

Growth Group Lesson

October 22-23

1 Timothy 2:8-15

Recap: Paul encourages the church to be devoted to prayer for all people, including governing authorities and people that we would not expect to enter the kingdom of God.

Spend some time praying with your group asking God to help us to hear and learn from his word today. Ask for unity and compassion with one another and your neighbors as you discuss and apply his word.

Get to know one another:

1. What has God been growing in you over the last several weeks? What have you been doing to foster that growth?

Read 1 Timothy 2:8-10

Paul continues to coach Timothy in dealing with the fallout of the false teaching, now addressing the attitudes of members of the church. Remember, true gospel teaching always leads to love, unity, and genuine faith. It seems that both the men and women of this church were dealing with pride through the pursuit of power and status.

2. How are the men of this church behaving that reveals their pride? **Verse 8**
3. What is Paul's solution to combat this? Why? **James 4:1-10**
 - a. Is this only a men's issue?
4. How are the women of this church behaving that reveals their pride? **Verse 9-10**
5. What is Paul's solution to combat this? Why? **James 4:1-10**
 - a. Is this only a women's issue?

Pride, power, and the inflation of self-importance will always be tempting to us. It is one more way that we attempt to be like God (**Gen 3:4-5**). **Read Matthew 23:1-12 and James 2:1-12**

6. How has your over-inflation of self (pride) affected your relationship with God and others in your life?
7. How has your under-inflation of self (pride) affected your relationship with God and others in your life?

Reflect on Philippians 2:1-11

8. How does Jesus model the type of humility and self-giving love that we are to practice?
 - a. How does he empower us to follow his example?
9. What will be your response to this reflection this week?

Read 1 Timothy 2:11-15

Paul continues to correct the false teaching and behavior in the church by discussing authority in the church gathering. Paul, as we will see in chapter 3, gives the qualities for authoritative leadership in the church (elders) as men with good character and reputation (**3:1-7**).

Authoritative teaching of the Bible in the church, therefore, is reserved for these elders alone.

Any others who would teach in the church gathering fall under the authority of the elders, men or women.

10. How does Paul's justification for gender roles in the church (i.e. only men as elders) transcend culture? **Verses 13-14**
11. How easy or difficult is it to accept this teaching in regards to your cultural influence (whether that is egalitarian *or* more limiting to women's roles in the church)?
12. How can we remain humble, unified, and loving when we approach discussions and practices like this?

When Paul says that "women will be saved through child-bearing," he is pointing directly to the birth of the Messiah, through which women and all people will be saved. **Read Genesis 3**

13. Spend some time reflecting on the scene of the false teachers, elders, and church members in relation to the serpent, Adam, and Eve in Genesis 3.
 - a. How are they re-living this story?
 - b. How will/has Jesus saved and redeemed this story?
14. In what ways has Jesus saved and redeemed you in your life? Share a story of a time this happened.

Spend time praying, 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 specific people to share the Gospel with this week.
- Ask God for love and unity in your group, so that the world may see a clear picture of who Jesus is.
- Pray for one another for anything going on in your lives.