

---

# 2 TIMOTHY



FIND MORE RESOURCES AT **GRACE-BIBLE.ORG**

© 2021 Grace Bible Church  
College Station, TX

Created and edited by staff of Grace Bible Church.

This document may be reproduced and distributed freely, but you may not charge a fee greater than your manufacturing costs. No section of this document may be modified without written consent of Grace Bible Church, College Station, TX.

Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®  
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995  
by The Lockman Foundation. Used with permission.

# CONTENTS

**4 WELCOME**

**6 SURVEY**

**9 LESSON 1**

2 Timothy 1:1-7

**17 LESSON 2**

2 Timothy 1:8-18

**25 LESSON 3**

2 Timothy 2:1-7

**33 LESSON 4**

2 Timothy 2:8-13

**41 LESSON 5**

2 Timothy 2:14-26

**49 LESSON 6**

2 Timothy 3:1-9

**57 LESSON 7**

2 Timothy 3:10-17

**65 LESSON 8**

2 Timothy 4:1-8

**73 LESSON 9**

2 Timothy 4:9-22

**81 SYNTHESIS**

**87 APPENDIX**

Bible Study Tools

Additional Study Resources

New Testament Chronology

Engage Tools

# WELCOME

God's word, the Bible, is a unique and wonderful book. It is one of His greatest gifts to us. By reading, meditating on, and studying it, we begin to see into God's heart, to hear His voice, and to know Him deeply.

This study of 2 Timothy will guide you to:

**Connect** in authentic community as you and your group share the joys and struggles of life and pray together for big things.

**Grow** in biblical truth by searching the scripture and actively applying this truth to your life.

**Engage** joyfully in helping people find and follow Jesus by practicing simple discipleship tools that tune your heart to those who are far from God.

## PERSONAL STUDY + PRAYER

Each lesson in this study begins with personal study sections designed for individuals to walk through the book verse by verse. The Survey contains the big picture and background information for the book. Lessons 1-9 focus on studying the passages in detail. The Synthesis is a place to record an overall summary of the content and flow of the book. In each lesson, you will learn and use a number of basic Bible study methods. These methods fit under three fundamental skills that are meant to be practiced in order each week.

**Observe:** What do I see?

**Interpret:** What does it mean?

**Apply:** How does it work?

These skills are summarized in the Bible Study Tools Overview in the Appendix on page 88.

**Prayer Reminders:** We need God Himself to illuminate His word to us. As we prayerfully approach the study of His word, God shows up! Pray before, during, and at the end of each lesson for eyes to see and ears to hear the things God has planned to reveal to you.

## MEMORY VERSES

Each lesson suggests a verse to meditate on and memorize if possible. It is amazing to experience God reminding us of His word that we have planted in our hearts.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

At the end of every lesson, there is a Group Discussion Guide that provides a balanced plan for the time you spend together as a group - connecting, growing and engaging.

## APPENDIX

**Bible Study Tools:** Each lesson contains descriptions of tools that will help you to observe, interpret, and apply scripture. These are summarized on pages 88-92.

**Additional Study Resources:** The appendix also contains a list of recommended books and online tools on page 93.

**New Testament Chronology:** A list of the approximate dates of major events in the New Testament can be found on pages 94-95.

**Engage Tools:** We are called to partner with God in helping people find and follow Jesus. Some of the basic tools for becoming a disciple maker will be introduced in the lessons and can be found on pages 96-104.

# SURVEY

Surveying a book like 2 Timothy allows you to grasp the big picture, the overall storyline of the book, before getting caught up in the details. This survey then provides an incredibly helpful road map to guide your study during the coming weeks. So begin this crucial first step by taking the next fifteen minutes to read once straight through the whole book of 2 Timothy without stopping. Then answer the questions below before moving on to the next page.

How would you describe Paul and Timothy's relationship?

What are the major themes or big ideas in this book? (Hint: look for repeated words and ideas.)

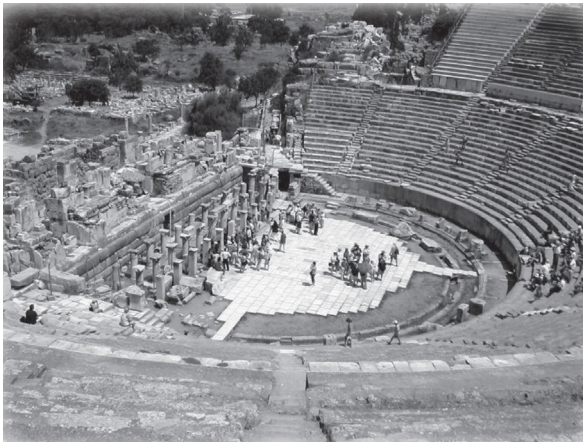
Now that you have read through the entire book, what are Paul's purposes in writing it? Be as specific as you can.

## AUTHORS

2 Timothy is the second of the 'Pastoral Epistles,' which include 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. Unlike Paul's other letters, these three were written not to churches but to individuals. Timothy and Titus were serving their churches in pastoral roles, and Paul addressed their challenges and concerns. Even though they were written for these men in particular, they were probably read widely, as well.<sup>1</sup>

## RECIPIENTS

Concerning Timothy, A. Duane Litfin writes<sup>2</sup>, “Timothy was the son of a Greek father and Jewish mother (Acts 16:1). No mention is made of his father being a Christian, but his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois were both known for their sincere faith (2 Timothy 1:5). They had already taught the old Testament Scriptures to Timothy by the time Paul arrived in his hometown of Lystra during Paul’s first missionary journey (Acts 14:6; 16:1). Paul took him on as a promising protégé, becoming like a spiritual father to the young man (“my true son in the faith” in 1 Timothy 1:2 and “my dear son” in 2 Timothy 1:2). Timothy’s promise for the ministry was recognized early (1 Timothy 1:18; 4:14). He also became Paul’s faithful partner, representative, and messenger on multiple occasions (e.g. Acts 19:22; 1 Corinthians 4:17). Timothy had become so dear to Paul that this last letter includes touching appeals for Timothy to join him in his final days of imprisonment (2 Timothy 1:4; 4:9, 21).”<sup>2</sup>



Interior view of the theater of Ephesus. It was under renovation during Paul’s visits, and when completed could seat 24,000 people!

Ephesus was a leading city of the Roman province of Asia; it boasted great prowess both economically and religiously during the Apostle Paul’s lifetime. Ephesus represented the materially “successful” religion of that era. On his departure from Ephesus, Paul left Timothy behind to provide leadership to the congregation. Then after an interval Paul wrote Timothy a letter, 1 Timothy, urging him on in that ministry, and later wrote 2 Timothy for the same purpose.

## PURPOSE

Paul wrote this letter first and foremost to prepare Timothy to stand strong without his frequent guidance. Paul was deeply troubled by false teaching (2 Timothy 2:23) and apostasy (3:1-9) which endangered the church at Ephesus. Paul urged Timothy to teach sound doctrine, promote good works, and accept one’s share of suffering for the sake of the gospel. Sound doctrine is so vital to the health of the church that it is something to be pursued, fought for, and even suffered for.

<sup>1</sup>Litfin, A. Duane. “1 Timothy.” In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, edited by J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985, p. 726.

<sup>2</sup>Litfin, A. Duane. “1 Timothy.” In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, edited by J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985, pp. 729-30.





For God has not given us a spirit of timidity,  
but of power and love and discipline.

**2 TIMOTHY 1:7**

---

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.  
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

# OBSERVE

## OBSERVATION SKILL: BASIC OBSERVATIONS

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, “What do I see?” This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. We will learn a new observation skill each week to practice with the others we have already learned. This week, simply read the passage and write one or two observations for each verse below. Our observations might identify people, places, and events, point out repeated words or key terms, record important connections between words and sentences, or even point out something missing that we expected to see. The first few have been done for you.

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage.

### 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ  
*Paul was an apostle*

Jesus, <sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and  
*Paul calls Timothy his “beloved son”*

Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup> I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my

forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, <sup>4</sup> longing to see

you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> For I am mindful of the sincere

faith within you, which first dwelled in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and

I am sure that it is in you as well. <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of

God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a spirit of

timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

1. List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.

2. Underline the words or phrases in 1:1-7 that describe Paul's relationship with Timothy.

3. What does this passage tell us about Timothy's relationship with the Lord?

# INTERPRET

## USE THE CONTEXT

Our observation of 2 Timothy each week will stir up some interesting and challenging questions. Fortunately, we do not have to run to a commentary or study Bible for the answer (though these are helpful tools to check our conclusions). God desires all of us to become approved workmen, “accurately handling the Word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). To that end, **we will learn a new interpretive skill each week** to practice along with the others we have already learned. This week’s interpretive skill greatly improves our understanding of what a passage meant to its original readers—**use the context**. Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question. Try to follow Paul’s flow of thought through the whole chapter. This may take you to the previous lesson, so have it handy as a review. You may also need to read ahead in 2 Timothy for clues.

1. Paul introduces himself as an “apostle of Christ Jesus.” What is an apostle? What are the qualifications and responsibilities of an apostle? Use the following passages to help you with your answer: 1 Corinthians 9:1-2; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:11-13.

2. Why does Paul refer to the faith of Lois and Eunice, Timothy’s grandmother and mother (v. 5)?

3. What do you think was Timothy's "gift of God" that Paul refers to in verse 6? Do you see any clues in the rest of the book that can help you answer that question? (See Ephesians 4:11-16 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 for lists of spiritual gifts).

4. From your study of chapter 1 so far, why does Paul remind Timothy that we don't have a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline (v. 7)?

