



MM

MENTOR ME



My beloved Timothy.

Fight the good fight, guard the deposit entrusted to you, pass on what you have learned to faithful people, and preach the Word at any cost.

Your Mentor,
Paul

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Welcome!

This study guide is intended to help us as a church work our way through a combined sermon/study series focused on 1 and 2 Timothy. Before we dive in, it is important to take a bit of time to understand the context for these books with a focus on thinking about how our own “world” is similar to what Paul and Timothy faced.

The People

These letters are set amid a deep friendship. Paul had the charge of carrying the gospel of Jesus -his birth, death and resurrection - to the world outside of Israel. His singular focus was to give people the chance to devote their lives to Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Paul thought of the Gospel as a “deposit” that he was entrusted with and needed to carry to others.

In executing his mission, Paul had to embark on long journeys throughout modern Europe and Asia - places like Athens, Rome, Ephesus and Corinth. As he travelled, he had co-workers join him to help meet his practical needs and to carry out working with local believers and new church families while Paul traveled on to other places. Timothy was a young man who, in the end, was one of Paul’s closest and most faithful partners.

Paul loved Timothy and embraced him like a father would embrace a son or daughter. One goal Paul had for Timothy was to help him become a leader - a leader that would continue on the mission to which Paul had devoted his life. 1 and 2 Timothy give us some insight as to how Paul focused on carrying out that dream he had for Timothy.

The Place

If you can grab a map, that would help. The Aegean Sea is a body of water on the north side of the Mediterranean Sea that is between Greece and Turkey. The area is full of small islands and large, cosmopolitan cities on its shores. Ephesus was a city on the east side of the sea directly across the water from Athens.

Ephesus would be similar to a modern large urban city (think Chicago or New York). Roughly 250,000 people lived there and they had large urban structures including a beautiful outdoor arena that could hold over 20,000 people and a large temple where they worshipped a goddess named Artemis. Her temple and statue are considered one of the “Seven Wonders of the Ancient World” and not only was this a place of their worship, but it also was a place of big business as it hosted people from around the whole region who came there to worship (and needed to buy stuff).

This was a location where Paul spent much time helping the local believers build a church that was important not only for itself, but served several churches that were located in the same general area. Throughout his time in Ephesus he was constantly having to battle false teaching from within the church and the cult practices around Artemis from the outside. The gospel was constantly under threat.



The setting of 2 Timothy C. A.D. 64-67
Paul likely wrote 2 Timothy during a second imprisonment in Rome following a fourth missionary journey which is not recorded in the book of Acts. Expecting that death would come soon, Paul wrote this “farewell” letter to Timothy, who was at Ephesus, urging him to stand firm and asking him to come for one final visit.

The Passion

This is looking ahead a bit, but just feel the emotion in Paul's voice as he writes this to Timothy while Paul was suffering in prison:

*"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."
2 Tim 1:12*

And Paul also saw that his days on this earth were coming to an end, so he also wrote this:

*"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."
2 Tim 4:1-2*

In a nutshell, that is the purpose and message of 1 and 2 Timothy. The gospel is the only hope for people as we all need Jesus as our Savior. Everything else the world can offer can't deliver that - try as it might. And that gospel message is carried from one generation to the next faithful generation who need to be mentored to step into that essential "keep the message" responsibility.

This Series

Over the next eight weeks, we at Trinity are going to plow our way through 1 and 2 Timothy with a focus on what it means for each one of us to be a leader and a learner in a church family on a journey together with Jesus. There are a ton of topics that are dealt with in these letters (one popular commentary written by Philip Towner is 886 pages!!) and we can't tackle all of that. Here is a quick overview of our focus:

- The Truth - Learners value truth, leaders protect it.
- The Chain - The greatest impact won't be a *what* but a *who*.
- The World - You either see through it or you become it.
- The Fight - Growing people grow people.
- The Family - Your life's purpose is bigger than you.
- The Home - The most important work you'll ever do will be within the walls of your own home.
- The Setback - When hope runs deep, there is no reason to fear the storm.
- The Finish - There are better things ahead than any we leave behind.

For each study we will start with a brief summary of what was the focus of the sermon you heard on Sunday. Our worship time together will be the place where the Bible will be taught around the topics listed above. With that introduction, the questions that follow are designed not so much around going back over the teaching of that lesson, but rather are intended to help us work together to apply that message to our lives so that we are very intentional about growing.

Let's pause here for just a moment.

