

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, please 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

As Paul was awaiting execution, the end of his ministry, and even the abandonment of some of his former friends, he writes a letter to his dear friend, Timothy, to encourage him in his own faith. This was a very personal letter, written to one Paul considered his "spiritual son." And this was his last chance to remind him of who he was, to not be afraid, and to not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Key Scriptures

2 Timothy 1:1-14, 2:22-26

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. Paul and Timothy had a unique relationship: spiritual father and son, teacher and student, mentor and mentee in the faith. They were companions that worked side by side for the sake of the gospel. Who has been like Paul in your life, working as a spiritual mentor? Whose words and example do you still strive to live by?
2. It has been said that we should all strive to be both mentored by someone in the faith and also to mentor someone else. To, not only, have a Paul or a Rebecca in our lives, but also a Timothy or a Mary. Are you currently mentoring or discipling anyone else in the faith? Do you know who that could be? And if not, what is holding you back?
3. Has there ever been a time when you were ashamed of the gospel, or ashamed to be known as a Christian? What was the situation? How did you navigate it? And how have you grown because of it?
4. Chapter 2 of 2 Timothy has many directives regarding speech; avoid irreverent babble, have nothing to do with foolish and ignorant controversies, do not be quarrelsome but be kind to everyone, and correct your opponents with gentleness.

- a. What could this sort of life and behavior look like today?
- b. How could this impact our witness right now?
- c. How could it set us apart from others who seek to destroy and tear down with their speech, even those who claim the name of Christ?
- d. And who ultimately is the agent of change and repentance (2 Timothy 2:25-26)?
- e. What difference does this knowledge make in how we approach tense conversations about faith and truth?

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: “Bold – Session 4: Unchained” by Phil Stacey (11 min)

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

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/192412?episode=4>

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. What are the obstacles standing in the way of you living your calling and sharing your faith? What are your go-to excuses? Why do you think this is so?
3. What part of your lifestyle (what you let in) is fueling your fear?
4. How can you begin to overcome these obstacles to live boldly and unashamed of your identity, call, and beliefs?
5. What do you think about “sloppy evangelism”? Where is the line between this and Peter’s admonition to “Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.” (1 Peter 3:15)
6. What “difficult answers” to your faith do you struggle to share with others because they are not popular or politically correct? What questions are you afraid you won’t know the right answers to? What would happen if you offended someone or got it wrong? What would happen if you didn’t answer at all?
7. Read this week’s Scripture passage together. What obstacles do you think Timothy was facing in his ministry (you may want to consult a study bible or commentary for insight)? How do Paul’s words of encouragement to Timothy speak to you and your obstacles today?
8. How can your group hold you accountable and encourage you to overcome these obstacles and live out your faith unashamed?

Family-Related Questions:

1. How do your children feel about their faith – about *your* faith? Does it embarrass them or is it something they’re proud of? Why is that?
2. What do you think your children are learning from watching you share your faith? Do you see them assimilating to your attitudes and habits in this area (for better or worse)? If you desire more for them in this area, what can you do to help your family grow together in boldly living your faith before others?
3. Who are your kids’ mentors? Who do they look up to and try to model (good or bad)? How have you tried to influence this? How did it go?
4. Do your kids witness you looking to mentors in your life? Do they know the role your small group plays in helping you grow and keeping you accountable? Or do they think you do it all on your own? What kind of example are you setting in this way?