

2 Timothy 2:20-26 Discussion Guide

Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Read Scripture

Read 2 Timothy 2 together with special focus on 2:20-26.

Bible Study: The HEAR Method

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

HEAR stands for:

- **Highlight:** read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **Examine:** based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **Respond in prayer:** pray God's Word back to Him.

Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

2 Timothy 2:20-26 (ESV)

"Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. ²¹Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

²²So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will."

Open: How do you typically react to someone who disagrees with you? Why?

Study:

- 1) Considering the context of chapter 2, how would you sum up vs. 20-21 in your own words? Why is Paul reminding Timothy (and by extension other Christians) of this?
- 2) According to vs. 21, what will a "vessel or honorable use" be?

- 3) What was Timothy to flee and what was he to pursue (see vs. 22)? What was Timothy to avoid (see vs. 23)? What makes these actions important for a Christian?
- 4) What are five characteristics of the Lord's bondservant as he seeks to correct others (see vs. 24-25a)? Which do you find natural for you? What do you find difficult for you?
- 5) In summary, what are the specific instructions that Paul gives to Timothy on how to handle false teaching (see vs. 14-16 and 23-26)? What is the aim or goal of Timothy's correction of those spreading false teaching? What makes this explicitly Christian?

Apply:

- 6) At its core, Paul instructs Timothy that our words matter to God. How might God be calling you to adjust your words in correcting or instructing others about the centrality of the gospel?
- 7) Which is the bigger temptation for you—to leave false teaching unchallenged or to oppose it without kindness and love? Why?
- 8) How is God calling you to care for others who may have been led astray? Are there ways that our group can help you in this call?

PRAY:

- Take time thank God for the gospel that frees us to be His vessels.
- Ask God for grace and love to care for others who have been led astray or are leading others astray.
- Ask God for power to use your words as a means of grace to turn others back to Christ.
- Take time to pray for those whose teaching is in error and has led others astray.

NOTE: a variety of resources have been used for this discussion guide including: *ESV 12-Week Study Guide*, *The GoodBook 2 Timothy Study Guide* by Mark Mulryne, *10 Days in 2 Timothy Workbook* by Campus Outreach Birmingham, and *2 Timothy Leader Guide* written by Miles O'Neill and Erin Smith.