No matter what your life circumstances are - you are always both a leader and a learner. Now that can look very different! But when we talk about the desire to grow we need to think about growing along both these dimensions. As a learner we want to be more like Jesus and face the tough issues in our own lives. But we are also charged, as Paul was charged, with carrying on the "deposit" Jesus entrusted to us and we do that by mentoring and leading the next generation. And so we also need to be very intentional about growing as a leader.

You will see this in how we have put together the discussion questions. Some will be focused on you as a learner and others will be focused on you as a leader. As a leader, you really have two roles. One is to do the things leaders are charged with executing. For example, Paul charges Timothy with the job task of combating an emerging heresy. But a leader has another critical role and that is to mentor and develop the next generation of leaders to step into their shoes.

In our study you will see inserts where we highlight some key attributes that are important for a mentor to have. Here is a preview to get you thinking:

- ⇒ Share your aspirations
- ⇒ Empathize with their tough world
- ⇒ Engage with them at an emotional level
- ⇒ Focus on key disciplines so they can be equipped to tackle whatever may come
- ⇒ Be a model they can imitate
- ⇒ Be genuinely humble

Paul invested a great deal in Timothy and he is handing him the ball. Together, let's think not just about what we need to do better in our own walk, but let's be very intentional about how we nurture the next generation of the Trinity family. Their world is tough and things will get tougher. We need to invest in them.

There is another objective that we have and we need to tackle these jobs together. It's natural to think of this as a personal set of goals - and in important ways that is very true. But we are also a body and we need each other and we need to grow together. Get ready - you are going to find study questions that will be encouraging you to tackle growth with others!

Last, and most important — get excited! Ephesus was saturated with people and issues that were tough - just like Southeast Michigan is. Most people held to other views - just like most people do today. Those differences resulted in tensions - just like we face growing tensions in our culture. But we are "in Christ" and in Him are truth and power and joy and hope. The journey may have very tough days, but the end is unimaginably awesome.

Let's go!

The Truth

WEEK 1

Learners **value** truth,
leaders **protect** it.



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1 Timothy 1:15-17

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

This Sunday we heard:

Everything Paul did in the life of Timothy was powered by his passion over what the Gospel could do in his life. We are no different. The Gospel has the power to change us in ways we never imagined and through us, change the world! Let's know the Gospel and cling to it!

Other key passages for this week:

- 1 Tim 1:15-17
- 1 Tim 3:14-16
- 2 Tim 1:8-11

Let's think about what that means as a learner:

Everything Paul hopes for in Timothy's life is tied to his belief in the gospel. There are really two important goals that we need to pursue when we think about the "gospel". First, we really do need to understand what it is. Paul tells us that "it" is trustworthy, that "it" deserves full acceptance, that "it" is empowered by God to save us, and that "it" comes by grace and mercy (1 Tim 1:15-17). So what is the "it"?

Take some time to write down what you believe is the gospel. It really is important to write it because writing it forces us to include all the pieces in such a way that they make sense to a reader.

What about the gospel gives it the attributes that Paul lists above?

The second goal in understanding the gospel is to understand its significance. Some things can be very true but not all that significant. Paul uses terms like "immortal", "invisible", the "only God", a "pillar and buttress", a "mystery" and deserving of all "honor and glory" to elevate the importance of the gospel (1 Tim 1:15-17).

What is it about the gospel that would make someone feel they needed words like those Paul used to describe it?

If someone today embraced the gospel the way Paul did, how would their life look different from those around them? How would their expectations be different?



It's easy to say that the gospel is important and that we should know it. But it may not carry the importance in our day-to-day lives to get much attention. Why might that be true for us? How often do you honestly think about it?

Let's think about what that means as a leader:

There is no question Paul was an important leader. He was *entrusted* with the gospel to be a preacher, an apostle and a teacher. And God himself had willed that for Paul. He also was in a place where many people did not believe the gospel and he had to fight for its truth and relevance.

With that calling, how could Paul have reacted? How did Paul react (2 Tim 1:8-11)?

How does Timothy fit into Paul's calling?

Imagine you were Timothy. What would you have noticed about Paul's attitude? Why would that attitude be important to Timothy given what was being placed on his shoulders?

As a leader, how do those you lead perceive you? Is that a complete picture of you? Is that what you want them to learn from you?

Paul is a prisoner (just imagine the humiliation) telling Timothy not to be ashamed. And not only don't be ashamed, but get ready for suffering. As a mentor to Timothy, why would he share those thoughts? How important was it for Timothy to hear those words from Paul directly and not just in a sermon? How do you think he wants Timothy to feel?

