

2 Timothy

Lesson 5 Leader Notes – 2 Timothy 4

To Begin ...

1. Who would be your first guest if you had your own late night talk show?
or
2. If you could learn one professional or one personal skill, what would it be?

Hey Life Group Leaders! Welcome to **Week 5** and the FINAL WEEK of our Life Group Video Series, through the **New Testament book of 2 Timothy**! We hope that this series will be uplifting, challenging, and help you find your next step in your journey with God!

You have eight questions based the video lesson and scripture passage this week! Remember that these Leader Notes are to serve as a guide for further and deepening conversation with your Life Group, not as the answers! Enjoy this week's discussion and always remember to ask an extra question such as "Why do you believe that?" to draw out some more conversation from your group members!

To start off this lesson, you have two questions that everyone in your group should be able to answer. They are not super personal but really kind of fun ... and it's okay to have fun with your Life Group!! 😊 Please make sure that your group feels the safety of sharing within the group. There is no right or wrong answer here. No snap judgments or quick fixes. And as always, be encouraging and show grace as your group members are working through their salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**).

Discussion Prompts

Read **2 Timothy 4** to the group or have everyone read it to themselves

1. When your group is finished watching the video discussion, share one of your takeaways with the group.

This is a question that everyone in your group should be able to answer. Once again, maybe this is something that made you think, or that you possibly disagreed with. Why do you disagree AND what is your biblical interpretation to support your opinion? This is great for discussion and a healthy back and forth conversation.

2. Leaving a legacy requires sacrifice (**2 Timothy 4:6**). What are you currently sacrificing and/or doing to pass your legacy onto your others?

2 Timothy 4:6 reads, *“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near.”*

This is another question that everyone in your group should be able to answer because it is asking for your experiences. A drink offering consisted of wine poured out on an altar as a sacrifice to God (**Genesis 35:14** and **Exodus 29:41**). Its fragrance was considered pleasing to God. Paul viewed his life as an offering to God. Some people may find this concept difficult to comprehend or maybe even embarrassed that they do not view their lives as such. Be gracious with everyone as they work through their faith.

3. Read **2 Timothy 4:2** and ask group members to share a recent time when God’s Word either corrected, rebuked, or encouraged them.

2 Timothy 4:2 reads, *“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”*

This is another question that everyone in your group should be able to answer because it is asking for your experiences. This may also be difficult for some people to talk through because it’s asking something pretty personal and some may feel a bit of apprehension of sharing this much. It may help if you, as the group leader, are transparent in your sharing and a good example of how nobody is perfect. Be very encouraging as your group members share with each other. We are all sinners in need of a Savior. Remember please, no snap judgments or quick fixes. And as always, be encouraging and show grace as your group members are working through their salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**).

4. How do you see elements of **2 Timothy 4:3** taking place today?

2 Timothy 4:3 reads, *“For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.”*

Some answers to this question may include what N.T. Wright has to say about this passage. “Paul himself now has a warning for Timothy, a warning which explains why he has to go on with his patient teaching. Quite soon, people within the Christian community won’t want the kind of teaching which will make and keep them healthy and strong. Like people being instructed by their doctors to follow a particular diet, they will discover that half of their favorite foods aren’t on it, and so will look for different doctors who will advise them to eat and drink what they like. In some parts of the Western world there are people who go from church to church trying to find preachers who will tell them what their ears are longing to hear – that they are all right as they are, that they don’t need to learn anything more, that they don’t have to change their behavior or obey all those rules ... and, perhaps in particular, that they needn’t believe all that old stuff about Jesus, all these stories you find in the gospels, because there are different stories, different

gospels, others ways of looking at Jesus and the world. This is what people often want to hear, and they'll go on looking till they find it. Then (they think) they can rest content. And the church drifts towards the day of Jesus' royal appearing, unaware that accounts have to be presented."

5. Paul says that he's fought the good fight and finished the race. In other words, he's accomplished what God required of him. How would you describe Paul's legacy? Which stories about Paul or which verses that Paul wrote have impacted you greatly?

2 Timothy 4:7 reads, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*

Some answers to this question may include that as he neared the end of his life, Paul could confidently say he had been faithful to his call. Thus, he faced death calmly, knowing that he would be rewarded by Christ. Heavenly reward is not just for giants of the faith, like Paul, but for all who are eagerly looking forward to Jesus' second coming. Paul gave these words to encourage Timothy, and us, that no matter how difficult the fight seems – keep getting up!