# APPLY

Our Bible study is only complete once we apply what we've learned. Begin by answering a few reflection questions designed to demonstrate how each passage relates to our own lives. Next, step back and look at the passage as a whole and list potential principles. A **principle** is simply a fact or command stated or implied in a particular passage that is practically relevant to our lives. A principle is not specific to a particular person or time. Finally, decide on specific action steps that you will begin to take right away to apply the principle in your daily life and consider how the principle impacts the relationships in your life.

## 3 Steps to Apply -> Reflect, List Principles, Make a Plan

1. Who has influenced your own spiritual growth and development?
2. Whose spiritual growth and development are you influencing right now?
3. Have you discovered the spiritual gift(s) that God has given you? If so, how are you using gifts to serve the body of Christ?

## SHARING YOUR STORY

You have a unique story of how you came to know and follow Jesus. Your story is one of the most powerful tools you have for helping other people find and follow Jesus as well.

Write out your story using the tool on page 99, and pray for opportunities to share it this week.

4. Prayerfully determine the main biblical truth or principle that God revealed to you during your study.

A few questions to ask are:

- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a truth for me to believe?
- Is there a command for me to obey?

5. What specifically will you do this week to begin applying this principle in your daily life? Determine how this truth or principle impacts the relationships in your life where you live, work, and play.

In the box below, create a personal application statement, expressing how you will apply this truth in your life.

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CONNECT

Spend a few minutes catching up with each other. Share something you are celebrating or something that disappointed you during the last week.

Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him. Set a timer!

## GROW

**Memorize the Word** - spend a few minutes reviewing the verses you are memorizing.

### Discuss the Passage

Observe | Discuss the skill of observing the text. Briefly share some observations.

Focus on Question 1.

Interpret | Discuss the skill of using the context.

Focus on Questions 1 and 2.

## ENGAGE

Apply | Review the importance of applying God's Word.

Focus on Questions 1 and 2.

Review Sharing Your Story Tool (p. 99).



Therefore do not be ashamed of the  
testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner,  
but join with me in suffering for the gospel  
according to the power of God.

**2 TIMOTHY 1:8**

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.  
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

# OBSERVE

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage.

## 2 TIMOTHY 1:8-18

<sup>8</sup> Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was granted to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, <sup>10</sup> but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, <sup>11</sup> for which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher. <sup>12</sup> For this reason I also suffer these things; but I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to protect what I have entrusted to Him until that day. <sup>13</sup> Hold on to the example of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Protect, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

<sup>15</sup> You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. <sup>16</sup> The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains; <sup>17</sup> but when he was in Rome, he

eagerly searched for me and found me—<sup>18</sup> the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord

on that day—and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus.

**OBSERVATION SKILL: INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS**

Like last week, read the passage and write down your observations. This week, we will begin to write our own questions as well. Just record the questions that naturally come to mind as you try to understand and apply the passage! If you need help getting started, you can use these examples:

WHO IS...	WHAT IS THE...	WHY DID THE AUTHOR...	HOW...
Paul talking about? accomplishing the action? benefiting from the action?	meaning of this word? significance of this phrase? implication of this statement? relationship between these phrases?	choose this word? include this phrase, statement, or command? not say _____?	was this action accomplished? will this situation occur?

List your interpretive questions:

1. How does Paul characterize his life before meeting Jesus? List the characteristics he uses to describe himself.
2. How does Paul characterize his life after meeting Jesus? List the characteristics he uses to describe himself.
3. What truths about the gospel do we learn from this section? List them below:
4. Underline Paul's commands to Timothy in these verses.

# INTERPRET

## **INTERPRETATION SKILL: CROSS REFERENCES**

Cross references are simply other passages in any book of the Bible that are somehow related to the verses you are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as you seek to understand your passage. A few such cross references can be found in the margins of most English Bibles, but more can be found by visiting the online reference [lumina.bible.org](http://lumina.bible.org). Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that “NET2” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for “Notes” on the right side of the screen. Now, anytime you select one of the numbered annotations above particular words or verses, you can immediately see the relevant Biblical or historical context for that term or passage. This is a great tool for answering tough questions!

1. Answer any two of your own interpretation questions:

2. How does this passage relate to the previous passage? In other words, how does Paul relate verse 8 to what came before?

3. What motivated Paul to suffer well and without shame (v. 8-12)?

4. Why does Paul strongly urge Timothy to “retain the standard of sound words” (v. 13)? Why might Timothy have been reluctant or afraid to do so?

5. How do verses 15-18 contribute to Paul’s point in this passage?

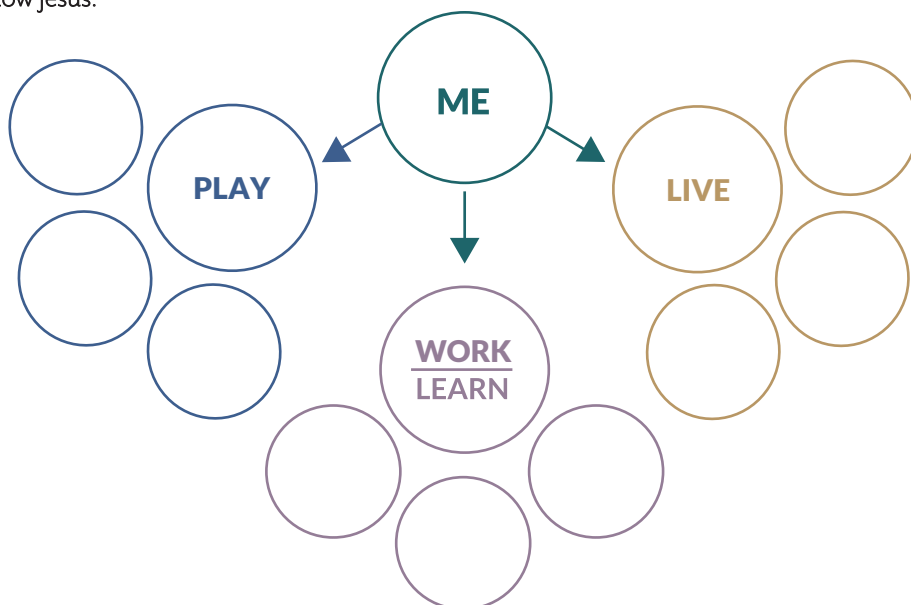
# APPLY

1. In your own words, write a summary of the gospel.
2. When did you first hear and believe the gospel?
3. What have you learned from this passage about the value of suffering for the gospel?

## EVERY NEIGHBOR MAP

Think about the people in your spheres of influence; the people with whom you live, work, learn, and play, who are near to you but might be far from God. Be as exhaustive as possible and brainstorm away! Also, think about people that are just beyond your normal spheres. People that are that next step out- perhaps an acquaintance that you don't know well, a neighbor who is different from you ethnically, socially, or economically; a community member that the Holy Spirit has put in your path but is more a stranger than friend?

Write down at least three names in each of these spheres. Begin to pray diligently for these friends to find and follow Jesus.



4. Prayerfully determine the main biblical truth or principle that God revealed to you during your study.

A few questions to ask are:

- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a truth for me to believe?
- Is there a command for me to obey?

5. What specifically will you do this week to begin applying this principle in your daily life? Determine how this truth or principle impacts the relationships in your life where you live, work, and play.

In the box below, create a personal application statement, expressing how you will apply this truth in your life.

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CONNECT

How was your week? Share a highlight or something that discouraged you during the last week.

Share how you did applying God's Word in your daily life during the last week.

Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him. Set a timer!

## GROW

**Memorize the Word** - spend a few minutes reviewing the verses you are memorizing.

### Discuss the Passage

Observe | Discuss skill of asking interpretive questions.

Focus on Questions 1 and 2.

Interpret | Discuss the skill of using cross references.

Focus on Questions 3 and 4.

## ENGAGE

Apply | Review the importance of applying God's Word to our lives.

Focus on Questions 1 and 2.

Review your Every Neighbor Maps.

### Pray Big

Make a list of one person from each group member's map. Spend some time praying for these friends. Ask God for opportunities to deepen friendships and practically bless them with His love. Ask God to reveal Himself to them and open their eyes to His power and freedom.

Our group is praying for these friends to find and follow Jesus:



The things which you  
have heard from me in  
the presence of many  
witnesses, entrust these  
to faithful people who  
will be able to teach  
others also.

**2 TIMOTHY 2:2**

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.  
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

# OBSERVE

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage.

## 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful people who will be able to teach others also. <sup>3</sup>Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup>No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him. <sup>5</sup>And if someone likewise competes as an athlete, he is not crowned as victor unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup>The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. <sup>7</sup>Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

## **OBSERVATION SKILL: LIST PRIMARY THEMES**

A primary theme is the big idea, the central truth, or command that the passage focuses on, such as “suffering for the gospel” and “God’s grace and mercy”. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

1. List the themes or big ideas you see in this passage.
2. What are the four commands in this passage?
3. Using three different colors, underline the descriptions of the soldier, athlete, and farmer.

# INTERPRET

## LOOK UP KEY WORDS

By understanding what words mean in their context, we get a better idea of what the author was trying to communicate to us. While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek provides deeper understanding and is surprisingly easy, thanks to online tools such as [lumina.bible.org](http://lumina.bible.org). Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that “NET2” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for “Greek” on the right side of the screen. Now hovering over any word in English will highlight the corresponding Greek term and reveal its Strong’s definition in the opposite window. For even further study, you can select a word, click the magnifying glass above it, then choose to run a “Word Search,” “Strong’s Search,” or “Word Study.” The first will provide all Biblical references that use the English term. The second will provide all Biblical references that use the Greek term. And the third will provide the full definition and derivatives of the Greek term. What used to take multiple books & many hours now takes one internet browser and a few seconds!