Paul really sees what the source is of what it takes to be a leader. Re-read that 2 Tim 1:8-11 passage (and go ahead and sneak a peak at 2 Tim 1:12-14). How does Paul go about passing on what he knows about that source to Timothy?

**As a mentor ... Share your aspiration for what
the gospel can do!**

*"For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set
on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of
those who believe." 1 Tim 4:10*

The Legacy

WEEK 2

Your greatest impact
won't be a **what**
but a **who**.



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2 Timothy 1:3-7

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. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. 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. 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, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

This Sunday we heard:

Timothy's life and faith didn't simply appear out of nowhere. Others, like Paul, Lois and Eunice poured their lives and faith into him. In the same way our greatest legacy will most likely not be a *What* but a *Who*. Who is pouring into you? Who will be your legacy?

Other key passages for this week:

- 1 Tim 1:12-20
- 1 Tim 6:20
- 2 Tim 1:3-7

Let's think about what that means as a learner:

Re-read 2 Timothy 1:3-7

Paul's words in this passage are filled with love for Timothy. Clearly he cares very much for the kind of person Timothy becomes, even after Paul is gone. Why does Timothy matter so much to Paul?

It's interesting, Paul doesn't see Timothy's faith as having come "out of nowhere" (2 Tim 1:5). To what does he attribute Timothy's faith? Why is this significant to us as learners?

A recent study (Lifeway, August '19) says many Christians believe they can best grow spiritually on their own. How is this different than what we see here?

What challenge does Paul lay out for Timothy (2 Tim 1:6-7)? Is that challenge relevant to us today?

In the opening of the letter (see 1 Tim 1:18) and in the close (see 1 Tim 6:20) Paul repeats a very important word that helps us see what Paul wants Timothy to learn: that word is "entrust". We saw last week how passionate Paul was about the gospel and about his calling to share and defend the truth of the gospel. Now he is entrusting that message and that responsibility in a very formal way to Timothy. If you were in Timothy's shoes (or sandals!), how would you feel? What would keep you awake at night?

There are many different ways you could handle something with which you have been entrusted. Paul surrounds this entrustment with words like "hold the faith", "wage the good warfare" (1 Tim 1:12-20), and "guard the deposit" (1 Tim 6:20). What situation is Timothy in?

We are all the legacy of someone. Who has entrusted the gospel to you? Write down a few words that come to mind that capture how they impacted you.

What responsibility do you feel for what they passed on to you?



In our world the battle can be hard to see. Many people believe that every person is entitled to their own views and that we are all "right". So, we aren't usually asked to defend the Bible's teaching all that often. Nevertheless, there are other ways where the implications of believing all that the Bible teaches runs very counter to what is regarded in our culture as "OK". What does the battle look like for us and what can we learn from Timothy?

Let's think about what that means as a leader:

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20.

How does Paul describe himself to Timothy in 1 Tim 1:13? Why would these attributes be important for Timothy to understand?

How hard is it for you to share your imperfections with people? Why is this important for leaders to do? What might be the cost of being that transparent?

What are some things that Paul communicates to Timothy that let's Timothy know how hard the job is that Timothy is getting (1 Tim 1:12-20)? Why do you think Paul wants Timothy to hear those things?

Reflecting again on 2 Tim 1:3-7, what are some things that Paul says to Timothy about the kind of person he is that would help him get a "boost" in preparing for this role? Why would that be important for Timothy to hear from Paul?

Leaders often feel alone. They have to make tough calls that impact many. This is true in the home as well as the workplace. Often as a parent we have to make "tough calls" that put us in a place of being alone. What does Paul do in giving this charge to Timothy that would help him deal with that feeling?

Paul gave Timothy some key insight into what it means to be a leader in God's kingdom - no matter what role of leader that could be. A summary would be "but I received mercy to display his perfect patience (1 Tim 1:16)". What would Timothy be learning from Paul in this statement? How would that prepare him for the daunting task that was ahead?

Here is an important takeaway. We are all both learners and leaders and yet we often feel inadequate to do either of these roles. But in Christ everything is different. We have an "alive" relationship with the King of the ages (1 Tim 1:17) and these roles are not easy - but they are also not lived alone. We have His power in us and we have each other - a whole body of us - who share the same experience and inner feelings about what we have been called to do. It's in that truth where we can move from feelings of inadequacy and anxiety to the joy that Paul mentioned in 2 Tim 1:4.

As a mentor ... Share your aspiration for your mentee!

