Outward Group Discussion Guide

November 1, 2026

SUMMARY

In this message from 2 Timothy 3:10-17, Pastor Logan Graham challenges believers to examine who and what they are following in their daily lives. Drawing from Paul's letter to Timothy, the sermon explores what it truly means to follow a godly mentor, acknowledging that genuine discipleship includes not only the admirable qualities of faith, patience, love, and steadfastness, but also the reality of suffering and persecution. Using John Stott's Venn diagram framework, the sermon explains that persecution is the inevitable result of being both fully in Christ and fully engaged with the world in mission. The message then turns to the sufficiency and authority of Scripture, affirming that the God-breathed word is the ultimate and unchanging guide for every believer -- teaching truth, reproving sin, correcting error, and training in righteousness. The sermon closes with an encouragement to pursue community, reject isolation, and rest in Christ's easy yoke rather than striving alone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul tells Timothy that following him means following not just his faith and love, but also his persecutions and sufferings -- in what ways do you think modern

Christians tend to embrace the appealing aspects of discipleship while avoiding the costly ones?

2. John Stott describes a Venn diagram where persecution is the inevitable result of being both fully in Christ and fully engaged with the world -- which side of that diagram do you find yourself gravitating toward, and what might that reveal about your current walk with God?

3. Paul lists specific cities where he suffered greatly, cities that Timothy likely witnessed firsthand, as evidence of the cost of the mission -- how does seeing someone endure suffering for the gospel up close change the way you think about your own willingness to face conflict for your faith?

4. The sermon draws a contrast between those who show an outward appearance of godliness but have no real power and those like Paul whose lives demonstrate genuine fruit -- what markers would you look for in someone's life to determine whether they are worth following as a spiritual example?

5. Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:12 that all who desire to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted -- if you honestly examined your daily life, where do you see evidence of that tension, and where might its absence be telling you something?

6. The sermon emphasizes that Timothy was made wise for salvation through being raised in the sacred writings from childhood -- how seriously do you take the responsibility of passing scriptural truth on to the next generation, whether as a parent, teacher, or mentor?

7. Paul describes scripture as breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness -- which of these four functions do you find most difficult to receive from God's word, and why might that be?

8. The sermon uses the image of dusty Bibles and brand new iPhones to illustrate where many people actually turn for truth and guidance -- what would an honest audit of your week reveal about where you are genuinely going for direction and wisdom?

9. Paul's call to follow him is not a call to lone discipleship but to being embedded in a community of people further along the road -- who in your life right now is serving that role for you, and who might you be serving that role for?

10. Jesus describes his yoke as easy and his burden as light in Matthew 11:29, and the sermon frames persecution and suffering within that same promise of rest -- how do you hold together the reality of hardship in following Christ with the genuine peace and rest he promises?