1. Why does Paul include verse 1 before verse 2? In other words, why is it significant that we know and apply verse 1 before we move on to verses 2-3? (See also 2 Corinthians 3:5-6.)

2. Using the process described in the directions above, look up the word “entrust” in verse 2. Of the definitions listed, which one best fits here?

3. What principles for “spiritual multiplication” (often called “discipleship”) can you derive from 2 Timothy 2:1-6?

4. Describe the illustrations used by Paul in verses 4-6.

	What is required of them?	What does their faithfulness earn?
Soldier (v4)		
Athlete (v5)		
Farmer (v6)		

# APPLY

1. What would it look like practically in your own life to “entrust” to others what you have learned about God and His Word?

2. How can your vocation (student, businessperson, parent, etc.) be used as a platform for spiritual multiplication?

3. Prayerfully determine the main biblical truth or principle that God revealed to you during your study.

A few questions to ask are:

- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a truth for me to believe?
- Is there a command for me to obey?

4. What specifically will you do this week to begin applying this principle in your daily life? Determine how this truth or principle impacts the relationships in your life where you live, work, and play.

In the box below, create a personal application statement, expressing how you will apply this truth in your life.

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CONNECT

How was your week? What highs or lows did you encounter this week?

Share any opportunities you had to share your story during the last week.

Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him. Set a timer!

## GROW

**Memorize the Word** - spend a few minutes reviewing the verses you are memorizing.

### Discuss the Passage

Observe | Discuss the skill of listing primary themes and big ideas.

Focus on Questions 1 and 3.

Interpret | Discuss the skill of looking up key words.

Focus on Questions 2 and 3.

## ENGAGE

Apply | Review how to develop an application statement.

Discuss Questions 1 and 2.

### Pray Big

Spend time praying for each other and personally applying the Word to your life.

Pray for people from your group's Every Neighbor maps to build relationships and start spiritual conversations.





# OBSERVE

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage.

## 2 TIMOTHY 2:8-13

<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. <sup>10</sup> For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

<sup>11</sup> The statement is trustworthy:

For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

<sup>12</sup> If we endure, we will also reign with Him;

If we deny Him, He will also deny us;

<sup>13</sup> If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

## **OBSERVATION SKILL: UNDERLINE ALL VERBS**

Read the passage and write down your observations, questions, and themes. This week, we will begin to underline all of the verbs. Quick review: A verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action takes place (“we will reign with Him”) or that a state or condition exists (“we are faithless”). Verbs are often the most significant indicators of the author’s flow of thought.

1. List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.
2. List your observations about Jesus Christ from this section. (In other words, what do you learn about Jesus from these verses?)
3. After underlining all verbs, note the tense of each verb (past, present, future).

# INTERPRET

## COMPARE MULTIPLE TRANSLATIONS

This packet uses the New American Standard (NASB) translation. As you tackle the questions below, look up the passage in other translations and compare to the NASB to look for helpful clues or clearer wording. The New King James Version (NKJV), like the NASB, is a fairly word-for-word translation of the Greek text and, therefore, quite accurate for Bible study. The New International Version (NIV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are excellent phrase-to-phrase translations of the Greek and are thus often easier to read. Another excellent phrase-to-phrase Bible, which includes extensive translation notes, is the New English Translation (NET) available online for free at [bible.org](http://bible.org). You can find and compare numerous English translations of any Bible passage at [biblestudytools.net](http://biblestudytools.net).

1. Create and answer any two of your own interpretive questions.

a.

b.

2. Why is Paul willing to endure such severe hardships (2:8-10)?

4. The 4-line poetic “saying” Paul quotes in verses 11-13 is challenging to interpret! To gain a clearer understanding of it, answer the following questions in order:

On the surface, the second half of verse 12 seems to contradict verse 13.

a. Why does Paul include this saying? In other words, how does it relate to his discussion of suffering and endurance in this section?

b. Fill out the chart below about the pairs of words in these verses.

	Meaning	Purpose
Died/live (Romans 6:1-10)		
Endure/reign (2 Timothy 4:7-8, Revelation 2:26-27)		
Deny/deny (Matthew 25:33-35, Luke 12:8-9, 1 Timothy 5:8)		
Faithless/Faithful		

c. What does each pair mean (in your own words) and what is the purpose of each pair (e.g. comfort, warning, information, etc.)?

# APPLY

1. Have fear, embarrassment, or busyness ever kept you from sharing the Gospel? Explain.

2. What practical steps can you take this week to overcome your fear and begin faithfully sharing the Gospel?

## SHARING THE GOSPEL

Spend some time reviewing the 3 Circles Gospel Tool on page 102. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with some one from your Every Neighbor Map.

3. Prayerfully determine the main biblical truth or principle that God revealed to you during your study.

A few questions to ask are:

- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a truth for me to believe?
- Is there a command for me to obey?

4. What specifically will you do this week to begin applying this principle in your daily life? Determine how this truth or principle impacts the relationships in your life where you live, work, and play.

In the box below, create a personal application statement, expressing how you will apply this truth in your life.

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CONNECT

How was your week? Did you see God working in any specific ways?

Share how you did applying God's Word in your daily life during the last week.

## GROW

**Memorize the Word** - spend a few minutes reviewing the verses you are memorizing.

### Discuss the Passage

Observe | Discuss the skill of underlining all verbs.

Focus on Question 2.

Interpret | Discuss the skill of comparing multiple translations.

Focus on Questions 2 and 3.

## ENGAGE

Apply | Focus on Questions 1 and 2.

Pair up and practice sharing the Gospel.

### Pray Big

Spend some time praying for each other - primarily about personal applications.

Continue to pray boldly for the people from your group's Every Neighbor maps and for opportunities to engage with them.



---

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God  
as a worker who does not need to be ashamed,  
accurately handling the word of truth.

**2 TIMOTHY 2:15**

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.  
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

# OBSERVE

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage.

## 2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

<sup>14</sup> Remind them of these things, and solemnly exhort them in the presence of God not to dispute about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the listeners. <sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. <sup>16</sup> But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, <sup>17</sup> and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, <sup>18</sup> men who have gone astray from the truth, claiming that the resurrection has already taken place; and they are jeopardizing the faith of some. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His;" and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to keep away from wickedness." <sup>20</sup> Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver implements, but also implements of wood and of earthenware, and some are for honor while others are for dishonor. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be an implement for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. <sup>22</sup> Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on the Lord from a pure

heart. <sup>23</sup> But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels.

<sup>24</sup> The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, skillful in teaching,

patient when wronged, <sup>25</sup> with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps

God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and they may

come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him

to do his will.

## **OBSERVATION SKILL: CIRCLE KEY WORDS AND PHRASES**

Read the passage, write down your observations, questions, and themes, and underline all verbs. This week we will begin to **circle all of the key words or phrases**. These are words or short phrases that are important theologically (like “word of truth” in 2:15) or thematically set the theme or main idea for the passage (like “approved” and “worldly and empty chatter” in 2:15, 16).

1. List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.
2. Circle all key words and phrases.
3. Underline in these verses the productive and destructive ways that we can use our words.

# INTERPRET

## LOOK UP BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This week's interpretive skill greatly improves our understanding of what a passage meant to its original readers—**look up background information**. You can find helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary or by looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is *The New Bible Dictionary* by Wood & Marshall. The *IVP Bible Background Commentary* by Craig Keener is another excellent example of a verse-by-verse background commentary.

1. Answer any two of your own interpretive questions:

2. What does it mean to accurately handle the word of truth? (See 2 Timothy 2:18, 23-25, 3:15-17.)

3. Why does Paul so strongly condemn the teaching of Hymenaeus and Philetus? Why is their teaching about the resurrection so dangerous (see 1 Corinthians 15:12-19)? (Use the skill of looking up background information to help answer this question.)

4. Read verses 20-21 to determine the meaning of the figurative language used.

a. Describe the characteristics of honorable and dishonorable vessels.

b. Based on this passage, is it possible for a Christian to be a dishonorable vessel? If so, how?

5. What are the results of using our words well? What are the consequences of using our words destructively?

# APPLY

1. Paul tells us not only to flee from sin, but also to pursue righteousness (v. 22). Practically speaking, how can you pursue righteousness this week with your words, your actions, and your attitudes?

2. Prayerfully determine the main biblical truth or principle that God revealed to you during your study.

A few questions to ask are:

Is there a promise for me to claim?

Is there a truth for me to believe?

Is there a command for me to obey?

3. What specifically will you do this week to begin applying this principle in your daily life? Determine how this truth or principle impacts the relationships in your life where you live, work, and play.

In the box below, create a personal application statement, expressing how you will apply this truth in your life.

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CONNECT

What are you thankful for this week? What are you asking God for currently?

Share how you did applying God's Word in your daily life during the last week.

## GROW

**Memorize the Word** - spend a few minutes reviewing the verses you are memorizing.

### Discuss the Passage

Observe | Discuss the skill of circling key words and phrases. Briefly share some of the observations you saw in this passage.

Focus on Question 2.

Interpret | Discuss the skill of looking up background information.

Focus on Questions 2, 3 and 5.

## ENGAGE

Apply | Focus on Question 1.

Take some time to share one another's personal application statements and their plans to follow through with it.

### Pray Big

Spend some time praying for each other - primarily about personal applications.

Continue to pray for the people from your group's Every Neighbor maps. Share about any opportunities God has given to deepen friendships.





# OBSERVE

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage.