This second part of this question is one that everyone in your group should be able to answer because it is asking for your opinion. There are no right or wrong answers here. Remember please, no snap judgments or quick fixes. And as always, be encouraging and show grace as your group members are working through their salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**).

6. Paul calls Timothy to do the work of an evangelist (**v.5**). What has been your approach to sharing the gospel with others? Do you use a certain method? Is this something you enjoy?

2 Timothy 4:5 reads, *"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."*

Some answers may include that Paul was teaching Timothy to be cool and calm when he was jarred and jolted by people or circumstances; don't react quickly. In any work of ministry that you undertake, keeping your head makes you morally alert to temptation, resistant to pressure, and vigilant when facing heavy responsibility. How is this different from how you share your testimony and the gospel with others?

7. Read verses **2 Timothy 4:9-11, 13, 16-17, 21**. In your opinion, what emotions did Paul probably have while writing these verses? Why was it important for Timothy to waste no time in visiting Paul?

2 Timothy 4:9-11 reads, *“Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.”*

2 Timothy 4:13 reads, *“When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.”*

2 Timothy 4:16-17 reads, *“At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.”*

2 Timothy 4:21 reads, *“Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers and sisters.”*

Some answers may include that Paul was virtually alone and probably felt a bit abandoned and quite lonely. No one had been there at his trial to speak in his defense, and some had even left the faith. Only one person, Luke, had returned to be with Paul. But Paul did not hold a grudge, criticize, or even condemn those that left him alone and feeling lonely. Paul's arrest probably occurred so suddenly that he was not allowed to return home to gather his personal belongings or a cloak to keep warm in the damp and chilly dungeon. He even desired to continue studying

and teaching, asking for his scrolls and parchments which possibly may have included parts of the Old Testament, writings from other apostles that included the Gospels, copies of his own letters, and other important documents. He was very much still the scholar and teacher even from prison.

Paul was condemned to be executed. He had no idea when the time would come, but he knew it was near and he was ready for it. Paul was confident in God's power even as he faced death. However, Paul wanted to continue to encourage young Timothy to preach and press on in leading the church. Paul knew that God would continue to give Timothy strength and courage for this task, but he also knew that Timothy had to own that responsibility and step out in faith progressing with the task that God had given him. The urgency in Paul's writing was more toward the continuance of the church and the work that people like Timothy had to take on boldly, even with their mentor gone.

As Paul reached the end of his life, he could look back and know he had been faithful to God's call. Now it was time to pass the torch to the next generation, preparing leaders to take his place so that the world would continue to hear the life changing message of Jesus Christ. Timothy was Paul's living legacy, a product of Paul's faithful teaching, discipleship, and example. Because of Paul's work with many believers, including Timothy, the world is full of believers today who are also carrying on the work. What legacy will you leave behind? Whom are you training to carry on your work? It is our responsibility to do all we can do to keep the gospel message alive for the next generation.

8. If there's time, ask group members to share their biggest takeaway from the series.

This is another question that everyone in your group should be able to answer because it is asking for your opinion and experience over the last several weeks. There are no right or wrong answers here. Remember please, no snap judgments or quick fixes. And as always, be encouraging and show grace as your group members are working through their salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**).

Remember to ask for prayer requests and close your group in prayer. Encourage one another to take steps, regardless of how small, toward Jesus and his kingdom.

Personal Reflection & Deeper Study for this Week:

1. Each day this week, read **2 Timothy 4** in a different Bible version. You can also listen to **2 Timothy 4** in different Bible versions on the YouVersion Bible app.
2. Memorize **2 Timothy 4:7-8** or **2 Timothy 4:18** ... or both!
3. The image of the crown that Paul refers to in **vs. 8** is a crown that a judge awarded to athletes in races. Read **1 Corinthians 9:25; 2 Timothy 2:25; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4; and Revelation 2:10**. What do these verses have in common? How are crowns described in these verses? How are crowns awarded?
4. Overall, how has the study through **2 Timothy** influenced you? The following questions might help you answer- How were you encouraged? What challenged you? Where do you feel God moving in your life? Which of your beliefs or ideas were validated? If you had to rethink your view on a certain issue, which issue and why do you feel this way? Who are you going to begin leading or mentoring? Who are you going to approach to lead or mentor you?