

1 Timothy
Leader Guide
(NASB and ESV)

THE CHURCH,
THE PILLAR AND SUPPORT
OF THE TRUTH

1 Timothy Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

© 2017 Precept Ministries

Published by Precept Ministries of Reach Out, Inc.

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Unless otherwise noted Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible®

© The Lockman Foundation, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.

Used by permission. www.lockman.org

Scripture quotations marked ESV are taken from ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)

© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

1st edition (10/2017)

USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

PRINTED PAGE NO.	L E S S O N S	PDF PAGE NO.
1	LESSON ONE: Overview	5
7	LESSON TWO: I Timothy 1	11
13	LESSON THREE: I Timothy 2	17
19	LESSON FOUR: I Timothy 3	23
25	LESSON FIVE: I Timothy 4	29
31	LESSON SIX: I Timothy 5	35
35	LESSON SEVEN: I Timothy 6	39

To locate a particular lesson in the pdf, click on  in the grey bar on the left side of the window. Bookmarks will appear for each of the lessons. Select the lesson you need.

1 Timothy Leader Guide LESSON 1

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Timothy overview

To begin this first discussion, you might ask your group what from 1 Timothy stood out to them. Do they have thoughts or questions about this letter?

Then you can lead this overview discussion, chapter by chapter, like the lesson is laid out. Tell your group to follow along in the lesson and look at the lists they made on the author and recipient as visual aids.

1 TIMOTHY 1

How does this letter begin?

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ
The author of this letter

Timothy, Paul's true child in the faith
The letter's recipient

Refer your group to the chart "Sequence of Events in Paul's Life after His Conversion" and the map; then ask what they learned regarding the date of this letter and events preceding it.

The approximate date is A.D. 62, and it was written from Macedonia.

Paul had made his missionary journeys, written several letters to churches, and been imprisoned in Rome for two years. After that he might have visited Spain.

Then he wrote this letter to his true child in the faith.

Ask your group what they learned about Paul and Timothy from chapter 1.

It seems Paul had been at Ephesus and left for Macedonia.

But he urged Timothy to remain at Ephesus and instruct / charge certain men not to teach strange / different doctrines.

Verse 11 says Paul was entrusted with the gospel, which he explained in verses 12-16. He wrote about his conversion. The chart puts the date for this at A.D. 33, or 35 as the note at the bottom of the chart says. That was 30 years previous to this letter.

Paul was put into service by the Lord although he had been a persecutor. He said he had been the foremost of sinners. But 30 years later, he defended the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus came into the world to save sinners like Paul.

Ask your group if they remember when they were saved. Are they grateful for His mercy? Do they see how they are examples of His mercy? Give time for them to discuss their thoughts.

What does the end of 1 Timothy 1 say about Timothy?

Paul entrusted the command / charge to him.
Prophecies had been made about Timothy.
Paul encouraged him in his faith and service.

What are some subjects they might have noted in this chapter?

Strange doctrines or false teaching
Teaching the Law
Ungodliness
Salvation
Men who rejected the faith

NOTE: You don't need to mention any of the above if your group doesn't. Just ask what they observed.

1 TIMOTHY 2

What does this chapter have to say about Paul?

Verse 7, Paul was appointed a preacher and apostle, a teacher of Gentiles.
And he said he wasn't lying.

What subjects are in this chapter?

Prayer
All men
Salvation
Women

NOTE: Some in your group might have questions about this chapter, but you can tell them they'll study it more in a later lesson.

You can ask if any of the subjects are relevant to believers now.

1 TIMOTHY 3

What subjects are in this chapter?

Overseers and deacons
The devil
The faith
The mystery of godliness

Does this chapter say anything about Paul or Timothy?

Only verses 14 and 15 tell a little about Paul.
His plan was to visit Timothy at Ephesus, but he wrote this letter in case he was delayed.

This is his purpose for writing the letter, verse 15. So Timothy (and all who read this) know how to conduct / behave themselves in God's household—the church—the pillar and support / buttress of the truth.

How does this apply to church now? Give time for your group to discuss what they think.

1 TIMOTHY 4

How does this chapter begin? What subject?

It goes back to some falling away (ESV—departing from the faith) and false teaching.
Marriage and food
Sound doctrine
Discipline and godliness
Living God, Savior

What do verses 11-16 tell about Timothy?

Again Paul encouraged and instructed him regarding what he was to teach and to be an example.

Timothy was a young man.

The presbytery (ESV—council of elders) laid hands on him. He received a spiritual gift, evidently regarding teaching God's Word.

Paul encouraged him to progress to the point that it was evident to all and to persevere / persist.

And again Paul mentioned his plan to come.

Ask your group if anything in this chapter got their attention, and give them time to discuss.

1 TIMOTHY 5

How does this chapter continue?

Paul instructing Timothy

Subjects are:

Older and younger men and women
Widows
Elders and sin

Verse 23 tells Timothy to take wine for his frequent ailments.
This gives more insight into who Timothy was.
It also shows Paul's concern for his son in the faith.

You might ask how the various subjects in chapters 1–5 relate to conduct / behavior in the church.

Paul wrote how various groups within the church are to live.

How can this minister to or encourage believers now?

1 TIMOTHY 6

Ask about the subjects in this last chapter.

Slaves / bondservants and masters
Doctrine
Teaching and preaching
False teaching or controversies
Godliness
Some wander away from the faith
Again there are statements about the Lord.
Money
The rich

How do these things relate to life within the church? Do they apply to believers now?

What does this chapter say about Paul or Timothy?

Verses 11-16 give a few more specifics regarding Timothy, but are mostly instructions.
He was a man of God.
There were many witnesses when he made the good confession, likely of his salvation.

How does this letter end?

Paul instructed Timothy regarding what had been entrusted to him.

He referred again to the false and going astray / swerving from the faith.
Those are repeated subjects in this letter.

Now, ask what your group learned from the cross-references in Day Five about Paul and Timothy's relationship. How was Timothy Paul's child in the faith?

Acts 14:8-23 and 15:40-16:3; 2 Timothy 3:10-11

On the first missionary journey after Paul had been stoned at Lystra, Barnabas and he went to Derbe to preach the gospel.