"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. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy." 2 Tim 1:3-4

The World

WEEK 3

You either **see through it**
or you **become it.**

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2 Timothy 4:3-5

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

This Sunday we heard:

No matter what age we live in, some people will choose to run from God. Some run to religious legalism, hoping to save themselves on their own terms. Some run to personal pleasure, hoping to satisfy their own hearts in their own ways. Paul reminds Timothy that he needs to understand the culture around him so that he can guide others wisely through this life.

Other key passages for this week:

- 1 Tim 4:1-4
- 2 Tim 3:1-9
- 2 Tim 4:3-5

Let's think about what that means as a learner:

These passages give us some insight into the "spark" that gave rise to Paul writing this letter to Timothy. Some men who were part of their church had come to false beliefs and were actively trying to convince others to change their views.

Look at 1 Tim 4:1-4. What are the sources of this false teaching?

What does that insight cause us to think about?

What has happened to these false teachers? (2 Tim 3:8)

Whenever we see the phrase "later times" or "last days" we jump to things like, "when will Jesus return?" But in these letters Paul's purpose is to give instruction on how to deal with those issues in their current times. As a general rule (there are some exceptions) "later times" refers to the time after Jesus' resurrection and therefore includes their (and our) current times.

In verses 2-3, we see that people were going as far as giving up marriage and adopting extreme diets in order to prove themselves worthy. What extremes do people today go to prove themselves? What is the cost of this?

Not everyone goes to religious extremes to prove themselves. Others seek salvation in themselves. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-8.

That's quite a long list!!! If you were to try and summarize this list, what would you say? Why do you think Paul took the time to write out such a list rather than just summarize?

Look again. Is Paul focusing on their incorrect views or on something else?

As a learner - what do we need to be aware of if we are to take on the warning that Paul provides?

How important is it that we today, like Paul in his day, see and understand the other things people around us give their lives to? How does this help us in our own lives? How could it help us be better neighbors and friends to them?

Let's think about what that means as a leader:

Paul takes the time to point out some really significant things about the people around Timothy. Why was this important for him to do? Was he being judgmental? Why or why not?

Look again at 2 Tim 4:1-5. This is a very important passage in our study because here is where Paul is formally handing a baton to Timothy. This has been Paul's whole ministry - preach the word. And now - in the presence of God and Jesus!! - he charges Timothy to carry on.

If Timothy had a job description - what would it say is his primary task? Is he going to be super-popular?

We often feel that we need to wait to be involved in these kinds of conversations until life is less busy and hectic. Paul encourages Timothy to be ready "in season and out of season?" What does he mean?

To carry out such a calling - what will Timothy need to make sure he invests in as he gets and stays prepped?

What will Timothy experience in the realm of feelings and emotions? Why is it important to Paul that he preps Timothy for those feelings?

Our world is filled with very similar challenges - both from people outside the church and from some who are "in" the church. The threats to truth are epidemic and may be one of the biggest threats facing the church today. What are some problems that you see?



Making it close: Do you feel like you are prepared to be ready in season and out of season to deal with these threats to the gospel in your role as a leader?

Just to stay focused - how would you as a parent or grandparent help young ones be equipped to deal with what we see as threats to the gospel? How would God and Christ Jesus want you to respond?

One technical point - who are Jannes and Jambres? You won't find these names in the Bible. The names come from Jewish tradition and they refer to sorcerers that tried to match some of the "God powers" that Moses showed to Pharaoh back in Exodus. (See Exodus 7 if you want to do some research.) They could make sticks turn into snakes too. The key is thinking about why Paul referenced them as examples. What were they trying to do with Pharaoh and, accordingly, what are these present day false teachers trying to do?

This can feel like a heavier burden than we can carry. Timothy really felt that way too and Paul, in handing this charter to Timothy, also knew he needed to help Timothy emotionally prepare for the days ahead. We will delve into this more as we go, but looking ahead here is a very important verse to reflect on:

“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.” 2 Tim 1:12

More to come in the weeks ahead.

As a mentor ... Emphasize with their tough world.

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you have learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” 2 Tim 3:14-15

The Fight

WEEK 4

Growing people
grow people.

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1 Timothy 6:11-12

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

This Sunday we heard:

Fight, train, pursue, and take hold! These are the words Paul uses to describe the way we are meant to strive to grow in godliness. We all have a responsibility to take our growth in righteousness seriously. Encouraging others (and being encouraged ourselves) in this personal effort is essential.

