see Paul preparing AND protecting Timothy together in this week’s scripture passage?
5. What are the biggest challenges you want your kids to be prepared for in this world? Can you truly shelter them from these challenges? How are you or could you be preparing them to face these things well?