They returned to Lystra, Iconium, and then to Antioch—their home church.

This was the church which sent them on the missionary journeys.

On his second journey, Silas (Silvanus) and Paul went to Derbe and Lystra again.

That's where Timothy was, and he was already a disciple of the Lord and well spoken of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium.

Timothy's mother was a believing Jew, but his father was a Greek and evidently not a believer. Paul circumcised Timothy because he wanted him to accompany him. When they spoke to Jews, there would be no cause for offense.

Timothy followed what had happened to Paul and the persecutions he endured.

You can ask for a review of the main points from this lesson.

Paul wrote this letter shortly after he was released from two years in prison.
He wrote it to his true child in the faith sometime after he left Ephesus for Macedonia.
Young Timothy remained at Ephesus.

The purpose of this letter is stated in 3:15.

People in the church were: men, women, elders, deacons, widows, slaves, masters, rich...

You might close your discussion by asking your group if they're excited about studying this letter. Encourage them that they'll learn more about how to behave as believers.

1 Timothy Leader Guide LESSON 2

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Timothy 1

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they remember about 1 Timothy from the overview. What is this letter about? Why was it written?

Paul wrote this letter to Timothy in case he was delayed in coming to Timothy at Ephesus. He wrote how believers are to conduct / behave themselves in the church.

Several groups or categories of people and several subjects are in this letter. But they all have to do with conduct / behavior in the church.

1 TIMOTHY 1

Verse 1

How does the letter begin?

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus

apostle—“delegate”¹; “one who is sent on a mission with full authority”²

Tell your group to look at the chart “Sequence of Events in Paul’s Life after His Conversion” as a visual aid. Also there are two short lists at the end of this guide you might use. Then ask what they learned about Paul from verses 12-16.

Paul was formerly:

A blasphemer

A persecutor

A violent aggressor / insolent opponent

He acted ignorantly in his unbelief.

Paul considered himself the foremost of sinners.

God had mercy on him and saved him.

Then He put Paul into service and entrusted him with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

By God’s command and that of Jesus Christ, Paul was His apostle.

¹Horst Robert Balz and Gerhard Schneider, *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1990-c1993). 1:142.

²Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker’s Greek New Testament library (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000). 71.

How do the cross-references of Day Five relate to or explain some of these facts about Paul or Saul? Tell your group to look at the map as another visual aid for this discussion.

Acts 6:7–7:2, 54–8:3

These passages tell how Saul was a blasphemer, persecutor, and violent aggressor / insolent opponent. These events show why Paul considered himself the foremost of sinners.

Stephen, a believer in Jesus Christ, was stoned to death for his faith. Saul was in agreement with that persecution.

Acts 9:1-16

Then Saul began ravaging the church and putting believers in prison. He was headed to Damascus to find believers there and bring them bound to Jerusalem.

But that was when Jesus Christ showed His mercy and love toward Saul. He saved him on the Damascus road.

Acts 26:12-28

As Paul defended himself before King Agrippa and Festus. He told of the experience on the Damascus road. Jesus appointed Paul to be a minister and witness, and He sent Paul to Gentiles.

Galatians 1:13-17

Paul had tried to destroy the church until God revealed His Son in him. Then he preached Jesus among the Gentiles.

Acts 23:1

Paul had a clear conscience because of God's mercy.

Now ask about the cross-references in Day Three and Day Four of the lesson. What did Paul do with Timothy? What did Timothy experience?

Acts 16:1-5

After being circumcised, Timothy went with Paul through cities delivering decrees from the apostles and elders in the Jerusalem church. The churches were being strengthened in the faith and increasing in number.

Acts 17:1-15

When they preached the gospel in Thessalonica, the city got in an uproar because of some unbelieving Jews. They then went to Berea, but the Jews followed them there. While Paul left for Athens, Timothy and Silas remained in Berea. Timothy and Silas left Macedonia to meet Paul. (Thessalonica and Berea were in Macedonia.)

Acts 18:1-5

Paul left Athens and went to Corinth, where Silas and Timothy met him. It seems that Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla until Silas and Timothy got there, then he devoted himself to teaching the word.

1 Thessalonians 1:1; 3:2-6

Paul had sent Timothy to strengthen and encourage the Thessalonian church. When Timothy brought his report to Paul, he wrote a letter to the church.

Acts 19:1, 8-10, 20-22

Paul went to Ephesus and was there for two years. He sent Timothy to Macedonia.

1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:5-11

This was another time Paul sent his son in the faith Timothy to a church. He wrote that Timothy would remind them of Paul's ways in Christ. He encouraged the Corinthian church not to give Timothy any cause to be afraid.

2 Corinthians 1:1-2, 19; Romans 16:21; Philippians 1:1; 2:19-24; Colossians 1:1-2; Philemon 1-2

These letters written by Paul all mention something about Timothy.

Our brother

He preached Jesus Christ

Bond-servant of Christ Jesus

Kindred spirit with Paul (ESV—Paul had no one like him)

Genuinely concerned for the welfare of the churches

Proved his worth in the furtherance of the gospel

Served Paul like a son would his father

Lead your discussion back to 1 Timothy 1. Ask your group what else they learned from their study of verses 1-2. And how these statements can apply to them.

God our Savior—this term is usually referring to Jesus, but the Father is also our Savior. Christ Jesus our hope—there is no hope apart from Him. He is also our Lord, our master.

Then ask what they learned from the definitions they looked up in verse 2.

grace—“good will, favor toward someone”³

mercy—“*pity, compassion*”⁴; “kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them”⁵

³James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GK1921.

⁴Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G1656.

⁵James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995). G1656.

peace—“harmony, tranquility . . . freedom from worry”⁶

What do these words have to do with believers now? How do they apply to today’s church?
Give your group a brief time to discuss what they think.

Verses 3-7

What are these verses about?

Paul went again to Macedonia and Timothy remained at Ephesus.
Men were teaching strange / different doctrines there.