## 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9

<sup>1</sup> But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; avoid such people as these. <sup>6</sup> For among them are those who slip into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, worthless in regard to the faith. <sup>9</sup> But they will not make further progress; for their foolishness will be obvious to all, just as was that also of Jannes and Jambres.

## BOX CONNECTING WORDS, PART 1

Read the passage and write down your observations, questions, and themes. Circle all key words and highlight all repeated words or phrases. This week, we will begin to **box connecting words**. These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses.

We will learn four types of connecting words this week:

**Comparison** either points out similarities between two or more related ideas or simply joins like ideas.

Comparison words include: and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so (e.g., “like the Gentiles” in 2:14).

**Contrast** points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include: but, rather, yet, however (e.g., “No longer I... but Christ” in 2:20).

**Purpose** indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words include: that, so that, in order that (e.g., “Christ redeemed us... in order that in Christ Jesus...” in 3:13-14).

**Result** is similar to purpose, but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words include: that, so that, as a result, with the result that (e.g., “The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.” in 2:13).

1. Box all connecting words.

2. List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.

2. List and categorize the characteristics of the people that Paul describes in verses 2 through 5. See if you can fit them into 3-4 major categories.

# INTERPRET

## TACKLING TOUGH QUESTIONS (PART 1)

How do we answer difficult interpretive questions when more than one option seems possible? This requires two skills, the first of which is listing all options with pros and cons. Always start by brainstorming, listing every possible answer to your question. Be open-minded and creative, and do not rush this process. You will often find that your third option proves better than your first. Once you have created a list of possible options, list both pros and cons for each one. You are looking for all the evidence you can find that either argues for or against a particular option. This evidence comes from your study of key words, the grammar of the sentence, the context of surrounding verses and the book as a whole, cross references to other books, and comparison with your overall understanding of Christian theology. Once you have thought about it for a while individually, feel free to talk with others and to check commentaries or references to see if you have missed any options (However, do not just assume that their favorite option is necessarily correct.)

1. Answer two of your own interpretive questions:

2. When are the “last days” Paul describes? Look at the following passages to help you answer this question: Isaiah 2:2; Acts 2:17; Hebrews 1:2; 2 Peter 3:3; 1 Timothy 4:1; James 5:3.

*Note: Not all of these references to the “last days” refer to the same time period. Look at the range of meaning in these cross-references and determine what you think Paul is referring to here.*

3. Who are the dangerous men in this passage? Are they the same opponents mentioned in chapter 2? Are the opponents believers or unbelievers?

4. The women who are vulnerable to being captivated by these wicked men are described in verses 6-7. From this description, what makes a person, male or female, susceptible to false teachers?

5. Who are Jannes and Jambres, and why Paul choose to mention them in this passage (see Exodus 7:8-13)?

# APPLY

1. Can you think of any modern examples of false spiritual teaching that might pose a danger to the church? How can you guard yourself against such teaching?

2. What can you do to help those who are influenced by false teaching in a way that is kind yet also faithful to God's Word?

3. Prayerfully determine the main biblical truth or principle that God revealed to you during your study.

A few questions to ask are:

Is there a promise for me to claim?

Is there a truth for me to believe?

Is there a command for me to obey?

4. What specifically will you do this week to begin applying this principle in your daily life? Determine how this truth or principle impacts the relationships in your life where you live, work, and play.

In the box below, create a personal application statement, expressing how you will apply this truth in your life.

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CONNECT

Share a highlight or something that discouraged you during the last week.

Share how you did applying God's Word in your daily life during the last week.

## GROW

**Memorize the Word** - spend a few minutes reviewing the verses you are memorizing.

### Discuss the Passage

Observe | Discuss the skill of boxing connecting words.

Focus on Question 2.

Interpret | Discuss the skill of tackling tough questions (Part 1).

Focus on Questions 2, 3 and 4.

## ENGAGE

Apply | Focus on Question 1 and 2.

Take some time to share one another's personal application statements and their plans to follow through with it.

### Pray Big

Spend some time praying for each other - primarily about personal applications.

Continue to pray for the people from your group's Every Neighbor maps.



---

All Scripture is inspired by God  
and beneficial for teaching, for  
rebuke, for correction, for training  
in righteousness.

**2 TIMOTHY 3:16**

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.  
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

# OBSERVE

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage.

## 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

<sup>10</sup> Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,

<sup>11</sup> persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at

Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! <sup>12</sup> Indeed,

all who want to live in a godly way in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. <sup>13</sup> But evil people and

impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> You, however,

continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you

have learned them, <sup>15</sup> and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which

are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction,

for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable,

equipped for every good work.

## BOX CONNECTING WORDS, PART 2

Read the passage, then record your observations, questions, and themes. Circle all key words and highlight all repeated words or phrases and continue to box connecting words. Here are four types to box this week:

**Cause** expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include: because, since, and sometimes for. (e.g., “Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions” in 3:19.)

**Explanation** is what follows further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true, why it occurred, or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word “for.” (e.g., “For prior to the coming of certain men from James” in 2:12.)

**Inference** provides a logical consequence, conclusion, or summary to the previous discussion.

Inference words include: therefore, for this reason. (e.g., “Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham” in 3:7.)

**Condition** presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or conclusion can occur. The statement may or may not reflect reality (i.e., it could be hypothetical). Key word is “if.” (e.g., “For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise...” in 3:18.)

1. Continue to box all connecting words.

2. List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.

3. List and categorize the characteristics of Paul's teaching and life from verses 10-11. (Note the contrast between this list and the one you made in last week's lesson.)

# INTERPRET

## TACKLING TOUGH QUESTIONS (PART 2)

The second skill needed to answer difficult interpretive questions is choose the most likely option and decide on certainty. Look back at all of your evidence for each option. Typically, evidence from the immediate context is most important, followed closely by evidence from the book as a whole. Evidence from other books, or from Christian theology as a whole, does not carry quite as much weight unless the solution you are looking at contradicts a clear passage elsewhere or a major tenant of Christian doctrine. In that case, since Scripture never lies and God cannot contradict Himself, you know that option is invalid. Once you have chosen the best solution, step back for a second and humbly gauge how certain you are of its accuracy (90% = I am very sure this is correct ... 60% = This solution is just a bit more likely than the others!). Finally, talk with others and check commentaries or reference books to see what solutions they have chosen and why.

1. Answer any two of your own interpretive questions:

2. How does this passage relate to the previous one? Trace Paul's flow of thought through chapter 3.

3. What did the persecution Paul mentions in verse 12 look like for first century Christians? (See 2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Hebrews 10:32-34.)

4. Why does Paul remind Timothy of his spiritual heritage again (vs. 14-15)?

5. Look at Paul's discussion of Scripture in verses 15-17:

a. Define "inspiration" (see also 2 Peter 1:20-21). Why is it significant?

b. Describe what it looks like practically for a person to be "fully capable, equipped for every good work."

# APPLY

1. Does Paul's promise in verse 12 apply to your own life? If so, what might this persecution look like for you?
2. How can you introduce someone in the early stages of spiritual development to the truths in God's word?

## DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

A great way to read the Bible with someone who is new to God's word (pg. 104). Practice using this tool with someone this week.

3. Prayerfully determine the main biblical truth or principle that God revealed to you during your study.

A few questions to ask are:

- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a truth for me to believe?
- Is there a command for me to obey?

4. What specifically will you do this week to begin applying this principle in your daily life? Determine how this truth or principle impacts the relationships in your life where you live, work, and play.

In the box below, create a personal application statement, expressing how you will apply this truth in your life.

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CONNECT

How was your week? Did you see God working in any specific ways?

Share how you did applying God's Word in your daily life during the last week.

## GROW

**Memorize the Word** - spend a few minutes reviewing the verses you are memorizing.

### Discuss the Passage

Observe | Discuss your observations.

Focus on Question 2.

Interpret | Discuss the skill of Tackling Tough Questions (Part 2).

Focus on Questions 2 and 5.

## ENGAGE

Apply | Discuss Discover Bible Study tool.

Focus on Question 2.

Take some time to share one another's personal application statements and their plans to follow through with it.

### Pray Big

Spend some time praying for each other - primarily about personal applications.

Pray for an opportunity to invite someone to read the Bible with you.



Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and exhort, with great patience and instruction.

**2 TIMOTHY 4:2**

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.  
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

# OBSERVE

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage.

## 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

<sup>1</sup> I solemnly exhort you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and exhort, with great patience and instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, <sup>4</sup> and they will turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But as for you, use self-restraint in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. <sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; <sup>8</sup> in the future there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

## OBSERVATION SKILL: HIGHLIGHT REPEATED WORDS & PHRASES

Read the passage, write down your observations, questions, and themes, and underline all verbs. This week we will begin to **highlight repeated words or phrases**. Include words and phrases that are closely related even if not exact duplicates.

1. Highlight repeated words and phrases.
2. Circle all of the commands in this passage.
3. List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.
4. From verses 6-8, what motivates Paul's ministry toward the church and toward Timothy?

# INTERPRET

1. Why does Paul refer to the future judgment and eternal kingdom in verse 1? How do those concepts relate to the commands he is about to give to Timothy?

2. Define each of the following terms from verse 2:

Preach

Reprove

Rebuke

Exhort

3. What is the “crown of righteousness” in verse 8 (see 1 Peter 5:4; James 1:12)?

4. Will all Christians “keep the faith”? What are the consequences for falling short of verse 7? (See 1 Corinthians 3:1-15; 9:24-27; 2 Timothy 2:5-6.)

# APPLY

1. How does the reality of future judgment and possible reward affect your priorities today?

2. In a culture that increasingly drifts away from the truth of the gospel, how will you continue to “do the work of an evangelist” (v. 5)?

