



# Discussion Guide

## **Let's Talk**

What's a problem - either personal or global - that you wish you could solve?

## **Let's Study**

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5

- In this passage, what do the "last days" refer to? Summarize the attitudes of the people in your own words. Do you think this means all people will be this way all the time?
- How can those who profess to follow Jesus not be described as verse 5 puts it, "having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power?" (see Galatians 5:16-25 for reference)
- Is it possible to be salt and light in this world and "avoid such people" (verse 5b) - that is, people who exhibit the description in verses 1-4? How do we find this balance?

Read 2 Timothy 3:6-7 and James 1:22-25

- Paul refers to 'gullible women' in Timothy's ministry. The more important emphasis is that we, regardless of gender, can be weakened and led astray. What is the remedy to addictive sin and learning for learning's sake in James?

Read 2 Timothy 3:8-9

- Jannes and Jambres were magicians who used trickery in Pharaoh's court to oppose Moses when he was pleading for the freedom of the Israelites. Paul compares them to false teachers. Have you experienced having to guard against false teaching? What measures did you or could others take?



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## ***Let's Apply***

What difference will our expectations of "the last days" make to how we deal with temptation, failure, opposition, and worldly success?

Has today's study illuminated a wrong that you need to confess or an attitude that needs to change?

Read Ephesians 6:10-12. Discuss how spiritual warfare can be part of our arsenal in protecting us from false teaching.

## ***Let's Pray***

Dear God, today we put on the full armour to guard our lives against attack. We put on the belt of truth to protect against lies and deception. We put on the breastplate of righteousness to protect our hearts from the temptations we battle. We put the gospel of peace on our feet, so we're ready to take your light wherever you send us this day. We choose to walk in the peace and freedom of your Spirit and not be overcome with fear and anxious thoughts. We take up your shield of faith that will extinguish all the darts and threats hurled our way by the enemy. We believe in your power to protect us and choose to trust in you. We put on the helmet of salvation, which covers our minds and thoughts, reminding us we are children of the day, forgiven, set free, saved by the grace of Christ Jesus. We take up the sword of the Spirit, your very Word, the one offensive weapon given to us for battle, which has the power to demolish strongholds, alive, active, and sharper than any double-edged sword.

Thank you that we never fight alone, for you are constantly at work on our behalf, shielding, protecting, strengthening, exposing deeds of darkness, bringing to light what needs to be known, covering us from the cruel attacks we face even when we're unaware. In the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.