Paying attention (ESV—devoting themselves) to myths and endless genealogies
giving rise to / promoting speculation

They didn’t pay attention to the administration / stewardship of God (or “*God’s provision*”⁷) by faith.

Timothy was there to correct those doctrines with the truth.
The goal / aim of Paul’s and Timothy’s instruction / charge was:
Love from a pure heart
Good conscience
Sincere faith

Some strayed / swerved from these things to fruitless / vain discussion.

They wanted to be teachers, but didn’t understand what they made confident assertions
about.

Ask your group how they see these things going on in churches now. What is the answer?

Verses 8-11

What is the subject in these verses and what did you learn about it?

The Law is
good
to be used lawfully
not for the righteous / just, but lawless . . .

How do the things listed in these verses compare with today?

⁶James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GGK1645.

⁷New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (1 Ti 1:4) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

Ask what your group learned about the gospel.

It's sound doctrine, and when presented and believed, it saves those listed in verses 9-10, just like happened with Paul.

1 Corinthians 15:1-10

The gospel is about Jesus Christ—His death and resurrection.
Those who believe in Him are saved.

Romans 1:16-17

The power for salvation is in the gospel message. It's for Jews and Gentiles—the same message.

Galatians 3:23-25

The way to be justified is by faith in Christ Jesus, not keeping the Law.

Colossians 1:3-6

The gospel bears fruit wherever it goes. It's the word of truth and presents God's grace.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Timothy 1 and ask about verses 12-20.

What do these verses say about Jesus Christ?

Mercy

Grace

Love

Came into the world to save sinners—a trustworthy statement

Displayed His perfect patience

Believe in Him for eternal life

Paul ends his thanksgiving for this salvation with praise in verse 17.

What are verses 18-20 about?

This command / charge seems to refer to the one in verses 3-4.

Paul entrusted it to Timothy as he encouraged him to fight the good fight against those who reject the faith.

Two named are Hymenaeus and Alexander, probably the same men named in 2 Timothy.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

Maybe something like:

Paul instructed and warned Timothy; thanked Christ for salvation

or

Instruct men not to teach strange doctrines; Paul, example of God's mercy

To end this discussion, you might ask how anything they studied in this lesson can help them fight the good fight.

Paul
apostle
in Macedonia
urged

Timothy
son in faith
at Ephesus
instruct

1 Timothy Leader Guide LESSON 3

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Timothy 2

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask your group what they remember from the first two lessons. If you need specific questions, then ask who wrote it, to whom, and why it was written.

Paul wrote this letter to his son in the faith, Timothy.

They had been ministering together in the faith, and Paul sent Timothy several times to teach and encourage churches. Paul went to Macedonia, and Timothy remained in Ephesus.

Paul intended to come to Ephesus, but in case he was delayed, he wrote this letter to Timothy. In it he explained his purpose for writing—so believers know how to conduct themselves / behave in God’s household, the church.

Paul said the church is the pillar and support / buttress of the truth. He charged Timothy to instruct certain men at Ephesus not to teach strange / different doctrine. The goal / aim of his instruction / charge was love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith.

Chapter 1 gives a description of those men, and then goes into facts about Paul being like them, and worse, before he was saved and his thankfulness for being saved and put into service for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The chapter ends with some facts and instructions regarding Timothy. Prophecies had been made about him. Paul encouraged him to fight the good fight and named two men who had rejected the faith and been handed to Satan.

1 TIMOTHY 2

Before you begin discussing the parts of this chapter, you can ask what your group observed from 1 Timothy 2:1–3:13. Who is this passage about?

2:1-7 refers to all men—people in general

Verse 8 addresses men in the church

Verses 9-15 are about women in the church

3:1-7 tell about overseers in the church

Verses 8-13 refer to deacons in the church

Verses 1-8

Ask your group what they learned from their study of these verses.

Paul first wanted prayer from those in the church for all men and those in authority.
So the church can live in peace.

Paul had experienced years of arrest and prison because of the gospel, and the Roman emperor Nero was persecuting Christians.

Prayer is part of godly conduct / behavior.

NOTE: Some in your group might have looked up the definitions of entreaties / supplications, prayers, petitions / intercessions, and thanksgiving. If they bring it up, you can ask what they learned, but otherwise you don't need to ask about it. You need to watch your time in this discussion, since there is a lot in the lesson.

Again God is referred to as the Savior. And verses 5-6 describe the means of salvation, the man Christ Jesus who gave Himself as the ransom for all.

NOTE: "All men" in this passage refers to all people in general, not every individual. Verse 7 indicates that salvation is not only for Jews, but Gentiles as well.

Paul was appointed
a preacher
an apostle
as a teacher of the Gentiles
God's message of salvation is for all.

And Paul wanted / desired men in all places to pray
lifting holy hands
without wrath / anger and dissension / quarreling

That is godly conduct / behavior which the church should be engaged in.

Ask your group if they learned anything about prayer which specifically applies to them, and if so, what. Give time for them to discuss application.

Verses 9-15

What do these verses teach about women in the church? What should be the conduct / behavior of those who are part of the pillar and support of the truth?

The way women dress or adorn themselves is the first thing Paul addressed.

Proper clothing: this might be a cultural thing now, but it's not all he said about clothes. The godly woman's adornment is to be modest and discreet—that refers to all cultures.

The braided hair, gold, pearls, and costly garments are not the focus of a godly woman. But good works should be her proper adornment.

How do the cross-references relate?

Song of Solomon 1:10-11

It was common, even in Old Testament times, for women to adorn themselves with ornaments and beads.

Proverbs 31:22

This passage is about a godly woman. And her clothing is fine and colorful.

Isaiah 3:16-26

There are several ornaments or adornments listed in these verses. The women of Israel had forsaken the Lord, and He was going to punish them for it.

1 Peter 3:1-7

New Testament wives can adorn themselves, but the most important is internal. Adornment and submissiveness can go together.

Give your group time to discuss how this applies to them, to modern women who are part of the church.

What did Paul address next about women in God's household?

They are to quietly receive instruction with submissiveness.

Paul said he didn't allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man.