Other key passages for this week:

- 1 Tim 4:6-9
- 1 Tim 6:11-16
- 2 Tim 2:14-26
- 2 Tim 4:1-2

Let's think about what that means as a learner:

In our first few studies, we have seen how Paul has helped frame the challenge the believers faced in Ephesus. A great church with great people living in a culture that was very opposed to their faith. Despite all these good things, cracks were emerging within the church. And yet, one of Paul's greatest passions is for Timothy's personal growth in Christ. Why do you think that is?

Read 1 Tim 4:6-12. Notice the way Paul connects Timothy's work in the lives of others (v. 6) with Timothy's own life (v. 8 & 12).

What do you think Paul means by godliness? Why is it of value in every way?

The idea of "training" comes up three times. Is there a time when you have trained for something? What did that process look like? What does Paul want Timothy to train in? Is this something new for Timothy?

Paul doesn't get into an extensive "exercise plan" for Timothy, but he provides some key principles. What does Paul desire of Timothy to make his focus?

Many of us struggle to keep a good physical exercise schedule. It's hard to stay inspired to stick with the discipline. How does Paul hope to inspire the discipline needed to train in the Word?

Paul provides more detail of what is needed to fight for the gospel in 1 Tim 6:11-16. Verses 6:11-12 are packed!! Look over each of these passages briefly. What aspect of our lives is the focus?

What is our inspiration?



Let's get practical. Here might be some "to do" notes that you have on a piece of paper:

- Groceries
- Mow Lawn
- Pick Up kids
- Pay Bills
- Pursue righteousness

When we have a list of "to do's" like this, what tends to get priority? Why is that so true for us?

What does Paul do to help us be inspired about our faith priorities?

In your own words that are focused around shaping a plan for your daily life, what kinds of practical "to do's" would you develop to pursue a life of devoted faithfulness?

Let's think about what that means as a leader:

In the following 2 Timothy passages you see a similar calling - stay away from things that are distracting drama and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace. The framing is very similar.

For example, read 2 Timothy 2:20-21.

What is Paul trying to help Timothy see about leadership? Why is this important? How important as a mentor is it to simply help people see themselves clearly?

Paul knows that Timothy will be dealing with people - and that will be an ongoing challenge and priority. What "people skills" does Paul encourage in Timothy in 2 Tim 2:24-25 and in 2 Tim 4:2? How important are these skills in mentoring another person?

What does it take to be patient as a leader? What would be some symptoms of impatience?

In 2 Tim 2:26 we can see that even if Timothy leads well the outcome isn't certain. Why do you think Paul shared that with Timothy? How are these words helpful for us today? Have you ever had someone take the time to speak clearly to you about you in a way that was helpful? Unhelpful? What was the difference?

It's one thing to be prepared to be "in the fight". That is extremely important and we all need to pursue disciplines in our lives to keep ourselves fit for the battle. But remember too, in some respects, we are also leaders. In that role we are like coaches needing to create an atmosphere that holds a hard line to keep "bad things" out, but also an environment where people can make mistakes or have struggles and experience patient, consistent, loving engagement from us as leaders. What are some examples in your walk as a leader that show how to create that kind of atmosphere for those you impact?

As a mentor ... Focus on key disciplines.

*"So flee youthful passions and pursue
righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with
those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."
2 Tim 2:22*

The Family

WEEK 5

Your life's **purpose**
is **bigger** than you.



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1 Timothy 5:1-2

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

This Sunday we heard:

Paul gives us a glimpse into the life of these early Christians together, sharing meals, material possessions, speaking deeply into each other's lives. Personal growth and personal purpose were community projects. Ultimately we see that Church and Home for Jesus' people are really just two sides of the same family.

Another key passage for this week:

1 Tim 5:1-6:2

Let's think about what that means as a learner:

When we come to our next passage we see Paul as a leader providing some instruction in dealing with issues that have developed in Ephesus. We can see Paul handling matters with widows, elder compensation, handling accusations against leaders, and attitudes at work. The personal growth that Paul wants to see in Timothy and see Timothy bring about in others is crucial to the household of God.

Take moment and read 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2.

When you reflect on Paul's response to these issues, what themes do you see in Paul's words? What does he want to be true amidst the church body?

If you were a young leader in this Church community. What lessons would you most need to remember from this passage? What would it look like to uphold the values in this passage in our modern life today?

1Tim 5:1-2 provides an attitude check for leaders. In your own words, what does Paul want leaders to look like to people who need guidance?

Let's talk about some of the interesting specific issues Timothy was going to be dealing with:

What are some guiding principles that you see Paul using as he develops specific guidance around the widow issues? What value do you see in the church having this sort of approach to guidance?

