



STORM the GATES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WK 5: The Pillar Of Truth

SERIES OVERVIEW

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised to build his church and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. (Matt 16:18) The imagery implies that hell is in a defensive posture against the advances of the church. The goal of the series is to give us a proper understanding of the offensive nature of the church in the world. We'll look at some of the most common metaphors in the NT used to describe the church and learn what each means about how to storm the gates of hell victoriously.

CONTEXT

In 1 Timothy 3:14-4:10, Paul emphasizes the church's role as the pillar and foundation of truth, urging leaders to uphold sound doctrine and godly living. He warns against false teachings and encourages believers to train themselves in godliness, as it holds promise for both the present life and the life to come.

THE BIG IDEA

The church is a pillar. To storm the gates of hell we must uphold truth to prevent society from collapsing.

ICE BREAKER

Let's play a game of **2 Truths and a Lie**. One person at a time shares 2 truths and 1 lie about themselves. Group members try to guess the lie. The objective is to get the rest of the group to guess that one of your truths is actually the lie. Have fun!

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 3:14-4:10

14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. 16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, 3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. 6 If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. 7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; 8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. 10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.



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GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 1 Timothy 3:14-4:10 as a group.

When you think of the word “pillar”, what or who comes to your mind? Describe why?

What roles do pillars and buttresses play in a building?

Using your answers from the previous question, how are we (the Church) the “Pillar of Truth” for society and its collapse?

According to 1 Timothy 4:1-2 the world is full of liars. According to the sermon and Romans 1:18-32, what do these lies look like?

As the pillar of truth, what is our (the Church) responsibility to the deceit, lies, hypocrisy and evil in our society? (It is amazing how the things listed in Romans 1 are happening today.)

How are these deceitful spirits and lies played out in the church today?

Read 1 Timothy 4:6-10. Share a time when a “Good Servant” lovingly spoke truth in your life when you needed it and ultimately pointed you to Jesus because He’s the one who can truly meet your needs.

What is a lie about God that you once believed and what is the truth?

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

DISCUSSION CONTINUED:

Compare this quote to verses 4:6-10.

Certainly it has been a long-standing Christian tradition, belonging to the wisdom of the ages, that disciplined meditation in Scripture is indispensable to Christian health, and indeed to growth in godliness. For in contrast to ‘godless myths’, Scripture is the most Godly book that has ever been written. It is a book by God about God. It might even be termed the autobiography of God, since in it he talks to us about himself. Consequently, we cannot become familiar with this godly book without becoming godly ourselves. Nothing evokes the worship of God like the Word of God. – John Stott

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. Confess where you need God to show up in your life and replace a lie with His truth.



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