NOTE: Some in your group might have a hard time with these statements, and about Paul for writing this. But they need to understand that these are God's words, not merely Paul's thoughts on the subject.

The reason for this structure in the church is that Adam was created first, and then Eve. From the beginning, a woman has not had authority over a man.

Adam wasn't deceived, but Eve was. The context of 1 Timothy is false teaching in the church at Ephesus. Paul and Timothy are to instruct with the truth so the church isn't deceived.

How does what Paul wrote to the Corinthian church relate to this?

1 Corinthians 14:23, 26, 34-35

When the whole church is assembled, women are to keep silent because it's not proper for them to speak in church.

What do the other cross-references say about Christian women when not all the church is assembled?

Galatians 3:26-29

As far as salvation, there is no difference between men and women. All are one in Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1-16

This passage is about traditions the churches held at that time—one was head coverings for women as a sign of being under proper authority.

It says men and women are not independent of one another, but both are under proper authority.

Colossians 3:18-20

In marriage, there are God-appointed roles. The husband is the head and the wife is to submit to his authority. And the children are to obey their parents.

Verse 5 speaks of a woman prophesying. So, there is a time for this, but not when the whole church is assembled. Also a woman is not to be teaching and exercising authority over a man. Authority is only for the men in the church, as your group will study next week.

Acts 21:8-14

Philip had four daughters who were prophetesses.

Romans 16:1-6

Paul listed several women who ministered to the church and/or to him, one of them being Prisca along with her husband Aquila.

Men and women both serve in God's household; both do work for the church. But that doesn't mean men and women have the same roles within the church.

Acts 18:1-3, 18-19, 24-28

This passage also names Priscilla (who was the same as Prisca in Romans) as Aquila's wife. They were Jews who had to leave Rome, and met Paul in Corinth.

Later they met Apollos, another Jew, in Ephesus and explained the way of God more accurately than he knew. He only knew of John's baptism—which was for repentance to make way for Jesus the Christ.

Priscilla's name is used before her husband's in this passage, as well as in Romans. Some think that indicates she was the main teacher when instructing Apollos.

Philippians 4:1-3

Again Paul named women who had shared in the gospel work and struggle with him. These two needed to live in harmony with each other.

2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-16

It was Timothy's mother and grandmother who taught him the Scriptures leading to his salvation. He had a sincere faith as they did.

Titus 2:3-5

The older women in the church are to be examples of godliness and encourage the younger women to love and work properly so God's Word is not dishonored.

How does all of this apply to women in the church now? Give your group time to discuss this.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Timothy 2 and ask about verse 15.

Verses 15 begins with a contrast to verse 14. The woman was deceived and fell into transgression (ESV—became a transgressor) because of it, but will be preserved if they continue in the faith. This is also a contrast with others in this letter who didn't continue in the faith.

Verse 15 is not teaching that women are saved (spiritually) by having children. If "preserved" refers to spiritual salvation, it's connected with continuing in faith, love, and sanctity / holiness with self-restraint / control.

But if it refers to physical preservation, bearing children is part of that.

NOTE: This verse is difficult to understand, so your group might not come to an agreement as to what it means. And commentaries vary on their interpretation also.

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

Prayer and Women

To end your discussion, you can ask your group what they learned to live out this week.

1 Timothy Leader Guide LESSON 4

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Timothy 3
- Overseers and deacons

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask your group what they remember about 1 Timothy from their study of previous lessons and the discussions.

Paul wrote this letter to his son in the faith, Timothy.
Paul went to Macedonia, and Timothy remained in Ephesus.

Paul intended to come to Ephesus, but in case he was delayed, he wrote this letter to Timothy. In it he explained his purpose for writing—so believers know how to conduct themselves / behave in God’s household, the church.

Paul said the church is the pillar and support of the truth. He charged Timothy to instruct certain men at Ephesus not to teach strange / different doctrine. The goal of his instruction was love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith.

Chapter 1 gives a description of those men, then in chapters 2 and 3 he refers to specific groups of people.

2:1-7 refers to all men—people in general

Verse 8 addresses men in the church

Verses 9-15 are about women in the church

3:1-7 tell about overseers in the church

Verses 8-13 refer to deacons in the church

1 TIMOTHY 3

How does this chapter begin?

It’s another trustworthy statement / saying.

This one is about men who aspire to the church office of overseer.

overseer—“guardian, supervisor, keeper”⁸; “*one who watches over the welfare of others*”⁹

What do verses 1-7 teach about overseers in the church?

It’s a fine work / noble task for the men who aspire to be an overseer.

There is a list in verses 2-7 which your group was to record on the chart at the end of this lesson. Tell them to look at this chart as a visual aid for this discussion. Give time for them to discuss the list in these verses.

What does the cross-reference in Titus 1:5-9 add to the list in 1 Timothy 3?

This list begins with elders.

elder—“a term of rank or office”¹⁰; “denotes the officials who acted as pastoral leader of the congregations”¹¹

Paul left Titus in Crete to appoint elders in every city / town.
Verse 6 is a similar list to the beginning of the one in 1 Timothy 3.

Verses 7-9 list facts about the overseer. This is also a similar list.

Are overseers and elders the same office?

It seems so from what Titus 1 says.

Ask your group about anything on the list in Titus that wasn’t on the list in 1 Timothy and give time for them to discuss.

What do the other cross-references say about overseers and elders?

Acts 14:23

Again God’s Word says elders were appointed. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in the cities where they had previously preached the gospel. Thus, they established the churches in these cities.

⁸ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GK2176.

⁹ Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker’s Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), 167.

¹⁰ J. Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G4245.

¹¹ Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 579.

Acts 15:1-11

Because of a dissension in the church at Antioch, Paul and Barnabas went to the church in Jerusalem, specifically to the apostles and elders there. They were the church leaders and made the final decisions about the matter.

Acts 20:17-38

This is the passage that uses both terms, “elders” and “overseers,” to describe the same men. The Holy Spirit made them shepherds of the church.

Paul cautioned them to be on guard (ESV—pay careful attention) for themselves and the flock—believers. He warned them about the same thing Timothy faced in Ephesus. And these were the elders, overseers, of Ephesus who met with Paul.

