



Outward Group Discussion Guide

September 20, 2026

SUMMARY

What does it mean to truly live out our faith rather than simply observe it from a distance? This message cuts straight to the heart of that question, drawing from Paul's letter to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1. Paul opens with a striking declaration of identity and purpose, reminding Timothy that he is a 'sent one' of Christ, called by the will of God and anchored in the promise of life that the gospel offers. That same identity belongs to us. We are not spectators in the story of God's redemption. We are missionaries, sent into our workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and relationships with gifts the Holy Spirit has placed within us. The spiritual gifts God has given each believer are not decorative. They are functional, meant to be fanned into flame and used for the advancement of his mission. Paul's tender words to Timothy, reminding him of his heritage of faith, his spiritual friendships, and the grace, mercy, and peace available to him through Christ, serve as the foundation for a bold charge: do not shrink back. The gospel is not just something we believe about. It is something we are activated by. When we drink deeply of what Christ has done for us, something stirs. An ember becomes a flame. And that flame has the potential to change everything around us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul describes himself as a 'sent one' of Christ and challenges Timothy to see himself the same way -- in what specific area of your life do you sense God has sent you on mission, and what is holding you back from fully embracing that calling?
2. The sermon draws a distinction between merely believing that Jesus died and rose again versus genuinely trusting in him -- how would you describe the difference in your own life, and has there been a moment when belief became active trust?
3. Paul reminds Timothy of the faith of his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice as a reason to press forward -- who in your spiritual heritage has shaped your faith, and how does their example challenge you to live more faithfully today?
4. The pastor describes fear of man as a form of cowardice that is antithetical to Christianity -- in what areas of your life does the fear of others' opinions prevent you from using your gifts or sharing your faith?
5. The image of fanning an ember into flame is used to describe the activation of spiritual gifts -- what does the ember of gifting look like in your life right now, and what practical steps could you take to fan it into greater flame?

6. Paul tells Timothy that God has given us a spirit not of fear but of power, love, and self-control -- which of these three qualities do you most need to lean into right now, and why?
7. The sermon emphasizes that grace is God's kindness lavished on believers, mercy is punishment withheld, and peace is the resulting right relationship with God -- which of these three gifts feels most real and personal to you, and which feels hardest to fully receive?
8. The parable of the talents is referenced to warn against burying or squandering what God has given -- can you identify a gift or opportunity you have buried out of fear or complacency, and what would it look like to invest it for God's glory?
9. The pastor describes being faithful, available, and teachable as the marks of someone who is ready to serve -- which of these three qualities is your greatest area of growth, and what would it cost you to develop it?
10. Logan Graham's story illustrates how surrendering fully to God's leading opened unexpected doors for ministry -- if you knew you could not fail, what would you pursue for the kingdom of God, and what does your answer reveal about where God might be calling you?