## STARTING A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

Review the ways you can begin to weave Jesus into your daily conversations (p. 98).

3. Prayerfully determine the main biblical truth or principle that God revealed to you during your study.

A few questions to ask are:

Is there a promise for me to claim?

Is there a truth for me to believe?

Is there a command for me to obey?

4. What specifically will you do this week to begin applying this principle in your daily life? Determine how this truth or principle impacts the relationships in your life where you live, work, and play.

In the box below, create a personal application statement, expressing how you will apply this truth in your life.

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CONNECT

What are you thankful for this week? What are you asking God for currently?

Share how you did applying God's Word in your daily life during the last week.

## GROW

**Memorize the Word** - spend a few minutes reviewing the verses you are memorizing.

### Discuss the Passage

Observe | Discuss the skill of highlighting repeated words or phrases.

Focus on Questions 2 and 3.

Interpret | Focus on Questions 1 and 3.

## ENGAGE

Apply | Discuss Starting a Spiritual Conversation tool.

Focus on Question 1 and 2.

Take some time to share one another's personal application statements and their plans to follow through with it.

### Pray Big

Spend some time praying for each other - primarily about personal applications.

Continue to pray for the people from your group's Every Neighbor maps. Share about any opportunities God has given to start spiritual conversations and pray for more!



The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed,  
and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom;  
to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**2 TIMOTHY 4:18**

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.  
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

# OBSERVE

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage.

## 2 TIMOTHY 4:9-22

<sup>9</sup> Make every effort to come to me soon; <sup>10</sup> for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

<sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Take along Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service. <sup>12</sup> But I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. <sup>13</sup> When you come, bring the overcoat which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. <sup>14</sup> Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. <sup>15</sup> Be on guard against him yourself too, for he vigorously opposed our teaching. <sup>16</sup> At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. <sup>19</sup> Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. <sup>20</sup> Erastus remained at Corinth, but I left Trophimus sick at Miletus. <sup>21</sup> Make every effort to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, also Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers and sisters.

<sup>22</sup> The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

## OBSERVATION SKILL: PRACTICAL SKILLS

1. List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.
2. Circle all the names in the passage. If Paul speaks of the person positively, circle the name in blue. If he speaks of the person negatively, circle the name in red.

# INTERPRET

1. Answer two of your own interpretive questions:

2. How does this passage fit into the book of 2 Timothy? In other words, why did Paul include these last 14 verses?

3. Why does Paul mention good and bad examples by name? How does the warning about Alexander the coppersmith fit with the theme of the book?

4. Here at the end of the book, Paul reiterates God's deliverance (v 17; see 2 Timothy 3:11). However, from 4:6, we know that Paul realized that his death was imminent. Is this a contradiction? Why or why not?

# APPLY

1. Have you ever felt abandoned by friends or family? How can understanding Paul's experience help you respond well to those feelings?

2. How would you encourage somebody who feels threatened by various dangers (job loss, persecution, family tension, health challenges)? What does the book of 2 Timothy offer in the way of encouragement in the midst of fear?

3. Prayerfully determine the main biblical truth or principle that God revealed to you during your study.

A few questions to ask are:

- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a truth for me to believe?
- Is there a command for me to obey?

4. What specifically will you do this week to begin applying this principle in your daily life? Determine how this truth or principle impacts the relationships in your life where you live, work, and play.

In the box below, create a personal application statement, expressing how you will apply this truth in your life.

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CONNECT

Share a highlight or something that discouraged you during the last week.

Share how you did applying God's Word in your daily life during the last week.

## GROW

**Memorize the Word** - spend a few minutes reviewing the verses you are memorizing.

### Discuss the Passage

Observe | Focus on Question 1.

Interpret | Focus on Questions 2, 3 and 4.

## ENGAGE

Apply | Focus on Questions 1 and 2.

Take some time to share one another's personal application statements and their plans to follow through with it.

### Pray Big

Spend some time praying for each other - primarily about personal applications.

Continue to pray for the people from your group's Every Neighbor maps.



# SYNTHESIS

## **PUT IT BACK TOGETHER**

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

Review your memory verses for each of the previous lessons.

Before we get to the synthesis, one word of encouragement: Please realize how much you have grown as a student of God's Word through your study of 2 Timothy! Each week, you've learned more about how to observe, interpret, and apply Scripture. Those three steps will serve you well as you continue to study God's Word in the future. Continue to practice and refine those skills so that you become, "a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

1. What challenges faced young Timothy as he prepared to lead the church in Ephesus?

2. What solutions did Paul present to handle Timothy's challenges?

During the past nine lessons, we have observed, interpreted, and applied the entire book of 2 Timothy. Now it is time to draw our detailed study to a useful conclusion, a process known as synthesis. Our goal is to create an overall summary of the book of 2 Timothy that we can quickly review in the future to remind us of the structure and content of the book.

The first step of this synthesis is to create your own outline of the book. Review the work you completed each week. Then, create your own brief outline on the next page. Feel free to use any outlining style, but here is an example of how you might start:

1. Greeting (1:1-2)
2. Thankfulness for Timothy (1:3-7)
3. Exhortation to Ministry (1:8-18)
  - a) Be courageous (8-12)
  - b) Be faithful (13-18)



The second step of this synthesis is to record what you learned or were reminded of. This is more personal than your outline. Create a list of the theological truths and life lessons you have either learned for the first time or been reminded of from your study of 2 Timothy. As an example of a theological truth, you might write “I was reminded that nobody can earn his or her salvation with works.” As an example of a life lesson, you might write “2 Timothy reminded me that I need to examine my motives for ‘good works,’ to make sure I’m not trying to earn God’s love.” List at least ten theological truths and ten life lessons on this page that you learned from your study of 2 Timothy, and record the verses where each one is addressed.

## THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS I'VE LEARNED

## LIFE LESSONS I'VE LEARNED

The final step of this synthesis is to prayerfully choose two applications to practice. These can be applications that you developed and began to practice during previous lessons, or you can create entirely new applications. Whatever your choice, two things must be true about them:

1. Both applications should relate to **areas of your life where you are currently in need of growth**. Do not choose “be kind to others” if this is already something you do very well.
2. Both applications should **be specific** with a clear plan for growth and the name of someone who will hold you accountable. “Study the Word more” is not specific enough. Instead, develop a specific plan, such as, “I will read through Romans this month and write down my observations, interpretive questions, and applications in a journal. Steve will hold me accountable on a weekly basis.”

## APPLICATION #1

Principle from 2 Timothy:

Verses where it's discussed:

Plan of Action: *I will...*

Who will hold me accountable:

## APPLICATION #2

Principle from 2 Timothy:

Verses where it's discussed:

Plan of Action: *I will...*

Who will hold me accountable:

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow group members.



# APPENDIX

**88** BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

**93** ADDITIONAL STUDY RESOURCES

**94** NEW TESTAMENT CHRONOLOGY

**96** ENGAGE TOOLS

# BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

## OBSERVE

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, “What do I see?” This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. Here are four tasks involved in observation which should be performed in the order below:

**Observation Task 1** | Mark up the passage by visually identifying the following specific elements:

**Underline all verbs.** A verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action is taking place (“we will reign with Him”) or that a state or condition exists (“we are faithless”). Verbs are often the most significant indicators of the author’s flow of thought.

**Circle key words or phrases.** These are words or short phrases that are important theologically (like “word of truth” in 2:15) or thematically (they set the theme or main idea for the passage, such as “approved” and “worldly and empty chatter” in 2:15,16).

**Highlight repeated words or phrases.** Also, include words and phrases that are closely related even if not exact duplicates (such as “suffer hardship” and “endure suffering”). You’ll also want to highlight things that are repeated from previous passages (such as “son” in 4:23 and 4:30)

**Box connecting words.** These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses. Here are eight types of common connecting words to look for:

1. Comparison either points out similarities between two or more related ideas or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include: and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so (e.g., “like a Gentiles” in 2:14).
2. Contrast points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include: but, rather, yet, however (e.g., “No longer I... but Christ” in 2:20).
3. Purpose indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words include: that, so that, in order that (e.g., “Christ redeemed us... in order that in Christ Jesus...” in 3:13-14).
4. Result is similar to “purpose,” but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words include: that, so that, as a result, with the result that (e.g., “The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy” in 2:13).
5. Cause expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include: because, since, and sometimes for. (e.g., “Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions” in 3:19)
6. Explanation is what follows further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true, why it occurred, or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word “for.” (e.g., “For prior to the coming of certain men from James” in 2:12).
7. Inference provides a logical consequence, conclusion, or summary to the previous discussion. Inference words include: therefore, for this reason. (e.g., “Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.” in 3:7)
8. Condition presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or conclusion can occur. The statement may or may not reflect reality (i.e., it could be hypothetical). Key word is “if.” (e.g., “For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise...” in 3:18)

**Observation Task 2** | List 2-3 primary themes you see in the passage each week.

A primary theme is the big idea, the central truth, or command that the passage focuses on, such



as “humility” in 2:1-11. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

**Observation Task 3** | Write two or more observations per verse

Our observations might identify people, places, or events, point out repeated words or key terms, record important connections between words and sentences, or even point out something missing that we expected to see.

**Observation Task 4** | Ask your own interpretive questions.

Here are a few examples:

WHO IS...	WHAT IS THE...	WHY DID THE AUTHOR...	HOW...
Paul talking about? accomplishing the action? benefiting from the action?	meaning of this word? significance of this phrase? implication of this statement? relationship between these phrases?	choose this word? include this phrase, statement, or command? not say _____?	was this action accomplished? will this situation occur?

