



## **Untangled - Week 1**

### **March 7-8, 2020 | Tim Harlow**

This weekend, we begin our "Untangled" series by talking about how trusting God helps us make those key life decisions.

#### **CELEBRATE**

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

#### **CONNECT**

1. Talk a time when you made a decision and completely blew it. Give as many details as you can handle. What did you learn from that situation?
2. Answer this question: if you could have one superpower to help you deal with your life as it is, what would that power be? Why?

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

## REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, take a moment and review the key points from this weekend's message.

1. Getting untangled happens when we stop trying to be God and learn to trust God.
2. During times of worry, we learn to "seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things (that we need) will be added as well."
3. What does it cost us to spend our whole lives chasing our kingdom instead of God's?

**SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE:** Matthew 6:19-33, 7:7-14, 24-27; 13:44; Ephesians 3:20

## RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend's message that resonated with you. What made it stick with you?
2. Take a moment and read Matthew 6:33 together as a group. Take about 15-20 seconds of silence and let the words sink in.
3. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. Read slowly and if possible read out loud. Make a note of any words or phrases that stand out to you. This is believed to be a letter from the Apostle Paul to his "son in the faith" Timothy, who is leading a group of Christians in Ephesus.
4. Pastor Tim said this weekend that "Getting untangled happens when we stop trying to be God and learn to trust God." Talk about the way that we can use wealth (not just money, but stuff and privileges) to distance ourselves from having to trust God.
5. Talk about a specific worry you have experienced in life. In what ways did you attempt to "buy" your way out of that worry? (I.e. a new toy to take your mind off of it). Talk about how this turned out.
6. Paul's advice to Timothy is that "There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment." (6:6) If godliness is setting our minds on things that matter most to God, talk about where contentment fits into that. Talk about one area right now where you need to make "gains" in godliness. How could bringing your worries to God help you become content?
7. Paul sounds a little like Jesus in 1 Timothy 6:7-8. Talk about why being content with what we have is so hard. How could contentment become a powerful tool in our times of worry?
8. Paul paints a fairly dark picture of wealth in this passage (6:9-10) It is important to note: Paul is not against having resources (financial, material, etc.) If that's not the problem Paul is addressing, then what IS the problem? Talk about how you have seen 6:9-10 come true in your own life. When has the love of accumulating stuff that should help with our worries only created new ones?

9. As a way of closing today, talk as a group about how you can "simplify" your life. The best way to learn to be content and eliminate worry is to "clean house" - get rid of stuff, pursuits, and even calendar commitments that aren't necessary. This will take some time so plan to start the discussion now and continue next week.

**Closing Prayer:**

*God, thank you that in your Kingdom we have everything we need. The problem is that we don't always understand your Kingdom, and our kingdom seems like a better idea. It isn't. It never has been. But we keep trying. So help us to find you in our failures to be king. Give us the grace to do what we need to do to live each day in your Kingdom, not ours, where you give us contentment and rest from our worries. We love you.*

Amen.