



Welcome!

Today's Message: You've Got a Friend
Reverend Lance Watson, Jr., Aspire Life Stage Pastor

PRAYER: Accompanying God, we pray for the power to persevere in faithfulness. We are always surrounded by other voices that call us away from you. Give us the discernment and will to listen for your voice and your voice alone. Show us what steps to take and what moves to make that we might always live in your will—that we might always find a friend and be a friend as we live in faith. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Did you have a best friend growing up as a child? How did you first meet? Do you have a best friend now? When was the last time you were in contact with each other?

INTRODUCTION: By the time Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, the young pastor had been ministering to the church at Ephesus for four years, and it had been almost that long since he had received his first letter from Paul. Timothy had been a faithful servant to Paul since he had left home with the apostle more than a decade earlier. Timothy was not unfamiliar to the Ephesians when he settled in Ephesus to minister, having served there alongside Paul for a period of close to three years on Paul's third missionary journey. There were others, some who were devoted and others who departed—both are illustrations of the life of faith. Paul wrote again to this young leader in the church at Ephesus to provide him encouragement and fortitude in the face of these difficulties and trials.

SCRIPTURE: Read 2 Timothy 4:9-11

DISCUSSION:

1. *What stood out in today's message?* What was your favorite part of the message today? What's one thing you learned?
2. In a time when real friends are come by, how does it make you feel to know that you always have a friend in Jesus? What kind of friend was Jesus during his earthly life? What characteristics of Christ should we try to emulate with our friends?
3. Demas abandoned Paul on his mission. Similarly, the move away from Jesus is often a slow fade or subtle shift. These hesitations or temptations often occur in the quiet moments, when the door is closed, when no one is looking, when our friends aren't around or late at night. Is there anything slowly pulling you away from Jesus that you can share with the group?
4. Read Proverbs 4:23 and Luke 6:45. When these verses refer to the heart, what are they referring to in our lives? Why is it important for us to guard our hearts? When you hear, "of the world," how do you personally define that phrase?



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5. Read 1 John 2:15. John Wesley once said, "The world is anything that cools my love for Jesus." What are some simple or everyday things that can cool our passion for Jesus?
6. "What you are today is because of the decision you made yesterday and what you will be tomorrow is determined by the decisions you make today." Has this quote proven true in your life? Share how.
7. Whether we're great at it or not, we are multitaskers. Unfortunately, there's only so much of us to go around and every time we multitask, we cannot devote 100% of ourselves to the task at hand. Too many times we apply a multitasking mentality to our devotion to Jesus. Read Matthew 6:24. Is there anything drawing your devotion away from Jesus? What needs to change? How can your group help?

CHALLENGE: All of us can learn from and be changed by today's message. Although our salvation as Christians is secure, we can drift from Jesus and from the church. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12. After today's message, is God directing you to change anything in your life?

SERVE: Pray over 2 Timothy 4:9-11 this week. **Praise** God for giving you strength to endure in this season. **Listen:** when you are quiet before God, it is amazing how clear things become. **Respond.** Write it down, live it out, give God praise!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also "find, follow and like" our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.



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We Care!

NOTICE: DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS, ALL OF OUR CAMPUSES ARE PHYSICALLY CLOSED AT THIS TIME UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

As a small group leader, we depend on **you** to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472
EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000
EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR/DIRECTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory
EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams (Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org)
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith (SMB: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org)
- Dreamchasers (20-29): TBD
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr. (Lance.Watsonjr@myspbc.org)
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend (Michelle.Townsend@myspbc.org)
- Encore (50-59): Jamie Duncan (Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org)
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman (Maceo.Freeman@myspbc.org)
- Refiners (70+): TBD