Philippians 1:1

Paul specifically addressed this letter to the overseers, as well as deacons and all the saints there. Churches were led by overseers.

Hebrews 13:17

The church leaders, elders/overseers, keep watch over souls. They have a great responsibility and will give an account for it.

James 5:14

Another area of ministry for the elders is prayer for the church. Here it’s for healing.

1 Peter 5:1-5

Peter was also an elder, and he wrote the same thing Paul did. Shepherd the flock. And then he told how to do it effectively. Give time for your group to discuss this list.

Jesus is the Chief Shepherd, who will reward the church elders when He appears.

Now, ask your group how this study on overseers relates to them, to their church.

Verses 8-13

Who are these verses about? Discuss the definition.

deacons—“*servant; helper, minister*”¹²; “*an attendant*”¹³

What is the list? Give time to discuss each point.

This list is somewhat different from the one on overseers.

Verse 10 says the deacons are to first be tested before serving in the church.

¹²Barclay Moon Newman, *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. (Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; United Bible Societies, 1993). 42.

¹³James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). G1249.

Verse 11 speaks about women (ESV—their wives), most likely referring to the deacons' wives.

Verse 12 contains two facts that are also to be true of overseers.

Husbands of one wife—ask what your group learned about this.

Good managers of his own household

If a man can't or doesn't manage his own household well, how will he manage God's household? That's a very reasonable question.

Verse 13 speaks of a high / good standing for deacons who serve well.

According to 1 Timothy 3, what is the difference between the office of overseer and the service of deacon?

Church leadership and teaching
Church service

Ask your group if they think the following cross-references relate to deacons.

Acts 6:1-6

There was a need close to the beginning of the church in Jerusalem regarding the daily serving of food to widows (ESV—daily distribution). The apostles, church leaders at that point, told the brethren or believers to select from among them men to be put in charge of the task (ESV—we will appoint to this duty).

Seven men of good reputation
Full of the Spirit and wisdom

After the selection, the men went before the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them as a commissioning of their role in the church.

Some think these men were the first church deacons.

Romans 16:1-2

The word translated “servant” in verse 1 is the same Greek word translated “deacon” in 1 Timothy 3.

Therefore, some think Phoebe was a “deaconess” in the church. But the Greek word means “servant” and is translated that way in this text.

Give time for your group to discuss how this study relates to them and their church.

Verses 14-16

What are these verses about?

Paul stated his purpose for writing this letter in verse 15.

Compare the different groups of people in 1 Timothy 2:1–3:13 and verse 15.

Paul wrote how the groups within the church are to behave, what they're to do, their character traits. These groups are essential to making sure the church stays the pillar of the truth.

What do the cross-references teach about the church?

Ephesians 1:19-23; 2:11-22; 4:11-16; 5:23-32

Jesus is the head of His body, the church. God empowers believers with His strength to do His work.

Jews and Gentiles were reconciled by Jesus' blood and became God's household, the church.

Certain men were given gifts by God to equip the church for the work of service. They're to build up the body for spiritual growth in love.

Apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors / shepherds-teachers

The relationship between Christ Jesus and the church is like that of husband and wife. He is the head who loves the church, nourishing and cherishing it to present it holy and blameless. He washes and sanctifies the church.

The church is subject to its head—Jesus Christ the Lord.

Why was Paul concerned about the church?

1:3-10, some men were teaching strange / different doctrine and things contrary to sound teaching / doctrine. The same is true for churches now.

Ask your group where they fit into the groups of believers in chapters 2 and 3, and therefore, how they are to conduct themselves in the church—God's household—pillar and support of truth. Give time for discussion.

Ask what they learned from their study of verse 16 and the cross-references.

The statements about the mystery of godliness all center in Jesus Christ.

What is a possible theme for this chapter? Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart.

Overseers and Deacons

To close your discussion, ask what studying this letter has meant to those in your group.

1 Timothy Leader Guide LESSON 5

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Timothy 4

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember about 1 Timothy. If they need help, tell them to look at their At a Glance chart.

Paul wrote this letter to his son in the faith, Timothy. Paul went to Macedonia, and Timothy remained in Ephesus. Paul intended to come to Ephesus, but in case he was delayed, he wrote this letter to Timothy.

In it he explained his purpose for writing—so believers know how to conduct themselves / behave in God’s household, the church, the pillar and support / buttress of the truth.

He charged Timothy to instruct certain men at Ephesus not to teach strange / different doctrine. The goal of his instruction was love from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Chapter 1 gives a description of those men, then in chapters 2 and 3 he refers to specific groups of people in the church.

1 TIMOTHY 4

Verses 1-5

How does this chapter begin? Ask what your group learned from their study.

It begins with a contrast to the common confession and behavior of the church described in chapter 3.

These verses go back to false teaching which was first referenced in chapter 1.

The Spirit said this would happen in later times, which seems to refer to Timothy’s time and later.

Hebrews 1:1-2

The last days began when Jesus was on earth.

Some will fall away / depart from the faith
fall away—“apostacize”¹⁴; “to lead away, to depart from”¹⁵

Ask what they learned from their cross-references about falling away.

1 John 2:18-19

Antichrists will appear in the last hour. Many had by the time John wrote this letter. They went out from us—“us” referring to true believers in Jesus Christ.

They went out because they weren’t true believers. True believers continue in the faith.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

Before the day of the Lord, the apostasy / rebellion comes and the man of lawlessness—also referred to as the antichrist—is revealed. These events are still future.

apostasy—“*falling away* from the faith”¹⁶; “*defection* from truth”¹⁷

2 Timothy 3:1-7; 4:1-4

Again the time reference—in the last days. Men who only hold to a form / appearance of godliness, deny the power of godliness and don’t behave in a godly manner.

The time will come, and it has, when men won’t endure sound doctrine / teaching. They turn away from the truth and turn to what they want to hear.

Titus 1:10-16

Again men will turn away from the truth. Although they profess to know God, what they do shows they don’t know Him.

