

Growth Group Lesson

May 20-21

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Spend some time praying with your group. Begin the evening by praising God. Complete the sentence, "God, I praise or thank you for ..."

Get to know one another:

1. Share one thing that motivates you to continue your faith and spiritual journey.

Last Week: Paul encourages Timothy to hold fast to the truth he has learned from Paul and to guard the Gospel message entrusted to him through the Holy Spirit. He warns Timothy of those who have turned away from the truth.

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7

2. What does it mean to be "strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus"? **Verse 1, 2 Corinthians 12:8-10**
 - a. How can you rely on God's grace for strength in your daily lives?
3. Why does Paul emphasize the importance of entrusting what he has heard to "faithful men"? **Verse 2, Matthew 28:18-20**
 - a. How can you pass the gospel message faithfully to future generations?
 - b. How will you begin that process this week?
4. What does "share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus" mean? **Verse 3, Philippians 1:29-30, 1 Peter 4:12-13**
 - a. How can you persevere through difficult times in your faith, knowing you are fighting for a more significant cause?
5. What does it mean for a soldier not to get "entangled in civilian pursuits"? **Verse 4, Hebrews 12:1-3, Galatians 5:16-17, 2 Corinthians 10:1-6**
 - a. What are some things that you can easily get entangled by?
 - b. How can you avoid getting distracted by worldly pursuits and instead focus on serving God? **1 John 2:15-17**
6. What does Paul mean by saying an athlete must "compete according to the rules"? **Verse 5, 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, Hebrews 12:1**
 - a. How can you be intentional about living according to God's will and not your sinful desires and tendencies this week?
7. What is the significance of comparing a farmer, soldier, and athlete? **Verses 4-6**
 - a. How can you learn from farmers' work ethic and dedication in your own lives?
8. How does the idea of the farmer receiving "the first share of the crops" relate to your spiritual growth and reward in heaven? **Verse 6, Galatians 6:7-10, 1 Corinthians 15:58**
 - a. How does knowing that God offers a reward for obedience affect your life with him?
9. What would your life look like (your schedule, values, character traits, and quality of life) if you had a sharp focus on Jesus like Paul discusses here?
 - a. How would that change how you faced difficulty and distractions?
 - b. What do you need to implement, subtract, or adjust in your life to see Jesus' beauty, fall in love with him more, and obey his commands to love others?

Spend some time praying with your group.

- Ask God to give you the willingness to endure hardship for the sake of spreading the Gospel and living a life that is pleasing to God.
- Ask God for intentionality in your mission, to be steadfast in prayer, and to seek opportunities to share the Gospel with those who need it.
- Pray over the summer for God to use your group members to love and obey God, love and serve others, and spread the good news of Jesus.