

Growth Group Lesson
November 26-27
1 Timothy 6

Recap: Paul gives Timothy direction in choosing new elders, not choosing people based on favoritism or who have not given adequate evidence for the manner of their life. Elders are to be honored for their labor devoted to Jesus' church.

Spend some time praying with your group. Praise God for the things he has been teaching you throughout reading 1 Timothy. Pray for encouragement for the group to continue looking for ways to grow in their relationships with Christ.

Get to know one another:

1. Share a story from your life when you truly felt content.

Read 1 Timothy 6: 1-2

Paul continues discussing the three categories of how the true teaching of the Gospel transforms our honor for widows, elders, and masters. Again, the irony of these sections is that Paul is really calling for the church to behave as a family, both calling for the honoring of these groups *and* for these groups to honor the church family. Paul is not condoning slavery, but is rather bringing the transformation of Christ to change the relationships and conduct of slaves and masters. They are to reflect Jesus in whatever role they find themselves, as all in Christ are equal (**Gal. 3:26-29**)

2. What instructions are given to servants and masters and why was this necessary?
Verses 1-2, 1 Peter 1:11-25
3. Although many of us have not experienced slavery today, we do know what it's like to live and work under authority. How should we be treating those who are in authority in our own daily lives? Why? **Ephesians 6:5-9**
4. How has this looked at work, school, or with your parents recently (whether they are being good or not)?
 - a. Is there anything that you would like to change about this?
 - b. What do you hope will come out of your behavior toward authorities in your life?

Read 1 Timothy 6:2b-10

Paul describes the qualities of a false teacher who is trying to lead sheep astray, exemplified by the false teachers in Ephesus. Remember, false teaching always leads away from unity, love, and good conduct.

5. What characterizes a false teacher according to this passage?
6. What are the sound words that false teachers do not disagree with? **Verses 3-5**
 - a. Where do these sound words (verse 3) come from? How do they help us discern true and false teachers?
7. What are the goals of the false teachers? **Verses 4-5, 2 Peter 2:1-3, 2 Timothy 4:3-4**
 - a. When you examine your own life, what are your goals? Do they align with the sound words and teaching that accord with godliness?
 - b. What is true gain in contrast to the false teachers? **Verses 6-8**

8. Take a moment to reflect on your own state of contentment.
 - a. What has been challenging to be content with? Where are you finding contentment? Why?
9. Paul warns of the dangers of loving money. What are those dangers? **Matthew 6:19-24**
 - a. What should our attitude towards money be? **Verses 9-10 and 17-19**
 - b. What is your usual attitude toward money?
 - c. Is there anything in your life that captures you like money does to these false teachers?
 - d. How would contentment help you be free of these cravings? **Heb. 13:5-6, Phil. 4:4-13, Matt. 6:25-34**

Read 1 Timothy 6: 11-21

In the last section of the letter, Paul calls Timothy, and by extension the church, to pursue God faithfully.

10. How does one pursue the qualities Paul has listed?
 - a. How will you pursue those qualities this week?
11. What does “fighting the good fight of faith” look like in your own life?
 - a. How can this group help you do that?
12. After studying 1 Timothy, what has God been teaching you through these passages?
(Quick summary points: discerning and confronting false teachers, prayer for all people including those in authority, the roles of men and women in the church, the role of elders, honoring one another as the household of God)
13. What has God been calling you to do after reading through 1 Timothy? When will you do that?

Spend some time praying.

- Ask God for wisdom in how to utilize the resources he has given us (money, time, energy, talents, etc.).
- Ask God for a heart to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness in our lives daily. **(As we discussed in verse 11)**
- Ask God for ways to give honor and glory to him this week.
- Ask God for ways we can bring both truth and grace to those who do not believe the Gospel of Jesus.