

2 Timothy

Lesson 1 Leader Notes – 2 Timothy 1:1-18

To Begin ...

1. Name 3 of items you'd want to have with you if you were stuck on a deserted island.
2. So far, what has been the highlight of this week?

Hey Life Group Leaders! Welcome to Week 1 of our new Life Group Video Series, through the New Testament book of 2 Timothy! We hope that this series will be uplifting, challenging, and help you find your next step in your journey with God!

You have six questions based the video lesson this week! Remember that these Leader Notes are to serve as a guide for further and deepening conversation with your Life Group, not as the answers! Enjoy this week's discussion and always remember to ask an extra question such as "Why do you believe that?" to draw out some more conversation from your group members!

To start off this lesson, you have two questions that everyone in your group should be able to answer. They are personal, but you should have fun with them! Please make sure that your group feels the safety of sharing within the group. There is no right or wrong answer here. No snap judgments or quick fixes. And as always, be encouraging and show grace as your group members are working through their salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**).

Discussion Prompts

1. Reflecting on the group discussion you just viewed, what idea or statement did you connect with the most?

This is a question that everyone in your group should be able to answer. Maybe this is something that made you think, or that you possibly disagreed with? Why do you disagree and what is your biblical interpretation to support your opinion? This is great for discussion and a healthy back and forth conversation.

2. Paul writes that faith was passed down to Timothy from his grandmother and mother (**2 Timothy 1:4-5**). What individuals have passed faith down to you? Is there someone who has influenced you so greatly that you wouldn't be who you are without that person? If so, what did that person do so effectively?

2 Timothy 1:4-5 reads, *“Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”*

This is another question that everyone in your group should be able to answer because it is asking for your story. There is no right or wrong answer here. Remember please, no snap judgments or quick fixes. And as always, be encouraging and show grace as your group members are working through their salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**).

3. What is one truth or principle you learned from a mentor or teacher that still guides you today?

This is another question that everyone in your group should be able to answer because it is asking for your story. Maybe you learned to be caring or to work hard when faced with a task or to be patient in aggravating circumstances. How do the principles you learned match up with Jesus' teachings? Have you even

thought about that? 😊 There is no right or wrong answer here. No snap judgments or quick fixes. And as always, be encouraging and show grace as your group members are working through their salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**).

4. Read **2 Timothy 1:8-11**. Sometimes, we struggle with both our spiritual growth and sharing Jesus because of toxic feelings like shame, worry, and unhealthy fear. How might focusing on God's power (vs 8), His grace (v. 9), and the destruction of death & emergence of new life (vs 11) help you to fight such destructive emotions?

2 Timothy 1:8-11 reads, *"So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher."*

Some answers to this question may include that we must realize that we can't save ourselves. If we know that we need help, and if we know that Jesus is the only one who can help us, we must focus on what he shares with us. His grace and his power are far greater than anything we have at our disposal. We are invited to use these gifts to live a life that God intended us to live; to be free from guilt and shame; to live in the freedom of God's grace with his power to sustain us in his new life for us. This realignment of our vision takes our perspective off of the negative aspects of suffering and pain, putting it in better alignment with God's perspective and his intentions for us in this life.

5. In **2 Timothy 1:14**, Paul states that both you and God, through the Spirit, guard your faith. How do you guard your faith on a regular basis? What can you do to guard your faith?

2 Timothy 1:14 reads, *“Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.”*

Timothy was in a time of transition. He had been Paul’s bright young helper; soon he would be on his own as leader of a church in a difficult environment. Although his responsibilities were changing, Timothy was not without help. He had everything he needed to face the future, if he would hold on tightly to the Lord’s resources. Timothy is to guard the pattern of teaching while he maintains faith in God and exhibits love for others. When you are facing difficult transitions, it is good to follow Paul’s advice to Timothy and look back at your experience. Who is the foundation of your faith? How can you build on that foundation? What gifts has the Holy Spirit given you? Use the gifts have already been given.

6. At certain points in this chapter, Paul writes about his current situation (**2 Timothy 1:8, 12-16**). How could Paul’s vulnerability encourage Timothy and the church in Ephesus? How do these verses encourage and challenge you?

2 Timothy 1:8 reads, *“So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.”*

2 Timothy 1:12-16 reads, *“That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day. What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.”*

Some answers may include that Timothy may have been afraid to continue preaching the gospel. His fears were based on fact, because believers were being arrested and executed. Paul may have expressed his confidence to encourage Timothy who was undoubtedly discouraged by the problems in Ephesus and fearful of persecution. Even in prison, Paul knew that God was still in control. No matter what setback or problems we face, we can trust fully in God. Paul told Timothy to expect suffering. But Paul promised Timothy that God would give him strength and that he would be ready when it was his turn to suffer. Paul's confidence in God was what prevented him from being ashamed. His boldness came not from self-confidence, but from God confidence. Even when ready, when there is not persecution, it can be difficult to share our faith in Christ. Fortunately, like Paul and Timothy, we can call on the Holy Spirit to give us courage. Don't be ashamed to testify.

Remember to ask for prayer requests and close your group in prayer. Encourage one another to take steps, regardless of how small, toward Jesus and his kingdom.

Personal Reflection & Deeper Study for this Week:

1. Read 1 Timothy 1 in a different Bible version each day this week. You can also listen to 2 Timothy 1 in different Bible versions on the *YouVersion* Bible app.
2. Carefully read Ephesians 1:11-14; 2:6-10; Philippians 1:6; Colossians 3:23-24; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:14; and 1 Peter 1:3-5. Now, reflect on the following questions and write your answers based on the verses you just read:
 - How does God guard your faith/salvation?

- What is your responsibility in guarding your faith/salvation?
 - What obstacles might prevent you from guarding your faith/salvation?
3. Paul is writing to encourage Timothy to hold onto his faith. After reading 2 Timothy 1, how does Paul's focus on Christ (and the gospel) encourage Timothy? How does this focus destroy shame?
4. This week, memorize one or more of the following verses:
- 2 Timothy 1:6
 - 2 Timothy 1:7
 - 2 Timothy 1:9-10
 - 2 Timothy 1:12