

2 Timothy 1:1-7 Discussion Guide

Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Read Scripture

Read the entire letter together (should take about 11 minutes), with special focus on 1:1-7.

Bible Study: The HEAR Method

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

HEAR stands for:

- **Highlight:** read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **Examine:** based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **Respond in prayer:** pray God's Word back to Him.

Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

2 Timothy 1:1-7 (ESV)

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

²To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

Open: If you could plan your last words, what would you like to say?

Study:

- 1) In verse 1, what was Paul called to be? How was he called to this? What was the purpose of this calling? Why do you think Paul begins his last letter this way?
- 2) How does Paul's apostolic calling and his hope in God's promise inform his perspective on his present trials? Why do you believe this would have been important for him? If you were in

Paul's shoes, how do you think your present circumstances would have informed your perspective and hope for the future?

- 3) How does Paul describe Timothy in his salutation? What does this say about his relationship with Timothy? When did they meet and what do you know about Timothy from other books of the New Testament?
- 4) How does Paul assure Timothy of his deep love for him in vs. 2-5? What was Paul so eager to express these things to Timothy?
- 5) What does Paul remember about Timothy's family and spiritual background? How does Paul describe Timothy's faith? Do you have anyone like this in your background? If so, whom?
- 6) Paul recalls Timothy's "sincere faith" (2 Tim. 1:5). What does it mean to have sincere or genuine faith? (Consider 1 Tim. 1:2, 5, 19; 4:12; 2 Tim. 1:13; 2:22; 3:10, 15; 4:7)
- 7) Paul reminds Timothy to "*fan into flame the gift of God*" (1:6). This "*gift*" may refer to a spiritual gifting for ministry (like in 1 Tim. 4:14), or it may refer to the Holy Spirit, who indwells believers (2 Tim. 1:14). Which interpretation best fits the context? How does 2 Timothy 1:7 explain why Timothy must kindle and not neglect this gift?
- 8) What had God given Paul and Timothy (2 Tim. 1:7)? Why would this have been such an important reminder for Timothy at this time in his life? How do these three characteristics of the spirit God's given every believer help them overcome timidity?

Apply:

- 9) How did Paul's ability to remember God's work through Jesus Christ help him keep his bearings while being in prison awaiting his execution? Why is "remembering" so important in the Christian life? What makes it so difficult for you?
- 10) What is your conversion story? How does your story point to genuine faith?
- 11) We all tend to shrink back when life gets hard. How can you learn from Paul's exhortation to Timothy to have confidence in God's purposes and plan amid difficult circumstances? How can we help one another to be confident in God's love and purpose?

PRAY:

- Take time thank God for the circumstances He used to give you new life through the gospel.
- Take time to thank God for the ways you've seen His faithfulness amid difficulty.
- Ask God for the Spirit's help you remember that God is faithful and has purpose in every trial or hardship to see the Gospel preserved for another generation.
- Ask God to use this book to strengthen our hope in God and enliven a fearlessness to live for Him.

NOTE: a variety of resources have been used for this discussion guide including: *ESV 12-Week Study Guide, The GoodBook 2 Timothy Study Guide with John MacArthur, 10 Days in 2 Timothy Workbook* by Campus Outreach Birmingham, and *2 Timothy Leader Guide* written by Miles O'Neill and Erin Smith.