Outward Group Discussion Guide

November 1, 2026

SUMMARY

Drawing from 2 Timothy 3:10-17, this sermon calls believers to resist the pull of a self-centered culture and instead pursue a life marked by godly character, deep discipleship, and devotion to Scripture. The pastor contrasts the trajectory of those who follow the world with the call given to Timothy, who had been shaped by Paul's teaching, conduct, faith, patience, love, and steadfastness. The sermon emphasizes that a genuine desire for godliness will inevitably bring persecution, but that this difficulty is part of the great adventure of following Christ. Central to the message is the authority and life-giving power of Scripture, described as breathed out by God and essential for transformation, direction, and equipping believers for every good work.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul tells Timothy 'you, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life' -- who in your life has shaped your spiritual formation most significantly, and what specific qualities or convictions did you absorb from watching them live?

2. The sermon raises the idea that your phone, your media consumption, and the influencers you follow are

actively discipling you -- in what ways has the culture shaped your aims, values, and desires more than Scripture or a godly mentor has?

3. Psalm 1 describes a blessed person whose delight is in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night -- what does your daily pattern of life reveal about where your true delight actually lies?

4. The pastor draws a distinction between receiving grace and having a genuine desire to live a godly life -- do you sense an active longing for God in your soul, and if not, what do you think has been filling that space instead?

5. Paul states in 2 Timothy 3 that all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted -- how does the expectation of hardship and opposition challenge or reshape the reasons why you follow Jesus?

6. The sermon describes Paul returning to the very cities where he was persecuted in order to strengthen and encourage new disciples -- what does this kind of perseverance reveal about the relationship between suffering and genuine faith, and where do you see that dynamic in your own life?

7. The pastor uses the concept from Wild at Heart -- a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to love -- in what ways does your current walk with Christ engage those deep longings, and where are you playing it safe instead?

8. Timothy's faith was first nurtured by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice through the sacred writings -- what responsibility does this place on parents and older believers in the church to intentionally pass on scriptural wisdom to the next generation?

9. The sermon describes Scripture as breathed out by God, carrying the very life and Spirit of God within it -- how does that understanding change the way you approach reading the Bible compared to reading any other book?

10. The pastor challenges the congregation to examine whether they are genuinely in community -- being mentored, serving, and discipling others -- or simply attending church as a passive observer: what concrete step could you take this week to move from the sideline into active participation in the life of the church?