



Discussion Guide

Let's Talk

What common thing have you never done or experienced (e.g., rode a bike, eaten at McDonald's, watched "The Grinch")?

Let's Study

Read 2 Timothy 4:19-22.

- God's Word states that all Scripture is useful (2 Timothy 3:16), alive, and active (Hebrews 4:12). Why do you think God inspired personal greetings like this to be included in Scripture? How are they useful?

Read Acts 18:24-26.

- Priscilla and Aquila invited Apollos to their home to correct his teaching. List all the possible things they may have done to ensure this experience was a positive one. What may we learn from their approach to this situation?

Read 2 Timothy 4:22, Galatians 6:18, Philippians 4:23, and Philemon 1:25.

- What insights did you discover about the phrase, "the Lord be with your spirit" from the sermon? Why do you think this blessing was Paul's preferred ending to these letters?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

- Paul also invokes God's grace upon his readers in a final greeting. How does this passage inform and encourage you?



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Let's Apply

Are there passages of Scripture that you have previously considered to be not useful? Why? Are you willing to take another look at them and ask God to reveal to you why it is important enough to have been included in the Bible?

Pastor Angela reminded us of Paul's circumstances. "He was sitting in a dungeon awaiting execution. Except for Dr. Luke, he had no one to comfort him. Cold, hungry, lonely, aching, and probably sick, he endured injustice without bitterness." During these difficult days of the pandemic, with all its challenges — loss of health, jobs, certain freedoms, and loneliness, to name a few — what will you do to keep yourself free from bitterness?

Paul is specific, naming names, when he includes people. He emphasizes community and relationships; it is not a "lone ranger" effort. Read the Message translation of 1 Corinthians 12:19-26. Our Connect Groups help us notice each other's growth and be there when tough things happen. In what ways can you reach out to one another this holiday season to offer encouragement?

Let's Pray

Lord, even if there are times when we feel unseen, or unnoticed doing your work, or just carrying on faithfully in the day-to-day, in the mundane, help us to focus on You. You see us. You know us. Your Word says, "And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father (Colossians 3:17)." May all we do be for your glory and purposes. We love you, Lord. Thank You for Your enabling grace for each and every day. AMEN.