# INTERPRET

Our observation of a passage should stir interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study: interpretation. Fortunately, we do not have to run to a commentary or study Bible for answers (though these are helpful tools to check our conclusions). Use the following six methods, as needed, to tackle a variety of questions. Also, make sure to familiarize yourself with the three “Principles of Interpretation” that appear in the Appendix at the end of this study.

## INTERPRETATION METHODS

**Interpretation Method 1** | Use the context.

Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question. Try to follow the author’s flow of thought through the whole chapter. This may take you to the previous lesson, so have it handy as a review. You may need to read ahead in Philippians for clues.

**Interpretation Method 2** | Study cross-references (XRefs).

XRefs are simply other passages in any book of the Bible that are somehow related to the verses you are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as you seek to understand your passage. A few such XRefs can be found in the margins of most English Bibles, but more can be found by visiting the online reference [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com). Simply type in “Philippians 1” in the box to the left of the “Search” button and then click “Search.” All of Philippians 1 will appear on the screen. Be sure that “New American Standard” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then click the box next to “Cross References” so that numbers appear throughout the passage. Clicking any of these will move your screen to the bottom of the page where you will find a series of XRefs for specific verses within the passage. This is a great tool for answering tough questions!

### **Interpretation Method 3 | Look up key words.**

While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek is far better and is surprisingly easy, thanks to the internet. Simply log onto [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com), and as an example, type in “Philippians 2” in the box to the left of the “Search” button and then click “Search.” All of Philippians 2 will appear on the screen. Be sure that “New American Standard” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then click the box next to “Strong Numbers” so that most of the words will be highlighted in blue. Clicking on any of these will bring up a new screen that will tell you the Greek word used here, its possible definitions, and the total number of times it is used in each book of the New Testament (NT). Click on any of the other NT books (under the title “NAS Verse Count”), and get a list of every verse in that book that uses this Greek word. What used to take hours now takes seconds!

### **Interpretation Method 4 | Look up background information.**

You can find helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary or by looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is The New Bible Dictionary by Wood & Marshall. The IVP Bible Background Commentary by Craig Keener is another excellent example of a verse-by-verse background commentary.

### **Interpretation Method 5 | Tackle tough questions step-by-step.**

When trying to answer the most challenging questions, follow this four-step process:

1. List all the options. Always start by brainstorming every possible answer to your question.
2. List pros and cons for each option. See all the evidence you can find that either argues for or against a particular option. This evidence comes from your study of key words, the grammar of the sentence, the context of surrounding verses and the book as a whole, cross references to other books, and comparison with your overall understanding of Christian theology.
3. Choose the most likely option. Look at your evidence for each option. Typically, evidence from the immediate context is most important, followed closely by evidence from the book as a whole. Evidence from other books of the Bible, or from Christian theology as a whole, does not carry quite as much weight unless the solution contradicts a clear passage elsewhere or a major tenant of Christian doctrine. In that case, since Scripture never lies and God cannot contradict Himself, you must eliminate that option.
4. Decide on your certainty level. Once you have chosen the best solution, step back for a second and humbly gauge how certain you are of its accuracy (90% = I am very sure this is correct ... 60% = This solution is just a bit more likely than the others!). Finally, talk with others and check commentaries or reference books to see what solutions they have chosen and why.

### **Interpretation Method 6 | Compare multiple translations.**

This packet uses the New American Standard (NASB) translation. You can often find helpful interpretive clues by comparing this translation with other translations. The New King James Version (NKJV), like the NASB, is a fairly word-for-word translation of the Greek text. The New International Version (NIV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are excellent phrase-to-phrase translations of the Greek and thus often easier to read. Another excellent phrase-to-phrase Bible, which includes extensive translation notes, is the New English Translation (NET) available online for free at [net.bible.org](http://net.bible.org). You can find and compare numerous translations of any Bible passage at [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com).

## INTERPRETATION PRINCIPLES

There are three fundamental principles of interpretation that help us to use our interpretive skills accurately.

### **Interpretation Principle 1** | Discern the author's intended meaning.

Your goal is to discern the author's intended meaning to the original audience. Unfortunately, most people begin their Bible study by asking, "What does this passage mean to me?" While there may be multiple possible applications to my life, there is only one meaning, the author's intended meaning; and we must first seek this out. This involves three important steps:

1. Always start your study with prayer, asking the same God who composed Scripture through these ancient authors to give you insight to understand His intended meaning.
2. Avoid inserting your 21st century circumstances and theological issues into the text as they can skew understanding.
3. Work diligently to see the text from the point of view of the original readers. To do this: (a) dig into the historical and cultural background using Bible dictionaries and commentaries, and (b) spend a few moments thinking about the original audience's religious understanding by asking, "What books of the Bible did they have access to? What did they know about God? About Jesus? About salvation? etc."

### **Interpretation Principle 2** | Assume a "Normal" Use of Language

The Bible was given to us because God desired to communicate with us, not to hide Himself from us. Therefore, we should not be looking for "hidden" meanings as we study. Instead, we should use the "normal" techniques we would use to understand any piece of literature:

1. Study the grammar. Pay attention to nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions. Think through any figures of speech. Observe how phrases and clauses are connected into sentences and how sentences are linked together into paragraphs.
2. Remember that chapter divisions came later. When Paul wrote Corinthians or Luke wrote the book of Acts, they wrote single, unified stories without verse or chapter divisions. These books were meant to be read just like you would read a letter or a novel. Always keep the overall story in mind as you study each passage.

### **Interpretation Principle 3** | Let Scripture Interpret Scripture

This is the third and last principle of interpretation. Because God is unchangingly truthful and always consistent (John 17:17; Hebrews 3:6; James 1:17), we can, and should, expect the same of His Word. This has two practical applications:

1. Check your conclusions. Always compare your conclusions with the teachings of scripture as a whole. If you find your interpretation of a passage contradicts the clear teaching of scripture elsewhere, you probably need to revise your conclusions.
2. Allow clear passages to illuminate ambiguous passages. Whenever you encounter a passage that is confusing or open to multiple possible interpretations, use clearer passages of scripture to guide you to the correct interpretation.

One last caution: remember that God revealed scripture progressively, not all at once. Therefore, we should not be surprised by differences between how people related to and understood God at different times in the history of scripture. For example, while Abraham needed only believe that God was faithful in order to be justified (Genesis 15:6), in the New Testament era, we must believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus to be saved (1 Corinthians 15:1-7).

# APPLY

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. And lest we underestimate the value of this last step, remember that in God's eyes it is the person who does not just know His Word, but also obeys His Word that truly loves Him (see John 14:21). So how do we apply a passage to our lives? Application involves the following two tasks:

## APPLICATION TASK 1

**List potential principles from your passage.**

A "principle" is simply a fact or command stated or implied in a particular passage that is practically relevant to our lives. Legitimate principles are not specific to a particular person (e.g., Philippians 5:23 is just for Timothy) nor a particular time (e.g., "do not leave Jerusalem" in Acts 1:4). An example from Philippians would be, "We should rejoice when Christ is proclaimed." It is often helpful when listing principles to consider the following questions:

Is there something to worship or thank God for?

Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?

Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?

Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?

Is there any relationship I need to work on?

## APPLICATION TASK 2

**Choose one principle, and create a plan to apply it to your life this week.**

Once you complete your principle list, prayerfully choose the one principle you most need to work on (Do not just choose the easiest to apply!). If you felt deeply convicted about one in particular, that is probably the principle God is leading you to apply. Once you have chosen a specific principle, answer these two questions:

1. What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

2. Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

# ADDITIONAL STUDY RESOURCES

## ONLINE RESOURCES

biblestudytools.net | word studies

blueletterbible.org | word studies

planobiblechapel.org/soniclight | commentary

bestcommentaries.com | commentary database

## DISCIPLESHIP/BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

*Living By the Book* by Howard Hendricks and Charles Swindoll

A more in-depth book on how to study the Bible using the tools discussed in this packet.

*The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman

A highly motivational analysis of Jesus' own principles of evangelism and discipleship.

*The Lost Art of Disciple Making* by Leroy Eims

This practical resource will give you a detailed structure to follow and great content to cover as you begin to disciple a new believer.

*A Survey of Bible Doctrine* by Charles Ryrie

An easy-to-read, relatively short systematic theology primer that you can walk a new believer through to ground them in the faith.