The widow topic may seem unusual. Back in the day of this letter the topic of widows had tricky dimensions. When a husband died there weren't any social programs that provided for a widow's needs. So clearly the church had a responsibility to help these women. But at the same time there was a risk that some "bad actor" widows may try to take advantage of the church's resources where she could get help from other sources. Paul is laying out some guidelines for how the leaders should sort this one out.

Elders - or those who focus on the spiritual growth of the church and its members - are in a very vulnerable spot. Many will be watching them! When you think about being under scrutiny as a leader, what makes you nervous?



In general, what goal does Paul have in mind as he treats the topics of compensation and handling accusations?

A quality that Paul speaks to (and we "bucketed" in the work above) is experience. When you think of some area of your life where you have experience - what would you say is so valuable about what you have learned as you have invested in that area? Why do you think experience is important for leaders?

Let's think about what that means as a leader:

There's a lot in these verses worth discussing, but let's think for a moment about what this means for our church community:

Based on this passage how large of a footprint do you think the church community is meant to have in our lives? How would this matter to the larger community in the world around us?

Some people use the words "doing life together" to describe the kind of community we see here? What do you think they mean by this? What words would you use to describe this kind of community?

Generally speaking, would it be possible for someone to experience this kind of life (personal growth, impact in the world, etc.) without this kind of community?

We also see here how important leaders are to community. If experience leading is important to be qualified as a leader, how can we ensure that people have the opportunity to grow in developing that sort of experience?

When you think about your own walk as a leader - are you ensuring there is a path learners can follow to grow experience as a next generation leader?

**As a mentor ... Treasure your relationship
with your mentee.**

"I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how you ought to behave in the household of God." 1 Tim 3:14

The Home

WEEK 6

The most **important**
work you'll ever do
will be within the walls
of your own **home.**

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2 Timothy 1:1-5

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus. To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

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. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. 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.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

This Sunday we heard:

For Christians, personal growth and God's purpose are tied deeply to our Christian community. For most of us, the most impactful community we will ever be a part of is the home we live in. Our first mentors are moms and grandfathers. Our homes can and should be powerful places of discipleship - fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters walking together with Jesus through life.

Before we dive in:

One critical belief that we hold to tightly at Trinity is the commitment to ensure that our teaching is based on sound principles for interpreting the Bible. An overarching premise for teaching a passage from the Bible is that the main point of the passage should also be the main point of the teaching. The author had a specific message and our goal is to understand that “main message” and seek to apply it to our lives.

As we work through a passage we sometimes see things that, although they are not the main point, seem important to consider.

We have one of those opportunities today in our study of Paul’s message to Timothy. In three places in these letters Paul references “family”. Check out these passages:

“He must manage his own household well, with all dignity, keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?” 1 Tim 3:4-5

“Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.” 1 Tim 3:12

“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.” 2 Tim 1:5

It’s clear, family life was very important in the early Church, and still is today. Children are blessed to be raised in an environment of faith and by parents who manage their own households well.

Another key passage that primarily focuses on what this could include is found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

First, a bit of background for this passage.

In 1 and 2 Timothy we see Paul passing the baton on to Timothy as Paul prepares for his “time of his departure.” A phenomenal Old Testament story involving a “baton passing” is recorded in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy (referred to as the Torah) where Moses, who led the people out of Egypt, now needs to pass on that leadership baton to the forming nation. The Lord wanted that new nation to grow and to enjoy His blessing that he had promised all the way back to Abraham. Look what he focuses on in wanting to see the following generations continue in their faith:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:4-9



Let's talk about why the home is so important whether we are learners or leaders, children or parents.

What is the key principle Moses wants to convey?

Why do you think he begins by challenging parents to consider their love for God? (v.4) Is it possible to effectively teach or give someone something (like love for God) that you don't have for yourself? How important is our faith in the lives of our children and grandchildren?

What are the places and times these verses encourage us to have faith conversations with our children? Is there a bigger point that is being made?

What can be some of the challenges in passing on faith to our children? What do you find makes this desire tough to fulfill?

This could be a bit hard, but take a minute to put yourself in the shoes of your children or grandchildren and write down what THEY might say are the things that are most important to you. What would they say "they are always telling me..."?

Our passages in Timothy talk about managing your household well. We usually think of this as involving practical things like money, meals, discipline and more. Why would these things matter if the point is raising spiritual kids?

Take a moment and glance back at 2 Timothy 1:5. Did you notice that not every family member is mentioned? What do you think this means? What hope does this give those of us whose families may not look picture perfect?

