

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-12

TIME ALONE WITH GOD

GROUNDING YOURSELF

As we begin this journey of walking through Paul's final letter to Timothy, let us pause and ask God to slow us down and teach us. In whatever way is most meaningful to you, say aloud/write/meditate on the following: Slow me down, Lord, and teach me.

GRASPING THE SCRIPTURES

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-12

-What do you learn about Paul from this passage? What do you learn about Timothy? In what ways are you like Paul & Timothy?

-Who are Lois & Eunice? What role did they play in Timothy's spiritual development? How do you imagine this might have looked in daily practice?

-Do you notice any themes or patterns present in these verses? Why do you think repetition of these things was important to Paul?

-Re-read verses 8-12 and then read the following excerpt from the book, Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus (Merida, 149):

*"In a few verses Paul concisely exalts God's gospel. When he finishes with this awe-inspiring description, he says, 'And that is **why** I suffer these things' (v. 12, emphasis added). The reason Paul was willing to lay down his life in this mission was that he believed the gospel was worth it; Christ was worth it! Paul found Christ to be more desirable, enjoyable, and beautiful than anything else. Even dying was gain for Paul because of this vision of the Savior. Religious people find God useful, but cross-bearing disciples find him beautiful. You can endure suffering when you see what Paul saw."*

What did Paul see when he contemplated the gospel? (see verses 9-10)

-Read vs. 6-7. What gift has God given you? How might you "fan [it] into flame"?

GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY

Write yourself a postcard or letter this week reminding yourself whom God made you to be. You may name any weaknesses, struggles, insecurities, and uncertainties you carry; but, also point yourself back to God's Truth about how you bear His image well. And even more, remind yourself of who God is. (Pass this writing on to someone else and ask them to hold onto it and then mail it to you sometime down the road. If you are in a small group, bring your sealed letter the next time you're together and give it to someone in your group.)

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TIME WITH OTHERS

GLEANNING INSIGHT FROM OTHERS

To work through with a small group

We encourage you to begin your time by reading through the passage aloud and closing your time in prayer with one another.

- Do you remember a time when someone encouraged you in a way that impacted the rest of your life?
- Paul uses a version of the words remember/remind 4 times in verses 3-7. What else have we been told to remember in scripture? (See 1 Cor 11:24-25, Luke 22:19) How does remembering/reminding play a role in our work as a disciple(r)?
- List the ways that Paul encourages Timothy in this passage. Are you particularly encouraged by one of these exhortations? What is it and why are you encouraged by it? How might you encourage others with this?
- In verse 8, Paul urges Timothy to "not be ashamed." Why might he be ashamed? Have you ever been in a situation that you found yourself ashamed or found it hard to stand up for your faith?
- Read Paul's words in Romans 5:3-5 and Jesus' words in Luke 9:23-24. How would you describe the role suffering plays in our faith? Where have you seen that in your own life?
- What's something from this week's time in 2 Timothy that has left a mark on you? (something you need to think about more, something you want to talk with someone about, something you want to put into practice, etc)

GUIDING OTHERS

To work through with Family & Friends

The idea behind this section is to give parents a few questions they could talk through with their kids at the dinner table or while tucking them in at night. But this is not limited to parents of young children. These questions could be discussed with folks of any age.

Read 2 Timothy 1:7 (ERV)

"The spirit of God does not make us afraid. His Spirit is a source of power and love and self-control."

If you are doing this with young kids you'll probably need to talk about the three words: power, love and self-control. You might ask, "What do you think it means when it says, "power," etc? Here is an easy way to define them all.

- Power can mean being physically strong, but it also means having the courage to do something hard or difficult.
- Love means putting others first.
- Self-control means doing the right thing even when you don't feel like it.

Talk about it:

1. Is there something hard going on that you need power from the Holy Spirit to help you through it?
2. Where have you seen love this week? How might you show love to someone else?
3. Where might you need the Holy Spirit to help you with self-control?