



Outward Group Discussion Guide

October 4, 2026

SUMMARY

This sermon walks through 2 Timothy 2:1-7, where the apostle Paul urges a struggling Timothy to stand firm amid widespread abandonment of the faith. The central question driving the message is: where does our strength come from when we feel we are not enough? The answer Paul gives is not a motivational platitude but a theological foundation -- strength comes through the grace of Christ Jesus, a grace rooted in the unchanging, pre-temporal love of God who paid the ultimate price for each person. From that foundation, Paul calls Timothy -- and by extension every believer -- to move outward in three ways, depicted through the metaphors of a soldier (devotion), an athlete (discipline), and a farmer (diligence). The sermon emphasizes that being a disciple requires discipling others, and that all of this hard work is sustained not by human effort alone but by God's promise to give understanding and to pour out grace upon grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul tells Timothy to 'be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus' rather than by circumstances, numbers, or approval -- what does it look like practically in your own life to draw strength from grace rather than from external validation?
2. The sermon describes Timothy as naturally timid and shy, yet called to stand firm when nearly everyone around him was abandoning Paul -- in what areas of your life do you sense God calling you to plant your feet even when your personality or circumstances make that feel impossible?
3. The pastor contrasts the yard sign message 'you are enough' with the gospel declaration that Christ died for you specifically and personally -- how does grounding your sense of worth in the grace of Christ change the way you face seasons of failure or inadequacy?
4. Paul warns Timothy not to be 'entangled in civilian pursuits,' using the image of a soldier whose sole aim is to please the one who enlisted him -- what civilian pursuits most threaten to divide your devotion and pull your focus away from the mission you have been given?
5. The sermon draws a sharp distinction between hoarding the gospel for personal spiritual comfort and actively entrusting it to others -- in what ways might you

be unintentionally treating your faith as something to guard inwardly rather than pass outward?

6. The pastor states that 'to be a disciple, noun, you have to disciple, verb' -- who in your life right now could you intentionally invest in spiritually, and what is holding you back from taking that step?
7. The farmer metaphor in verse 6 highlights that a farmer does the hard work of planting and watering while having no power to make anything grow -- how does this image reshape the way you think about your responsibility in sharing the gospel versus God's responsibility in producing results?
8. Galatians 1:10 asks whether we are seeking the approval of man or of God, and the sermon connects this directly to Timothy's situation of being abandoned -- where in your daily life do you find yourself most tempted to seek human approval over faithfulness to God?
9. The sermon presents the concept of biblical concurrence through verse 7, where Paul tells Timothy both to think hard on these things and to trust that God will give understanding -- how do you hold together the tension of doing diligent spiritual work while trusting that transformation ultimately comes from God?
10. John 1:16 speaks of receiving grace upon grace, and the pastor uses this to assure believers that God's

grace does not run out even in the most discouraging seasons -- can you identify a moment in your life when you experienced a fresh measure of grace arriving precisely when you felt you had exhausted what you had?