

Growth Group Lesson

October 1-2

1 Timothy 1:1-11

Welcome to Growth Groups!

We're excited to dive into this year's group life with everyone. As we spend time in God's word this year, there are a few areas that we will emphasize as we move toward the vision of Good Shepherd Community Church. We will grow in freedom with God, with Others, and on Mission. In order to accomplish these, we'll be strongly devoted to prayer in our groups, allowing God to bind us all together and empower us for His mission!

Spend some time praying with your group and asking for God to help us in the areas of growing with Him, with Others in our group, and on Mission. Ask God for unity and love in your group and our church over the year in each of these areas (with God, with Others, on Mission).

Get to know one another:

Spend some time getting to know new group members or catching up with previous group members.

1. What has God been teaching you over the summer?
2. What relationships have you been intentionally growing lately?
3. What was sharing your faith like over the summer? Any good stories?

Big Picture of 1 Timothy:

Author: Paul the Apostle

Audience: Timothy at the church in Ephesus

Main Theme: Correct understanding and teaching of the Gospel always leads to love, unity, and genuine faith.

Purpose for Writing: Paul encourages Timothy to confront and correct false teachers in the church so that they may return to a true understanding of the Gospel, which will lead them toward Godliness.

Read Acts 16:1-5

Paul and Timothy eventually become very dear to one another, like a father and son. His two letters to Timothy clearly show his deep care for him, as well as clear instruction on how Timothy can lead the church in following Jesus. Through the course of their time together, as we see in Acts and several New Testament letters, Timothy grows from a young man following Paul to a leader in one of the most influential churches of the time.

4. What reasons does this text give for Paul including Timothy on his missionary team?
5. Timothy's relationship with Paul clearly changed him. Do you have or have you had relationships in your life that resemble the father/son relationship of Paul and Timothy?
 - a. Are there any relationships like this that you need to begin, either as a discipler or disciple?

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-7

Paul charges Timothy with confronting some false teachers in the church. The particular nature of the false teaching is not clear, however the effect of the false teaching is evident. These teachers seem to be more concerned with inconsequential matters when compared with the truths and mission of the Gospel (faith in Jesus and its overflow of love toward others).

6. What characterizes the false teachings? **Verse 4, 6**
7. What is the effect of teaching the Gospel? **Verse 5**
8. How has the effect of good Gospel teaching affected your life in the past? Recently?
9. We can also easily fall into the habit of discussing “controversial speculations” and “meaningless talk” when we lose focus on the essentials of the Gospel. What are some ways that you are prone to do this?
 - a. How did God help you to correct your course toward the essentials of the Gospel?
10. Have you ever had to confront someone like Timothy? How were you able to embody the qualities of verse 5 in that confrontation? **Read Matt. 18:15-17**

Read 1 Timothy 1:8-11

These false teachers have dedicated themselves to “teaching the law,” but do not have a proper understanding of what the law is actually for. The law here is referring to the Mosaic Covenant that God made with Israel.

11. Is the law good, even under the New Covenant? **Romans 7:7-13**
12. How does one properly use the law? **Romans 7:7-13**
13. Who is the law made for?
14. What is your reaction to being placed in a category with these types of people?
 - a. How does it change your attitude toward these types of people?
 - b. How has that changed attitude led you to act toward these people?
 - c. Are there areas of growth that you need God to work in to continue in “love with a pure heart and a good conscience?”

1 Timothy 1:4 refers to the goal to which we are striving in our church and groups, “stewardship from God by faith” (or as some translations say “advancing God’s work by faith”). We have boiled these down to growing with God, with Others, on Mission.

15. Are there any goals that you have or would like to create in your personal life to strive towards this good stewardship of God’s work?
16. What measurable goals would you like to create in your group to accomplish this?

Spend time praying about these goals, asking for God to lead your group in loving Him, one another, and your neighbors.

- Ask God for motivated and empowered hearts to reach and serve the lost people you know and who you will meet over this year.
- Ask God for love and unity in your group, so that the world may see a clear picture of who God is.