

2 Timothy 2:1-13 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 2 Timothy 2 together with special focus on 2:1-13.

Bible Study: The HEAR Method (Highlight, Examine, Apply, and Respond in Prayer)

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.

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 2:1-13 (ESV)

"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ²and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. ¹¹The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;

¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself."

Open: What does being a soldier, an athlete and a farmer have in common? What do you think keeps people going as a soldier, athlete or farmer?

Study:

- 1) In verse 1 Paul follows his urging of Timothy to not be ashamed of telling others about Jesus (see previous chapter) by giving him some instruction. Sum up the instruction Paul gives in your own words. How would this have encouraged Timothy?
- 2) In verse 2, Paul tells Timothy his plan for passing on the gospel message. What are the different links in the chain?

Paul also wants Timothy to have a bold attitude—and he describes three characters to encourage Timothy to be like this.

- 3) What can Timothy learn from...
 - A soldier (vs. 3-4)?
 - An athlete (vs. 5)?
 - A hardworking farmer (vs. 6)?
- 4) What three encouragements in vs. 8-10 does Paul give Timothy to persevere despite the difficult circumstances?

Verses 11-13 are a reminder of the “trustworthy” statement that Jesus is always faithful to the promises He has made (see vs. 13). Paul is especially thinking of the promise to bring all those who keep trusting Jesus Christ safely to heaven.

- 5) What fear is addressed by the encouragement in vs. 11? What fear is addressed by the encouragement in vs. 12a? What warning is given in verse 12b?
- 6) Is verse 13 a warning or an encouragement or both? What is the difference between being “faithless” and having “little” or “weak” faith?

Apply:

- 7) What should we be doing as a church to make sure there is a next generation of faithful teachers who are able to pass God’s message on? List some practical examples and how you might participate in doing this.
- 8) When we meet as a church, what could we do to help other Christians receive the same encouragements and warnings that Paul gives to Timothy? (Consider CG as well as Sunday morning.)
- 9) How could we remind each other of:
 - Who Jesus is?
 - The power of God’s Word?
 - The guaranteed success of the gospel?
 - The future of eternal glory?
 - The terrible consequences of giving up on Jesus and the gospel?
- 10) Which of the encouragements mentioned above with most help you to be bold in telling others about Jesus?

PRAY:

- Take time thank God that Jesus will remain faithful, and all that will mean for Christians.
- Confess to God times when you have been weak, you have not remembered Jesus Christ, you have lost sight of eternal glory, or you have given in to temptation to be lazy or comfortable.
- Ask God for strength to “be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”—that you would never disown Jesus, no matter what pressures you face, but that you would always endure in your faith, still trusting in Jesus when you die.

NOTE: we primarily used The Good Book Guide to 2 Timothy for this discussion guide.