Paul, significantly isn't a blood relative of Lois, Eunice and Timothy and yet he is very much like a father figure in his life? How significant are the people that we choose to bring into our kids lives?

How active should a parent be in seeking to bring people into our family's life that will help us in raising our kid in the faith?

Doubtless, many of us have discovered all sorts of ways to build our homes and our kids lives around faith. What household habits, parenting ideas and key values can you share with others today?

A desire we talked about in the intro to this study was the importance of growing in our faith together, as a body of believers. How can we help each other grow as parents wanting to pass on sincere faith in our families?

Last - a word of encouragement. Family is hard work! We live in a culture that continues to move further and further away from a Biblical orientation to life and our family units, and our church body binding together as a family of families, is going to be the place where our young people see sincere faith. But we are not alone. Let's go a little further on in Deuteronomy 6:

*"When your son asks you in time to come, "What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you? Then you shall say to your son, 'we were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. And the Lord showed us signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us.'" **Deuteronomy 6:20-25***

We are not alone!!

The Setback

WEEK 7

When **hope** runs deep,
there is no reason
to fear the **storm.**

MM
MENTOR ME

2 Timothy 1:8-9

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, 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,

This Sunday we heard:

Life is hard. We won't always understand what it is that is happening to us or why. Some of these hard times will even come because we follow Jesus! In Christ, though, there is a bigger picture and purpose to our struggles. In those times, more than ever, we need people who refresh, encourage and help sustain our rest and trust in the Gospel.

Other key passages for this week:

- 2 Tim 1:8-18
- 2 Tim 2:1-13

Let's think about what that means as a learner:

As we tackle these passages we will see some repetition of matters that we have already seen in other passages including:

- The power of the gospel (2 Tim 1:9-10)
- The priority of the gospel (2 Tim 1:12-13)
- The charge as a leader (2 Tim 2:1-2)

It's important to observe how Paul keeps these themes as top priorities in his message to Timothy. But in this study we want to look at another dimension of the calling and that has to do with the emotional challenges that will be faced by those who are obedient to this sort of life.

Notice the topic of shame:

"Therefore, do not be ashamed..." (2 Tim 1:8)

"But I am not ashamed..." (2 Tim 1:12)

"for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains..." (2 Tim 1:16)

Describe what emotion Paul is dealing with. Why it is so important that he put it on the table?

Re-read 2 Timothy 1:15-18

The passage also is dealing with some of the real life issues that Paul had to deal with in carrying out his calling. What did he experience from enemies? What did he experience from friends? What similar experiences have you had? What effect did they have on your life? How have you typically handled setbacks in your life?



Paul uses a few metaphors in this passage to take something that is "intangible" and make it feel real. Go back and look at these depictions of what Timothy's calling may be like:

- A guard or soldier (2 Tim 1:12-14 and 2 Tim 2:4)
- An athlete (2 Tim 2:5)
- A farmer (2 Tim 2:6)

Each of these metaphors is unique. Take a moment and see if you can summarize what Paul is trying to help Timothy visualize in each of these. In what ways are they the same? How would it be of help to Timothy to have these things in mind as he moves through life? Which one do you feel you most could use in your life today? Why is that?

Let's think about what that means as a leader:

Paul's biggest setback was probably prison. He probably had plenty of time to consider the course of his life.

At the end of the day, we have to have a clear answer to the question, "Why am I doing this?" to be able to endure tough days. How does Paul answer that question in 2 Tim 2:8-13?

How does Paul guide Timothy in thinking through the key things that he needs to focus on if he is going to be suffering?

We all focus on different things from one day to the next. Paul seems to understand that the key to Timothy's handling of tough situations will be where he keeps his focus. What are the things that you tend to focus on in the day to day of your life? How does this shape your day? Your life?

At times, especially tough times, it is normal to feel alone. Does Paul tackle his unusual calling alone? Check out these passages:

- 2 Tim 1:9 - is he alone?
- 2 Tim 1:15 - were they all helpful?
- 2 Tim 1:16-17 - what does a real friend do?
- 2 Tim 2:2 - is Timothy's primary calling being given a one man job?

How important to Paul was it to be part of a jointly committed group of people?

Who helps you keep your focus? (If you are in a group going through this study,) How could this group of people best help you keep your focus?

The following quote comes from a great book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We are including it here as a reflection on the enormity of the gospel that we are entrusted to carry to others.

"Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks' wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap?..."

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God."

There may be (no, there will be) setbacks and tough days in our walk. But we have been shown so much grace! We are in Christ.

As a mentor ... Share your own struggles.