2 Peter 2:1-3, 12-15

Peter warned the church, as did Paul and John, about false teachers being among them. They malign / blaspheme the truth, forsake the right way and go astray.

1 John 4:5-6

There is a contrast between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Those who are not from God listen to the spirit of error.

¹⁴New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (1 Ti 4:1) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

¹⁵Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998). G868.

¹⁶New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (1 Th 2:3) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

¹⁷James Strong, *The New Strong’s Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996). G646.

Jude 1-4

Jude also wrote a warning for the church about ungodly persons who creep in unnoticed. They turn / pervert grace into licentiousness / sensuality and deny Jesus Christ as Lord.

Now ask what your group learned from the cross-references about deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons in 1 Timothy 4:1.

Paying attention (ESV—devoting themselves) to deceitful spirits and doctrines / teachings of demons

Genesis 3:1-4, 13; Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 11:3; John 8:37-38, 43-45

From the beginning the devil—the serpent—deceived people about what God has said, His Word. First he questioned Eve about what God said, then he contradicted it. He told her that God didn't mean what He had clearly said.

The devil still deceives the whole world. His deception is crafty / cunning and leads people astray.

He was a murderer from the beginning—he killed Adam and Eve with his lies. He is the father of lies; there is no truth in him.

Jeremiah 29:8

This is a warning from the Lord through a true prophet, Jeremiah, regarding listening to false prophets who deceive. The same warning applies to the church.

Romans 16:18; 2 Timothy 3:13

These passages all give warnings to believers about evil men who deceive.

1 John 4:1-3

Test the spirits to see if they're from God. Believers have God's Spirit within. Spirits who don't confess Jesus are not from God.

There are many deceivers in the world who don't acknowledge Jesus came in the flesh.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Timothy 4:2-5. How does verse 2 continue the train of thought?

Hypocrisy / insincerity of liars—might refer to others who turned away from the faith
The faithful and those who turn or fall away from the faith are contrasted throughout this letter.

Men who forbid marriage and advocate / require abstaining from certain foods

All God created is good. He created food and marriage for people.
Nothing He created is to be rejected if received with gratitude.
And all is sanctified / made holy by His Word and prayer.

Discuss the relevance of the following cross-references.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

God's people are equipped for His work by His Word. He inspired all Scripture.

2 Peter 1:20-21

God moved men by His Holy Spirit to write His words, not their own words.

Ask your group how they can prevent themselves from being deceived. Give time for them to discuss application.

Verses 6-10

Who and what are these verses about?

Paul again addressed Timothy specifically.

Timothy was to point out what Paul wrote in chapters 1–4 to the church at Ephesus. He wanted them nourished on / trained in the words of faith, sound / good doctrine.

Discipline / training for godliness

Godliness is profitable / valuable for all things; it holds promise

Godliness holds promise for this life and the future—the future with the Lord.

What else does this letter say about godliness?

2:2 pray for authorities / those in high positions so believers can lead quiet lives in godliness

2:10 what's proper for women making a claim to / profess godliness

3:16 common confession—great is mystery of godliness; Jesus is the source

There is a question in the lesson which asks for five ways a person might discipline himself for the purpose of godliness. Ask your group what they listed, and give them time to discuss application.

How does verse 10 connect with godliness?

It's for godliness and its promises that believers labor / toil and strive.

Believers can do that by fixing / setting hope on the Savior, the living God.

God saves people to be godly—behavior of the church of the living God.

He is the Savior.

1 John 2:2

Jesus is the propitiation for sins—of those who believe on Him and the whole world, including those who don't believe.

Verses 11-16

What did Paul instruct Timothy to do in these verses? Discuss cross-references when relevant.

Although he was a young man, Timothy was to be an example to all the believers.

1 Corinthians 11:1

Paul wrote the church at Corinth to imitate him because he was imitating Christ.

Give attention (ESV—devote yourself) to reading, exhortation, and teaching.

Paul told him not to neglect his spiritual gift. The presbytery (ESV—council of elders) laid hands on him and prophecies were made about Timothy.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Paul laid hands on Timothy regarding his gifting.

1 Peter 4:10-11

All believers are gifted by God to serve one another for His glory. Two categories are presented in these verses; those who speak are to speak God's Word and those who serve are to do it with His strength.

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7, 11

The same Spirit gives varieties of gifts to believers and they're all for the common good of the church. Spiritual gifts show the Spirit within believers, and God determines which gifts are given to individual believers.

He was to take pains with / practice these things—not take them lightly. His progress was to be evident to all who looked at his example.

He was to pay close attention to (ESV—keep a close watch on) his teaching and persevere / persist. Others were teaching strange things and leaving the faith. His teaching was to ensure salvation.

How are the instructions to Timothy relevant to all believers now?

To close your discussion, ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

Some fall away; discipline for godliness; instructions to Timothy

1 Timothy Leader Guide LESSON 6

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Timothy 5
- Widows and elders

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group to review their At a Glance chart. Why did Paul write this letter to Timothy? What are chapters 1-4 about?

Paul wrote so believers know how to conduct themselves / behave in God's household, the church, the pillar and support / buttress of the truth.

He charged Timothy to instruct certain men at Ephesus not to teach strange / different doctrine. There is a contrast throughout the chapters about those who turn away from the faith and those who are truly in the faith.

Chapter 1 gives a description of those who teach strange / different doctrines, then in chapters 2 and 3 Paul refers to specific groups of people in the church and how they're to behave.

Chapter 4 begins with teaching that leads people astray, and then he makes comments to Timothy encouraging him in what he's to do and teach at Ephesus.

What is a possible theme for 1 Timothy 5?

Widows and elders

1 TIMOTHY 5

Verses 1-2

How was the young man Timothy to deal with people in the church?

Older men—don't openly rebuke, but appeal to / encourage as fathers

Younger men—as brothers

Older women—as mothers

Younger women—in purity as sisters

Is this something the church now needs to imitate? How can believers practice this godly conduct toward brothers and sisters in the church? Give your group time to discuss application.

Tell your group to look at the chart in the lesson about widows as a visual aid for verses 3-16.

Verses 3-16

What do these verses teach about widows? How are they to behave? How is the church to treat them?

