

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

DISCUSSION GUIDES

EVERY MONDAY

Discussion Guide

Sunday Sermon 9.27.26



Reestablishing God's Standard in the Church

Part 2: God's Word Must Set the Standard

This guide is designed to help your family or group take what was taught on Sunday and move from simply hearing the information to applying it in ways that build up and encourage one another. Feel free to adjust the depth and number of questions based on your time and the size of your group.

Access the Sermon on the Website & App:

[Click Here](#)



How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help your group move from hearing God's Word to living it. Work through the sections at a pace that fits your group, and do not feel pressure to cover every question. Let the conversation go where the Spirit leads, always bringing it back to Scripture.

Opening Reflection

Before diving into discussion, take a moment to read 1 Timothy 1:3-11 together as a group. Ask someone to open in prayer, specifically asking God to give the group honest hearts and open minds.

Key Takeaways

These are the central truths from the sermon to keep in front of your group throughout the discussion.

1. God's Word is the fixed standard. Just as a plumb line determines whether a wall is straight, Scripture determines whether the church and the individual believer are on course. The wall does not get to decide if it is straight, and we do not get to decide what is true.

2. The goal of all biblical teaching is love. Paul makes clear in verse 5 that the purpose of sound doctrine is not simply the accumulation of knowledge. It is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Teaching that does not move people toward love has missed the point.

3. God's Word must be taught correctly. The law is good, but it must be used lawfully. The law functions like a mirror, revealing sin and exposing our need. It cannot fix what it reveals. Only the gospel has the power to transform a life from the inside out.

Discussion Questions

Section 1: The Standard

1. The sermon used the image of a plumb line to describe the role of Scripture. In your own words, why is it important that the standard exists outside of us rather than being something we determine for ourselves?
2. Paul warns Timothy against teachings that cause disputes rather than producing godly growth. What are some examples, either from church history or from your own experience, of conversations or teachings that created a lot of discussion but did not seem to build anyone up spiritually?

3. The sermon made the point that a large crowd or an outwardly successful ministry is not necessarily proof that God's standard is being upheld. How should we evaluate whether a church or a teacher is being faithful to Scripture? What questions should we be asking?
4. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 together. What does it mean practically for your life that every Scripture is breathed out by God? How does that change the way you approach reading or studying the Bible on your own?

Section 2: The Goal

5. Verse 5 says the goal of sound teaching is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. In your group's honest assessment, what tends to get treated as the goal of church teaching instead of love? Knowledge? Tradition? Comfort? Agreement?
6. The sermon described agape love as a self-giving love that seeks the good of others without looking for anything in return. Where in your daily life is that kind of love most difficult to practice? What makes it hard?
7. The sermon drew a distinction between people who have a great deal of biblical knowledge and people whose lives have genuinely been transformed by the gospel. What is the difference between those two things? How can someone have one without the other?
8. One of our members (Jeremy McCall) was quoted in the sermon saying that grace freed him to care about someone other than himself. How have you personally experienced the gospel producing love in your life that you could not manufacture on your own?

Section 3: Teaching Correctly

9. The sermon described the law as a mirror that can show you your face is dirty but cannot clean it. How does understanding that distinction change the way you think about God's commands and standards in your own life?
 10. The sermon warned that it is possible to be confident in what you are saying while still being wrong about what God has said. What habits or practices help keep you anchored to what Scripture actually says rather than what you assume it says?
 11. James 3 is referenced in the sermon as a warning about the seriousness of teaching others. Even if you are not a formal teacher, in what ways do you influence the beliefs of people around you, whether family members, coworkers, or friends? How does that responsibility sit with you?
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Practical Applications

Choose one or two of these as a group to commit to before your next meeting.

For personal study: Spend time this week reading through 1 Timothy 1:3-11 slowly and prayerfully. Write down one thing the passage reveals about God and one thing it reveals about yourself.

For honest evaluation: Ask yourself the question the sermon posed directly: Is God's Word actually changing the way I live and what I love, or do I simply have a lot of knowledge about it? Write your honest answer in a journal and bring what you discover back to the group.

For love in action: Identify one person in your life who needs someone to seek their good without expecting anything in return. Make a specific plan this week to serve that person in a concrete way.

For accountability: Pair up with someone in the group and agree to ask each other one question over the next week: "Where did you see God's Word change something in you this week?"

For the lost: The sermon closed with the reminder that the gospel is the only bridge to God. Pray this week for one person by name who does not yet know Jesus Christ, and ask God to open a door for you to share the hope you have.

Closing Prayer Guide

Close your time together by praying through these three areas.

- **Gratitude:** Thank God for giving us His Word as a fixed and trustworthy standard.
- **Confession:** Ask God to reveal where you have drifted from His standard or substituted knowledge for genuine transformation.
- **Intercession:** Pray for your church, your pastors, and your community, that the truth of the gospel would be proclaimed faithfully and received with open hearts.