*Rooted* by Grace Bible Church, College Station, TX

Nine conversations that establish a new believer with foundational truths and practices to follow Jesus for a lifetime. <https://www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-study/46/rooted>

*Grace Bible Church does not always agree with the views of these commentaries. These are good tools to help understand hard passages, but the particular theological views reflect the author of the commentary and not those of Grace Bible Church.*

# NEW TESTAMENT CHRONOLOGY

EVENT	DATE
Crucifixion of Jesus	April 3, 33
Pentecost (Acts 2)	May 24, 33
Paul's conversion (Acts 9)	Summer 35
Paul in Jerusalem, 1st visit (Acts 9:26-29; Gal. 1:18-20)	35-43
Paul to Antioch (Acts 11:25-26)	Spring 43
Epistle of James written	45
Paul in Jerusalem, relief visit (Acts 11:30; Gal. 2:1-10)	Autumn 47
Paul to Antioch (Acts 12:25-13:1)	Autumn 47 – Spring 48
Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13-14)	April 48 – September 49
Peter at Antioch (Gal. 2:11-16)	Autumn 49
Galatians written from Antioch	Autumn 49
Paul in Jerusalem, Jerusalem council (Acts 15)	Autumn 49
Paul in Antioch (Acts 15:30-35)	Winter 49/50
Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 15:36-18:22)	April 50 – September 52
1 & 2 Thessalonians written	Spring – Summer 51
Paul in Jerusalem and Antioch	End of September 52; Winter 52/53
Paul's third missionary journey (Acts 18:23-21:16)	Spring 53 – May 57
1 & 2 Corinthians written	Spring – Fall 56
Romans written	Winter 56/57
Ephesian elders visit Paul at Miletus (Acts 20)	May 57
Paul in Jerusalem	Eve of Pentecost, May 27, 57
Paul's arrest and trial before Felix (Acts 21:26-24:22)	June 57
Paul's appearance before Felix ^Drusilla (Acts 24:24-26)	June 57
Paul's imprisonment in Caesarea (Acts 24:27)	June 57 – Aug 59
Paul's trial before Festus (Acts 25:7-12) & Agrippa (Acts 26)	July 59; Aug 59

Paul's voyage to Rome (Acts 27:1-28:29)	Aug 59 – Feb 60
Paul's first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:30)	Feb 60 – Mar 62
Luke written	60
Acts Written	60
Ephesians written	Autumn 60
Colossians and Philemon written	Autumn 61
Philippians written	Spring 62
Paul's release	Spring 62
Mark Written	62
Paul in Ephesus and Colossae	Spring – Autumn 62
Peter in Rome	62
Paul in Macedonia	Summer 62 – Winter 62/63
1 Timothy Written	Autumn 62
Paul in Asia Minor	Spring 62 –
Peter martyred	Summer 64 (67?)
Paul in Spain and Crete	Spring 64 – Spring 66; Summer 66
Titus written	Summer 66
Paul arrested and taken to Rome	Autumn 67
2 Timothy written	Autumn 67
Paul's death	Spring 68
Matthew written	60's
Hebrews written	60's
Destruction of Jerusalem	September 2, 70
Jude written	60's or 70's
John written	80's or 90's
1,2,3 John written	80's or 90's
Revelation written	Early 90's

*Adapted from Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ, Harold H. Hoehner, Zondervan, 1978.*

# ENGAGE TOOLS

Because God loves all people, He is constantly working to draw men and women to Himself. He invites believers to partner with Him in this great mission of redemption and restoration. We do this by helping people find and follow Jesus — this is disciple-making. Jesus summarized this calling in Matthew 28:18-20.

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

On the following pages are some foundational tools, practices, and resources to engage in helping people find and follow Jesus.

Visit [grace-bible.org/disciplemaker](https://grace-bible.org/disciplemaker) for more resources.



# EVERY NEIGHBOR MAP

Just as Jesus entered into a specific time and place, God has placed each of us into a unique context in which to share His love and to represent Him. Our context includes anyone that we commonly encounter on a regular basis which gives us the ability to have influence in their lives.

Think about the people in your spheres of influence; the people with whom you live, learn, work, and play who are near to you but might be far from God.

Also, think about people that are just beyond your normal spheres. Perhaps there is an acquaintance that you don't know well, or a neighbor who is different from you ethnically or socio-economically, or a community member that the Holy Spirit has put in your path but is more a stranger than friend. Be creative and think outside the box!

Pray Big - diligently pray for these friends to find and follow Jesus.

Map - write down at least three names in each of these spheres.

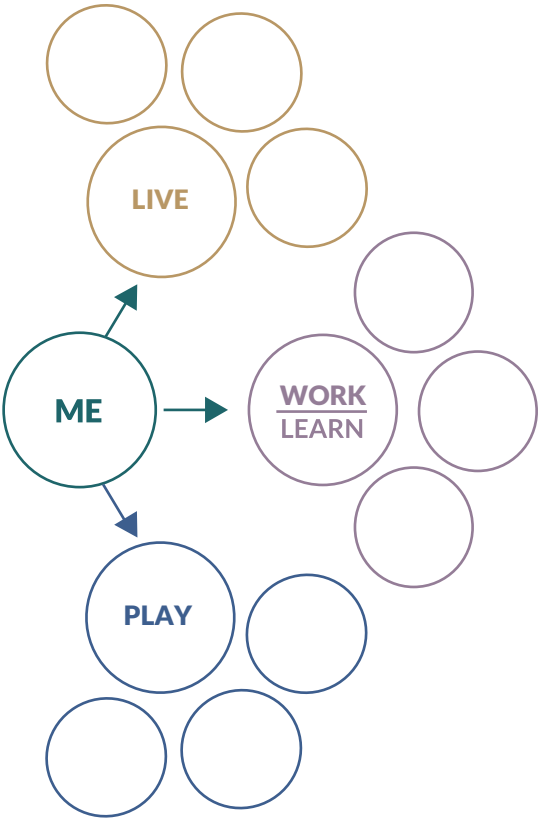
Ask God:

Who might be seeking Him or is asking hard questions about life?

Who needs acts of love and concern shown to them?

How to serve and share the love of Christ with them?

For opportunities to share your story and the gospel.



# STARTING A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

During His life on earth, Jesus told stories using illustrations from everyday life that created an interest in His Kingdom. Jesus made His message accessible to those who would hear. Sadly, we have become conditioned to put on a filter and not speak of Jesus because we imagine that it is awkward, pushy, or politically incorrect. What would it be like to take off this filter and grow in boldness and love as we share stories about who He is and what He is about?

Marking ourselves as a “spiritual” person can help us gauge whether others are interested in God and His message. Some people will “lean in” as you speak about such topics, asking additional questions, sharing their own beliefs, telling about their own journey. Some will not; they will “lean back” and change the topic, become silent, or shut down altogether.

Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you as you initiate and let Him do the work of speaking to a person’s soul.

## **Practice talking about two or three of the following “interest creating” topics:**

Recently, God/Jesus has been teaching me that...

I am realizing more and more that God has blessed me by...

I used to struggle with (insert fear, stronghold, idolatry) but now I see God wants me to believe...

I decided to follow Jesus because...

Think of common topics that come up as you meet people, for example: career, living situation, family history, educational background. Pick one of these and tell how God changed your path in the past, or how He is guiding you in the present.

I’ve really been learning to pray more lately. Do you have anything in your life that I can commit to pray for?

## **As you practice talking about these things, try to end with a learning question such as:**

Have you ever considered God in this way before?

Do you think God is teaching/blessing/asking you to believe anything right now?

Do you consider yourself on a spiritual journey? What is that like?

What does your tradition say about Jesus?

Your questions are to gauge a response and to allow space for them to interact with your story.

**Now, be prayerful and alert as to who God brings across your path!**

# SHARING YOUR STORY

You have a unique story of how you came to know and follow Jesus. Your story is one of the most powerful tools you have for helping other people find and follow Jesus as well. As you begin to let people know that you are following Jesus, simply ask, “Can I share with you the story of my spiritual journey?” Those who are interested in spiritual things are likely to demonstrate their interest in one way or another (asking questions, making a comment) and that often provides an open door to share your story.

## How to Begin

Write out your thoughts on the following topics and questions. These ideas will help you share the story of your spiritual journey, sometimes called your “testimony.”

### My Life Before Jesus

My life revolved around \_\_\_\_\_, and I found my identity, happiness and security from \_\_\_\_\_.

Use an example from your personal life here. For instance, did your security come from money, your relationships, etc.?

How did this disappoint me? How was this unfulfilling? How did I come to realize this?

What was I struggling with (if anything) just before I believed in Jesus?

*Note: Some people trusted Jesus when they were very young, and don't have clear memories of the time before they knew Him. If that is you, simply share this as part of your story.*

### How I First Believed in Jesus

This part of your story is where you came to a transition in your life.

When and how did I first hear about Jesus?

What did I learn about the life He offers all who believe in Him?

When and why did my perspective about Jesus begin to change?

Why did I decide to believe in Jesus?

*Note: Some of us may be able to point to specific times or circumstances regarding how or when we believed. For others of us, we can only point to a time period or gradual understanding. Both are great. Everyone's story is significant and the biggest point is that you now believe in Jesus.*

### My Life Since I First Believed in Jesus

How is my life different now? List some specific changes in your character, attitude, and perspective on life.

How am I motivated differently now? What do I live for now?

How do I experience God now?

### Bring it All Together

Think about your answers to the questions above, and ask yourself the following:

Is this a continuous story that makes sense?

Are there any consistent themes in my story?

Can I share my story in 3-4 minutes?

Was I clear about what I believed about Jesus?

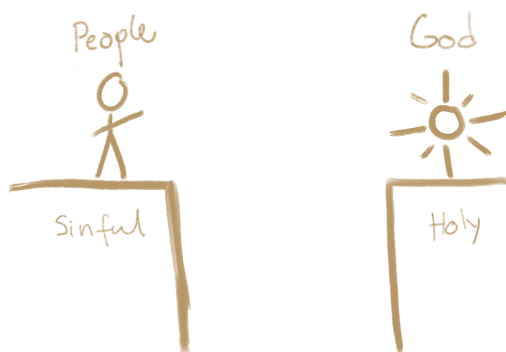
# SHARING THE GOSPEL: THE BRIDGE

In the Christian faith, the word “gospel” simply means the “good news” about Jesus - His life, death and resurrection. The message that through belief in Jesus we can enter into a loving relationship with God, experiencing forgiveness and receiving the gift of eternal life, is good news, indeed!

Let’s look at a concise and understandable way to communicate the gospel to your friends and family who do not yet know Jesus.