Honor those who are widows indeed (ESV—truly widows).

The text then explains who they are—widows with no children or grandchildren.

They're alone.

Verse 5 further describes them regarding hope in God and continuing in prayers.

Verse 16 states that the church is to take care of these widows.

The list, verses 9-10, seems to refer to the church's list of widows to care for.

There is another group of widows—those who have children and grandchildren.

Their families are to care for them, verses 4, 8, and 16.

And another group of widows—the younger ones.

They're encouraged to marry, verses 11-15.

As with other references in this letter, there is the contrast of believing widows and those who don't—but are associated with church. Verses 6 and 11-15 tell about them.

Younger widows are encouraged to marry to prevent temptation, verse 14.

But the ones described in verses 6, 12 and 15 have turned aside from the faith.

NOTE: The NASB marginal note for "pledge" in verse 12 is literally "faith."¹⁸

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about widows.

Old Testament references

God stated laws for Israel to care for the widows among them.

He required justice, care, and support for them.

And He clearly commanded Israel not to oppress widows and orphans.

God hears the cry of those who are afflicted.

New Testament references

Anna is an example of a godly widow.

The religious leaders of Jesus' time did what the Old Testament commanded them not to do—oppressed the widows. James wrote that pure religion is to care for widows, the same as the Old Testament said.

¹⁸ New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (1 Ti 5:12) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

But the church took care of their widows.

Paul wrote similar instructions in 1 Corinthians 7, but more in 1 Timothy 5.

Ask your group what they learned for application from this study about widows.

Verses 17-25

How do these verses about elders add to what was studied in chapter 3 about overseers? You can tell your group to look at the chart in Lesson 4 “Overseers and Deacons.” Ask about cross-references where appropriate.

Elders who rule well: work hard / labor at preaching and teaching
Honor—compare with verse 3 regarding godly widows

Verse 18 indicates payment for those elders.

1 Corinthians 9:6-4

When Paul wrote the Corinthians, he used the same Old Testament quote referring to the church supporting apostles. His summary was that those who proclaim the gospel should be supported by it.

Galatians 6:6

Again Paul wrote about the one who teaches receiving from those he taught.

Then verse 19 says for the church not to receive accusations / admit charges about elders except on the basis of witnesses.

2 Corinthians 13:1-2 and Deuteronomy 19:15

Facts are to be confirmed by two or three witnesses.
Accusations from one person alone are not sufficient.

Ask your group how verses 17-19 relate to the elders at their churches. Give them time to discuss.

What word is repeated in verses 20-24 in connection with elders? What do these verses teach with regard to elders?

Elders who sin

Those who continue / persist in sin are to be rebuked before the church.

What did Jesus say about a brother who sins?

Matthew 18:15-17

This is the order Jesus presented to the Jews for confronting sin.

First privately, one person to another

If he still sins, then take one or two more with you to confront

And you will have witnesses

If there is still sin, tell it to the church

NOTE: The Greek word for “church” can also be translated “assembly.”

Then the last resort is to cut off association with the sinner.

Jews had no dealings with tax collectors and Gentiles.

Paul warned Timothy not to lay hands on someone too hastily. In other words, not to appoint someone as an elder before he is ready. Partiality toward a man can lead to a premature appointment. To do so is to share in his sins.

Some sins are not obvious until later, and Paul didn’t want Timothy to discover that after appointing a man as an elder. Eventually sins will be evident, as are good works.

Ask your group if they think the instructions in verses 20-22 are still relevant to churches. Give time for them to discuss how to apply what they’ve learned.

Verse 21 is another charge in 1 Timothy. Paul charged Timothy in the presence of who? Ask your group what they learned.

God

Christ Jesus

Chosen angels—Relate this to 3:16. Jesus was seen by angels.

Hebrews 1:5-6, 13-14

The angels worship Jesus the Son.

Angels are God’s ministering spirits who serve believers.

Acts 27:23-24

An angel was sent to comfort and encourage Paul when he needed it.

1 Corinthians 4:9

Angels observe believers.

Give your group opportunity to discuss how this short study on angels relates to 1 Timothy 5:21.

Lead the discussion back to 1 Timothy 5. Which verse seems to be out of context?

Verse 23 is directed specifically to Timothy about his physical health.

Paul told him to take a little wine for this. He was concerned about Timothy.

Compare this verse with 1 Timothy 3:3 and 8.

To end this discussion, ask your group what they’ve learned to put in practice in their thinking, attitude, behavior, church participation, good deeds....

1 Timothy Leader Guide LESSON 7

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Timothy 6

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group to review their At a Glance chart. Why did Paul write this letter to Timothy? What are chapters 1–5 about?

Paul wrote so believers know how to conduct themselves / behave in God's household, the church, the pillar and support / buttress of the truth.

He charged Timothy to instruct certain men at Ephesus not to teach strange / different doctrine. There is a contrast throughout the chapters about those who turn away from the faith and those who are truly in the faith.

Chapter 1 gives a description of those who teach strange / different doctrines; then in chapters 2 and 3 Paul refers to specific groups of people in the church and how they're to behave.

Chapter 4 begins with teaching that leads people astray, and then Paul makes comments to Timothy encouraging him in what he's to do and teach at Ephesus.

Chapter 5 is about widows and elders in the church.

1 TIMOTHY 6

What and who is this chapter about?

Slaves and masters who are believers
Those who teach different doctrine / teaching
Love of money
A personal charge to Timothy
The rich
Closing exhortation to Timothy

Verses 1-2

What do these verses teach?

Believers who are slaves are to honor their masters. The result is that God's name and Paul's doctrine / teaching are not spoken against / reviled.

Slaves are to respect their masters who are believers and serve as beloved brothers.

Before going further in your discussion, you might ask your group how these verses can be applied now.

In the workplace

Not taking advantage of believers who are over other believing workers

Ask what they learned from looking at the places in 1 Timothy where “honor” was used.

First, honor God.

Honor widows indeed and elders who rule well—double honor.

Slaves honor masters.

Honor shows respect, and people who see it can be drawn to God.