"...for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed..." 2 Tim 1:11-12

The Finish

WEEK 8

There are better things **ahead** than any we leave **behind**.

MM
MENTOR ME

2 Timothy 4:6-8

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

This Sunday we heard:

Life is a breath. In Christ, we have clear and powerful reasons to be excited and anticipate the end of our earthly battles, the completion of our hungry quest for righteousness, and the end of injustice in this world! We are meant to savor today all that Jesus has promised us is coming.

Other key passages for this week:

- 2 Tim 3:10-17
- 2 Tim 4:1-18

Let's think about what that means as a learner:

Look back over 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

What do you think it would have been like for Timothy to read these final words from Paul? What thoughts, questions, fears might have come to his mind at this time? Which of Paul's statement here would have stood out most to you?

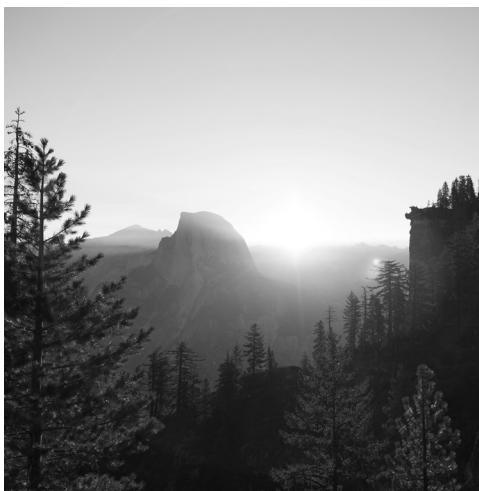
Now, let's go back and read what Paul says just prior, 2 Timothy 3:10-11.

What had been part of Timothy's life that prepared him for the days ahead? What Part of Paul's life do you think would have been most significant to Timothy? What do we need to prioritize from Timothy's example?

Paul notes that Timothy "followed" his life. What do you think this entailed? How crucial was this choice for the direction of Timothy's life and the kind of person he became? How important is it that we today have people we have consciously sought to follow after? How would you go about finding such a person? What does it imply about Timothy that he sought out this kind of relationship?

We live in a very individualistic age. We are encouraged to be our own person, to brand ourselves on social media, to seek fulfillment in personal pleasures. How different is our mindset today from what we see in Timothy and Paul?

As leaders, how significant is the example we set? How much do you think people glean from what we say, versus how we live?



By now we've learned that Paul believes it important to prepare people for the challenges of a faith filled life. In verses 12-13 what does he say our expectations should be regarding how we will be 'welcomed'?

Notice though were Paul keeps the focus, not on who others will choose to be, but who Timothy will choose to be and what he will choose to cling to:

What is it that Timothy "knew" that would equip him to tackle the job (2 Tim 14-17)? Why is it important to Timothy that Paul reminds him of all that he had been a part of already?

Paul uses the word “ministry” (2 Tim 4:5) rather than “job”. Why does Paul choose that descriptor? Is this significant to our lives today? In what way?

Take a moment to reflect on the passionate voice used by Paul as he charges Timothy. How would Timothy feel, given all that he has just read?

Let's think about what that means as a leader:

We often imagine that great leaders are those who are loved and supported by all. But not everybody in Paul's life was a 'Timothy.'

How did Paul feel he was treated by Demas, Crescens, Alexander (2 Tim 4:9-14)?

Going back, how about Hymenaeus and Alexander (1 Tim 1:20)? Phygelus and Hermogenes (2 Tim 1:15)? Hymenaeus and Philetus (2 Tim 2:17)?

Who could Paul count on (2 Tim 4:16-18)?

There is a real challenge in sorting through Paul's experiences. On one hand we can see how important people and partners were to Paul. On the other hand, he had to have something else in the tank to be prepared to be all alone. What do you see in Paul that gives insight as to how we can find that sort of combined need and strength?

How does Paul, in reflecting on his life, put into perspective all that he wants Timothy to know (2 Tim 4:6-8)?

What would you like to be able to say when you get to the stage of life that Paul was at?

And as a leader - what would you like those you touch to say about their life's journeys?

**As a mentor ... Be genuinely humble
and hopeful.**

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come." 2 Tim 4:6

Can we leave you with one final reflection?

Our beloved Trinity family,

Fight the good fight, guard the deposit entrusted to you, pass on what you have learned to faithful people, and preach the Word at any cost.

Your still learning leaders

Your greatest impact
won't be a *what*
but a *who*.

MM
MENTOR ME

Trinity  Church

