



PAUL

SESSION 5

- **Main Passage:** 2 Timothy 1:8-14; 4:5-8
 - **Purpose:** To understand that dying well can only come from living well.
 - **Session Snapshot:** Paul knew his time was up, so he made sure his protege, Timothy, was ready to fulfill his ministry without Paul. With a bit of last-minute guidance and encouragement, Paul instructed Timothy to follow the example he had set for Timothy. Paul was at peace in the end because he knew he had left Timothy with all Timothy needed to succeed spiritually.
-

GETTING STARTED

Kick-off your time together with a quick connection time or reviewing what you did in the last session.

FIRST, remind your group that this is week 5 of their video series on Paul and that it's part of a larger study looking at the real men of the Bible.

THEN, if you want to start with asking men for prayer requests, checking in on how their weeks have gone, or any other housekeeping tasks, do so.

FINALLY, if there are no questions or other input, transition into the *Digging In* section of your leader's guide.

DIGGING IN

Jump into the session by watching this week's video.

FIRST, play the video. You can access the video by logging into your Iron Hill Press account.

THEN, when the video is over, lead men in a short discussion based on what Rick covered. Feel free to come up with your own questions, or consider asking some similar to those below:

- **What have you found in your life that is worth dying for?**
- **If you got into an accident today, who would be unprepared to move forward spiritually without you? What do you need to do to prepare them?**
- **How confident are you to tell those you are leading, "follow my example as I follow Christ"?**
- **What do you think it looks like for those under your care to fulfill their ministry?**
- **If today was your last, could you read 2 Timothy 4:7 with honesty? Explain your answer.**
- **If you had the choice to be in heaven today or more time on earth, which would you choose? Why?**

- **Rick mentioned the need to make adjustments to our lives in order to *die well*. What adjustments do you think you should make?**

FINALLY, transition into the *Opening the Word* portion of your time together by saying something like the following:

- **When the end was near, it appears as though Paul had no regrets. Let's spend some time digging into this passage to see how we can have a similar outlook when our time comes.**

OPENING THE WORD

Spend time going deeper into a specific concept Rick introduced in the video.

FIRST, explain that you're going to take a more in-depth look at 2 Timothy 1:8-14 and 4:5-8. To die well, we must first learn to live well. This includes living out the kind of example that everyone under our care can look toward and follow. Applying Paul's final instructions will prepare us for that kind of leadership.

We must make sure your people have a good understanding of the context of the passage you'll be studying. Provide the context for the passage using the following bullet points:

- **Author:** Though in the last 200 years or so, some scholars have made efforts to shed doubt on Paul's authorship of both 1 and 2 Timothy, their arguments aren't very compelling.
- **Time frame:** Most scholars believe Paul wrote these letters to Timothy, his apprentice in ministry, between Paul's first and second imprisonment in Rome, although some scholars believe that Paul penned 2 Timothy while in his final imprisonment before he was executed. By most accounts, this would place the writing of 1 and 2 Timothy sometime around 64–65 AD, though 2 Timothy could be as late as 67 AD.
- **Purpose:** Paul tells Timothy in the first epistle to continue to combat false teachings. In addition, Paul gives Timothy specific instructions on how to protect against such teaching, including how to install faithful leadership in the church at Ephesus. 2 Timothy, we see Paul passing along his final words to Timothy. 2 Timothy can be thought of as a personal note from an older man awaiting his death to a young, son-like figure. It's personal, tender at times, encouraging, and practical.

THEN, read or have a volunteer read 2 Timothy 1:8-11. When the volunteer has finished, lead the group in a brief discussion. Ask something like:

- **Paul lived for the eternal reward over the temporary ones. How are you doing the same?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **In verse 9, Paul mentioned God has His purpose for the life He has called us to. What do you think yours is?**
 - Again, answers will vary, but try to steer the answers toward ones that carry eternal value (being an example of Jesus at work or discipling my family) instead of earthly values (being successful at work or providing my family with nice stuff).
- **Christ's sacrifice on the cross "brought life and immortality" (v10), but that immortal life doesn't begin after we die. It starts the moment we become reborn through faith in Jesus. How should the assurance of eternal life change our day-to-day lives?**
 - *Answer:* It should change everything. It should make us bold because there is now nothing to fear. We experience a new kind of peace because our pain and suffering in this world are short-lived compared to the life to come. Contentment should settle in because our joy comes from an eternal source, the LORD. We gain a new value system, point of view, and purpose. Everything changes because God changes us.