What do the cross-references teach about slaves and masters?

Slavery is referred to throughout the Bible. It was a common practice, and still is in some parts of the world. Slaves were part of the household.

Deuteronomy 15:12-18

Slaves, sometimes, loved their households and fared well there. They could choose to be a slave for the rest of their lives.

Matthew 10:24-25a

Teachers and disciples, slaves and masters—master is above his slave, but the slave can be like his master.

Mark 10:42-45

Jesus told His disciples that the way to be great is to be a servant, slave of all. Even He didn't come to be served but to serve.

1 Corinthians 7:21-24

This is about when various people are saved. If a person was a slave / bondservant when he was saved, he doesn't have to seek his freedom because he is free in Christ Jesus. But if he seeks his freedom, that is not wrong. Believers are not to worry about their circumstances.

Luke 1:38

Mary, Jesus' mother, submitted to God's will for her as His bondservant / servant.

Romans 6:16-18

Believers were slaves to sin before salvation but have been set free from sin to be slaves of righteousness.

Titus 1:1

Paul considered himself as God’s bond-servant / servant.

Ask your group what they learned for their lives from this study about slaves and masters. Give them time to discuss it.

How does verse 2 end?

Teach and preach / urge these principles / things.

Paul wrote similar instructions to this in 4:6, 11, and 5:7.

He instructed and encouraged Timothy, and Timothy was to do the same for the church.

Verses 3-10

Who and what are these verses about?

Paul again addressed those who advocate / teach different doctrine.

Such doctrine doesn’t conform to / accord with godliness.

Godliness brings great gain if it’s accompanied by contentment.

Compare the list in verses 3-5 with the lists in 1:3-4, 6-11, and 4:1-3. Believers now can use these lists as warnings regarding people like these in church today.

Paul warned of different doctrine and encouraged Timothy to sound doctrine.

sound—“literally, of physical and mental soundness *be healthy, be well...*; figuratively, of doctrinal teaching *be correct, be accurate, be sound*”¹⁹

Ask your group about the other mentions of doctrine in 1 Timothy.

NOTE: The word “doctrine” is used in the NASB in 1:3; 4:1, 6; 6:1, 3 and in the ESV in 1:3, 10; 4:6; 6:3.

What do the cross-references teach about doctrine?

Matthew 15:9 (Mark 7:7)

Jesus warned against the religious leaders of His day teaching their own precepts / commandments as doctrine.

Ephesians 4:14

Every wind of doctrine blows through the church. Believers need to be aware of this fact.

¹⁹ Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker’s Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), 387.

2 Timothy 4:3 (ESV does not use the word “doctrine.”)

Paul warned Timothy in his last letter about people wanting only to hear what they like to listen to. They won’t endure sound doctrine. That time is here, now.

Hebrews 6:1 (NASB does not use the word “doctrine.”)

The Hebrew believers were to leave the elementary doctrine of Christ—the foundational teachings—behind and press on to maturity.

Titus 1:7-9; 2:1, 7, 9-10

Overseers are to be able to refute those who contradict sound doctrine.

Paul instructed Titus, as he did Timothy, to speak / teach sound doctrine to believers.

Believers can be examples / models to others by being pure (ESV—showing integrity) in doctrine.

Behavior of believers adorns the doctrine of God our Savior.

You might ask your group if they understand the importance of sound doctrine. What does it mean to believers? What is it for? Give time for discussing this application.

What are verses 8-10 about?

There is a contrast between verse 8, contentment, and verse 9.

Verse 9 shows a downward spiral into destruction for those who want to get rich. They’re not content.

Then verse 10 brings up the love of money. It can lead to wandering away from the faith.

1 Timothy 1:6-7; 19; 4:1 and 5:8

Men were straying and turning to fruitless discussions. Some fell away from and rejected the faith. They went after doctrines of demons. Their deeds showed they denied the faith.

How does knowing these things help believers now? Ask your group why they think they need to know this, and give time for application discussion.

Verses 11-16

Who are these verses directed to? What did Paul do in these verses?

Again Paul gave personal encouragement Timothy.

These verses include several instructions and a charge. Timothy was a man of God and Paul wanted him to fight the good fight of faith and keep the commandment—which some had not done and gone astray.

fight—“struggle, conflict, opposition”²⁰

1 Timothy 1:18 and 6:12

Paul encouraged Timothy to fight the good fight early in this letter and near the end.

2 Timothy 4:7

This was Paul’s last letter, and in it he told Timothy he had fought the good fight. Paul wrote that his time to die was near and he had finished his course.

Acts 20:16-24

This passage is about Paul’s meeting with the elders from Ephesus. He told them he wanted to finish the course and ministry he received from the Lord.

Paul also instructed Timothy in verse 12 to take hold of eternal life. Second Corinthians 4:16-18 compares the temporal / transient things and life with those of eternity.

Ask your group where their focus is. What are they fighting for?
Then ask what they learn from verses 13-16 about God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God gives life; therefore, it should be lived for Him.
Jesus was on earth, testified before Pilate, and He’s coming back to earth.

Compare this with 2:5-6.

Sovereign, King of kings, Lord of lords, immortal, unapproachable, not seen refers to God since Jesus was seen and will be seen.

Compare this description with 1:17.

Verses 17-19

Who is the last group in God’s household that Paul wrote about in this letter?

The rich
These verses describe how they are to conduct themselves as part of the church.
Good works are stressed again, as with some of the other groups.

Do these instructions apply to believers now?

Verses 20-21

How did Paul end this letter to his son in the faith?

His last instruction was to guard what was entrusted to him. Compare this with 1:11.

²⁰ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GK74.

2 Timothy 1:13-14

The treasure seems to refer to the purity of the gospel, God's Word, sound doctrine.

And again he was cautioned against the false, and again he warned about those who go astray / swerve from the faith.

He ended by communicating grace to Timothy.

If you have time, a final review of 1 Timothy is a good way to end this discussion. Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart as a visual aid, and ask what they noted as a possible theme for this last chapter.

Slaves; doctrine; rich and personal instructions to Timothy

Give your group time to share what this study has meant to them.