

It Takes Training to Illustrate the Gospel

Series: The Illustrated Gospel (Message 2) **Date:** July 11, 2021

1 Timothy 4:6-16

A trustworthy saying: 1 Timothy 4:8

As the leader goes, so goes the church.

1 Timothy 4:6

1 Timothy 4:16

1 Timothy 1:15-16

1 Timothy 4:11-13

So, watch yourself and set an example for others so that you all may be saved!

The leader needs to train in the word and doctrine, not falsehoods.

1 Timothy 4:7a

So, avoid distraction, keep the spiritual "eye of the tiger."

The leader needs to train in godliness, not just bodily.

1 Timothy 4:7b-9

1 Timothy 4:10

So, remember that physical strength and beauty will eventually fade no matter what you do, but you can always grow in godliness. (There is eternal hope for those who believe.)

Leaders need to remember their gifts and calling.

1 Timothy 4:14-15

So, draw confidence from what God has already done in your life.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. When in your life have you trained hard? For what purpose did you train?
2. Read 1 Timothy 4:6. What habits have you found to be the most beneficial in helping you live a God honoring life?
3. Read 1 Timothy 4:7. When are you most likely to become wrapped up in something “irreverent and silly,” or distracted from loving, living, or sharing Christ?
4. Read 1 Timothy 4:8-10. What principles have you learned from the experience of physical training that might help you to train in godliness? Name a person who is serving (or could serve) as your training partner in godliness. How can you help them train this week?
5. Read Matthew 25:21. Looking back, when do you think you have been faithful in serving God? How did you experience joy in service? What impact does it have on your life to know that you can expect to experience future joy with God?
6. Read 1 Timothy 4:14. Recall a time when you saw God work through you. How can you create opportunities for God to work through you in similar ways in the future?
7. Read 1 Timothy 4:15-16. What plan could you put in place to train in the three areas of loving, living, and sharing Christ?

GOING FURTHER

Memorize Scripture: *for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.* **1 Timothy 4:8**

Consider a weekly prayer regime: See if you can pray for these categories 7 out of 7 days. Can you recruit a prayer partner to train with you?

Monday: pray for yourself/your household

Tuesday: your extended family

Wednesday: your friends

Thursday: missionaries

Friday: earthly leaders

Saturday: churches and church leaders

Sunday: anything else