Before transitioning to the next question, say something like:

- **The gospel of Jesus gives our lives purpose and meaning like nothing else can. As we just talked about, it changes everything. Therefore, it should become the foundation and guiding light of our lives.**

NEXT, direct your group's attention back to 2 Timothy 1:12-14. Then, ask:

- **By following Jesus' calling, Paul faced insults, beatings, and imprisonment on multiple occasions. Why wouldn't he be ashamed of those experiences at the end of his life?**
 - *Answer:* Paul had surrendered his life into the hands of Jesus. He was confident that Christ had the power and authority to keep that life eternally safe. In Jesus, there is no place for fear or shame.
- **God entrusted Paul with the gospel of Jesus. Then, He entrusted it to Timothy through Paul. How are you handling the Gospel that God has entrusted to you?**
 - *Answer:* We are not meant to keep the truth of Jesus to ourselves. One of the last instructions Jesus gave to His disciples was to make other disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). We need "Timothys" in our lives that we are making a purposeful effort to disciple. These "Timothys" could be our kids, wife, or other Christian men.
- **Paul pointed to the power of the Holy Spirit to help guard this sacred deposit. How does this Spirit do this?**
 - *Answer:* Apart from the work of God in us—the Holy Spirit, we would have no true understanding of the Gospel. We need God's help to know God's Word and work. The Spirit guides us into truth and shows us what to do (John 16:13).

THEN, reread 2 Timothy 4:5-8. Explain to the group that it is important to live as if every day could be your last. This helps us put every effort into preparing those under our care to be ready to carry on the work of the kingdom of God without us. Ask:

- **In what ways could your life be described as "being poured out" for the glory of God and the service of others?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **Paul used the imagery of fighting and racing to describe the struggle of remaining faithful. When does passing on your faith feel like a fight or marathon?**
 - Answers will vary. Ask for personal examples from those that feel comfortable sharing stories from their lives.

FINALLY, have a volunteer reread 2 Timothy 4:8. Then, say something like:

- **In this verse, there is no hint of fear in the death Paul would soon face. It even sounds like he might be looking forward to it. This is because Paul's life had been a difficult journey to the finish line, and he was ready to be done and accept the reward of a *good and faithful servant* (Matthew 25:23). This is a mark of a life lived well.**

Ask if there are any questions. If there are none, transition into *Accepting the Challenge*.

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

Focus your group's attention on one key takeaway from your time together.

FIRST, explain that you want to challenge the group to focus on the takeaways from this session. Consider starting this portion of your session by asking your group what they think are the main application points from your session. Allow discussion to go until there are no more suggestions.

Then, if necessary, supplement your discussion with the following application points. Say something like:

- **After listening to Rick and studying Paul's words, some of us need to ask ourselves, "Am I ready to start making disciples? Can I say, 'Follow me as I follow Christ'?"**
 - This doesn't mean we have to be perfect before we can begin passing on what we know, but we should be making a real effort to live out what we plan on teaching.
- **For others of us, we need to pray for those God would call us to lead. Ask the Lord, "Who have you placed in my life that you want me to disciple?"**
 - "Who do you want me to mentor? How do you want me to start that process?"
- **Some of us need to lift the level of urgency in disciple-making. We know what to do and who God wants us to lead, but we are passive in our approach or simply doing nothing about it.**
 - Pray for the desire to fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith.

Allow the group some time to see where they fit in the process of making disciples. If it feels appropriate, allow some discussion about the next steps they plan on taking.

FINALLY, encourage men to process these questions in the week to come. Challenge them to listen to what God is trying to tell them and to respond accordingly. If there are no more questions or input, close your time together in prayer.