

2 Timothy 3:1-9 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 3 together with special focus on 3:1-9.

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 3:1-9 (ESV)

"But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unapproachable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ⁹But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men."

Open: Have you ever dressed up in a costume before for an event? If so, what was your costume and how did you "act" while in it?

Study:

- 1) In this section of Scripture, what are the challenges that Timothy is facing as a church leader?
- 2) The phrase "lovers of..." begins and finishes the list. Compare the two phrases. What is at the heart of the wrong attitudes described here?

- 3) Does the list of vices mentioned in 3:2-5 describe people inside or outside the church? Are there any vices that you are surprised Paul lists? If so, which one(s)? Why? Why are they so serious that Paul lists them?
- 4) The people have a form of godliness (meaning they look godly) but deny its power (vs. 5). What is the power that they deny? Can you give examples of what these people might look like in churches today?

In 2 Timothy 3:8; Paul compares the false teachers to the Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses and Aaron in Exodus 7:19-12, whom later Jewish writings identified as Jannes and Jambres. These magicians imitated some of the miracles performed by Moses and Aaron (Ex. 7:11, 22; 8:7), but they could not replicate the latter plagues and they finally conceded to Pharaoh that God's power was superior to theirs (Ex. 8:18-19).

- 5) In what ways are Timothy's opponents like these ancient adversaries of Moses and Aaron? How might this comparison have encouraged Timothy?
- 6) What comfort can Timothy take from the way Paul finishes this section of his letter in vs. 8-9?

Apply:

- 7) Are you in danger of falling into any of the attitudes (or vices) that Paul outlines in verses 2-5? If so, which ones? If so, why?
- 8) Have you been tempted to project a form of godliness, yet to deny its power? Why? How can a right appreciation and application of the gospel protect you and others from this?
- 9) How might God be calling you to care for others who living in the "last days" and are experiencing all kinds of difficulty? How can others help care for you as well?

PRAY:

- Take time thank God for the gospel rescues us to live for Him.
- Ask God for help to be truly godly and to demonstrate in your life His power.
- Ask God for grace to endure and stick with the gospel as your primary source of joy, comfort, hope, and love.
- Take time to pray for those who may be wavering in their hold of the gospel.

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.