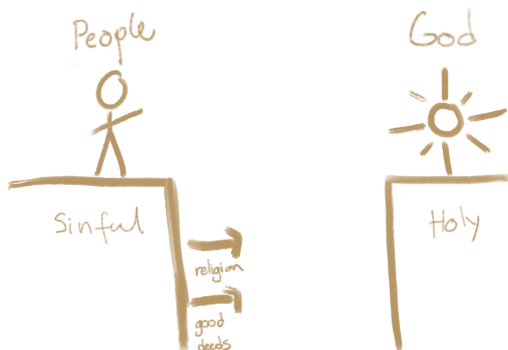
God created people to enjoy a relationship with Him and represent Him through our lives. (Genesis 1:26-28, 31) As a loving Father, He communicated boundaries that protect and allow us to enjoy our relationship with Him and with other people. (Genesis 2:15-16)



Everyone has fallen short of God’s standards. The Bible calls that “sin.” Our sin results in our separation from God. Unless our sin is forgiven, we deserve eternal punishment, separated from God forever.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

“For the wages of sin is death.” Romans 6:23a

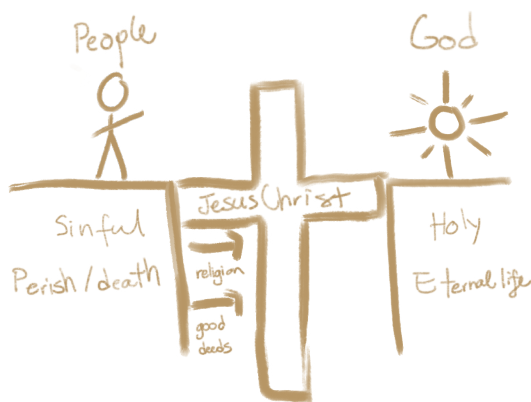


Some try to reach God through religion or by trying to be a good person. But the Bible tells us that there is only one way to God and that is through belief in His Son, Jesus Christ.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.’” John 14:6

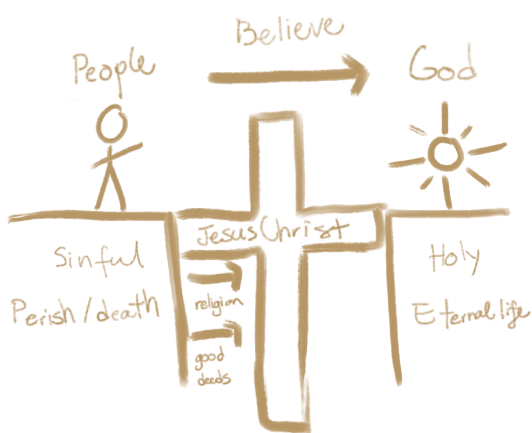
God graciously provided a way to forgive our sin and freely give us eternal life. God’s only Son Jesus died in our place. He took on Himself the punishment that our sin deserves. Then, Jesus rose from the dead. He conquered sin and death forever.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8



Everyone who believes in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins receives eternal life. To believe in Jesus means that you no longer try to earn God’s approval through what you do, nor do you deny that you need forgiveness and salvation. Instead, you accept God’s free gift of eternal life.

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” John 5:24



# SHARING THE GOSPEL: THREE CIRCLES

In Christianity, the word “gospel” simply means the “good news” about Jesus - His life, death and resurrection. The message that through belief in Jesus we can enter into a loving relationship with God, experiencing forgiveness and receiving the gift of eternal life, is good news, indeed! Let’s look at a concise and understandable way to communicate the gospel to your friends and family who do not yet know Jesus.

**These three circles help us explain the gospel according to the Bible.**

**Read each section and the scripture verses that follow.**

## God’s Design

Out of God’s great love, He created a world that was good. He made people to enjoy a deeply connected relationship with Him and to represent Him through our lives. (Genesis 1:26-28, 31) As a loving Father, He communicated boundaries to protect us and to allow us to fully enjoy our relationships with Him and with other people (Genesis 2:15-16).

## Brokenness

Yet, when we look around our world, brokenness and evil are evident everywhere - war, famine, disease, corruption. If we are honest, we also see brokenness and evil inside ourselves - deceit, hatred, greed, lust.

This is because we have rejected God’s design and chosen to follow our own way.

Our rejection of God and His ways is what the Bible calls sin. (Romans 3:23)

Our sin results in separation from God which the Bible calls death. (Romans 6:23a)

Unless our sin is forgiven, we will remain separated from God forever.

## Jesus

God does not want to leave us in our sin and brokenness!

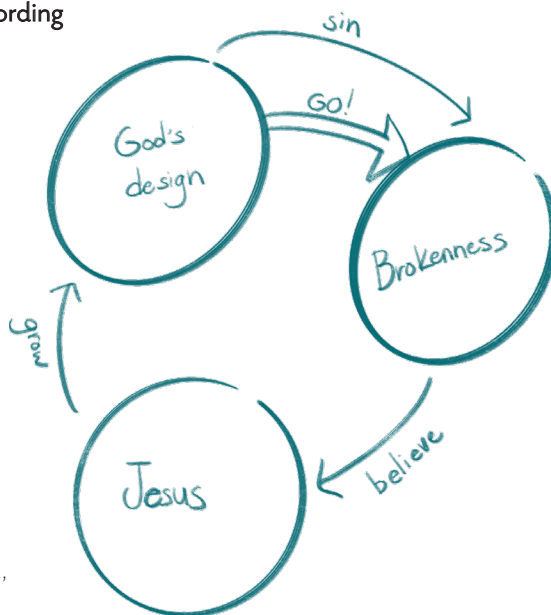
God graciously provided a way to forgive our sin and to freely give us eternal life - a life connected to God both now and forever. (Romans 6:23b; John 17:3)

God’s only Son Jesus died in our place. He took upon Himself the penalty that we deserve because of our sin. Then, Jesus rose from the dead, and forever defeated the power of sin and death. (Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

## Believe

We respond to Jesus by believing in Him for the forgiveness of our sin.

To believe in Jesus means that you no longer try to earn God’s approval through what you do, nor do you deny that you need forgiveness and rescue. Instead, you accept God’s free gift of eternal life. Belief or faith is simply being convinced or persuaded that something or someone is trustworthy (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9).



Everyone who believes in Jesus is forgiven of their sin and receives eternal life. We can now know God personally and experience the life we were designed to live (John 3:16-17).

***Have you believed in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sin? Have you put your trust in Him alone to be reconciled to God?***

**Possible answers and next steps:**

**“Yes.”**

Ask: “Tell me about that. When and how did that happen for you?”

Try to discern if the person is trusting in anything other than Christ alone.

Move to Grow and Go

**“No, but I want to.”**

Affirm their decision to believe and help them to tell God in prayer of their belief in Jesus.

Example: “Thank you God for loving me by sending your Son Jesus to die for me. I believe in His life, death and resurrection to rescue me from my sin and spiritual death. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me the free gift of eternal life.”

Welcome them to the Family of God!

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Move to Grow and Go

**“Not Sure” / “Not Yet” / “No.”**

Ask: “What is keeping you from trusting in Jesus?”

Try to discern their willingness or unwillingness to believe.

For those willing, help answer their questions if possible.

For those unwilling, offer to pray for them and talk further at another time.

**Grow**

Everyone who believes in Jesus should then grow in their relationship with God. We grow by knowing God more deeply and living more like Him personally.

We begin to know Him and we become like Him by following His way of living (Ephesians 4:15).

**Go**

Followers of Jesus have the great calling and opportunity to go into the broken world to share the love of God and the good news of the gospel message (Matthew 28:19-20).

# DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Discovery Bible Study is an easy and meaningful way to read the Bible with friends in your life who do not know Jesus. The simple practice consists of reading a section of scripture and answering five basic questions. The goal is to facilitate an encounter between God's truth and your friend's heart. Be praying for God to reveal Himself to your friend through His Word.

Choose a passage of scripture, read it aloud (1-2 times).

Ask someone to retell it in their own words.

Answer these five questions:

1. What does this passage teach about God?
2. What does this passage teach about people or myself?
3. What stands out most in this passage?
4. Since God's word is true, how should I change as a result? What will I do in response to this passage?

Consider the following:

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a sin for me to avoid?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there a promise for me to claim?

Is there a challenge for me to face?

5. With whom am I going to share this passage and what I am learning from the Bible?

## Suggested Passages

Read through these 4 Core Passages about Jesus:

John 3:1-21 (You must be born again)

Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus has authority to forgive)

Luke 7:36-50 (Forgive much/Love much)

Luke 18:7-14 (Self-righteous/irreligious)

Read through the book of John.

## Creation to Christ

Read through these passages for bigger picture of the Biblical narrative.

- ☐ Genesis 1:1-25
- ☐ Genesis 2:4-24
- ☐ Genesis 3:1-13
- ☐ Genesis 3:14-24
- ☐ Genesis 6:5-8
- ☐ Genesis 6:9-8:14
- ☐ Genesis 8:15-9:17
- ☐ Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-7
- ☐ Genesis 22:1-19
- ☐ Exodus 12:1-28
- ☐ Exodus 20:1-21
- ☐ Leviticus 4:1-35
- ☐ Isaiah 53
- ☐ Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20
- ☐ Matthew 3; John 1:29-34
- ☐ Matthew 4:1-11
- ☐ John 3:1-21
- ☐ John 4:1-26, 39-42
- ☐ Luke 5:17-26
- ☐ Mark 4:35-41
- ☐ Mark 5:1-20
- ☐ John 11:1-44
- ☐ Matthew 26:17-30
- ☐ John 18:1-19:16
- ☐ Luke 23:32-56
- ☐ Luke 24:1-35
- ☐ Luke 24:36-53
- ☐ John 3:1-21









