

2 Timothy
Leader Guide
(NASB and ESV)

A STUDY IN
DISCIPLESHIP

2 Timothy Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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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.

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2 TIMOTHY LEADER GUIDE Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis

- Overview of 2 Timothy

To begin this first discussion, you might ask your group who wrote this letter and to whom?

Verses 1-2 introduce Paul as the author and Timothy as the recipient.

Tell your group to look at the lists they made on Paul and Timothy, 2 Timothy at a Glance chart, and “Sequence of Events in Paul’s Life after His Conversion” as visual aids for this discussion.

Ask what they learned from the chart about the date Paul wrote and events surrounding that time.

NOTE: It’s not necessary to discuss all the details in this guide. The details are for you, the leader. If the group discusses the main points, that’s enough for the Overview.

What is the letter about? Why did Paul write to Timothy?

Paul was about to die; he was in prison for the gospel.

Paul called Timothy to suffer the hardships and persecutions which go along with a ministry of preaching the gospel, the Word of God.

He encouraged him to fulfill his ministry which had to do with the gospel—teaching it to faithful men who would entrust it to others.

And throughout the letter Paul warned Timothy about the unfaithful who turned away from him and from the truth.

2 TIMOTHY 1

How did Paul begin this letter?

He encouraged Timothy in verses 1-7.

Encouragement regarding Paul’s love for him, Timothy’s faith, his gift, and God’s power.

What did Paul tell Timothy in verses 8-14?

He told him not to be ashamed of the Lord’s testimony or of Paul, a prisoner.

Paul was suffering for preaching the gospel, he was in prison.

He wrote of the “gospel,”
“the testimony of our Lord,”
“the standard / pattern of sound words,”
“the treasure / good deposit”
which was entrusted to Paul and then to Timothy, too.

Ask your group if they have also been entrusted with the Word of God. What can they learn about it from Paul’s commands to Timothy in chapter 1?

Don’t be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord.

Join / share in suffering for the gospel—according to / by the power of God.

Retain the standard (ESV—follow the pattern) of sound words—in faith and love.

Guard the treasure / good deposit entrusted—through the Holy Spirit.

Who did Paul warn Timothy about in verse 15?

All in Asia, specifically Phygelus and Hermogenes, turned away from Paul.

Who was contrasted in verses 16-18?

Onesiphorus was not ashamed of Paul or his chains. He searched until he found him in the Roman prison. Then he refreshed Paul as he ministered to him.

2 TIMOTHY 2

What is this chapter about? How does it connect with what Paul wrote in the first chapter?

NOTE: If needed, ask what your group learned from the key words and commands they observed in each chapter.

As chapter 1 ended with a positive example of one not ashamed of the gospel or of Paul in chains, he began chapter 2 calling Timothy to be strong / strengthened.

He called him to entrust to faithful men what he, a faithful man, had been entrusted with—the treasure / good deposit of the gospel, the Word of truth.

Throughout this letter, Paul contrasted faithful men with unfaithful ones.

One of the commands is to suffer hardship (ESV—share in suffering). Again, Paul used his own example of suffering in prison as a criminal. And Timothy was instructed to remember Jesus Christ—the focus of the gospel.

Then he was to remind the people he taught of these things.

Paul instructed Timothy to be diligent (ESV—do your best) with the accurate / right handling of God’s Word so he would not be ashamed, and he would be approved to God.

The next command was a warning to avoid chatter / babble that leads to ungodliness.

Then again Paul presented two men among a group who went astray / swerved from the truth. Hymenaeus and Philetus taught that the resurrection had already taken place. As a result, they upset the faith of some.

Timothy was to flee, pursue, and refuse (ESV—have nothing to do with) things leading to quarrels. As a servant of the Lord, he was not to be quarrelsome.

Encourage your group to relate these statements to themselves.

Speculations / controversies still lead to quarrels.
Correcting in gentleness is still the way of the Lord’s bond-servants.

How important is God’s Word in this letter?

It was the most important subject he wrote about.

2 TIMOTHY 3

How does this chapter connect with the end of 2 Timothy 2?

NOTE: You might need to ask about the people in this chapter.

Repentance leads to knowledge of the truth, so men escape the snare of the devil.

But—contrast.

Timothy’s next command was to realize / understand.

In the last days, difficult times will come as men who claim a form / appearance of godliness deny its power. They captivate / capture weak women, always learning but not coming to (ESV—arriving at) the knowledge of the truth.

Two men in this chapter who are bad examples are Jannes and Jambres who opposed Moses. In verse 5, Paul commanded Timothy to avoid such men as these.

Then these men are contrasted with Paul and Timothy. They live godly and continue in the truth of the Scriptures. Paul called Timothy to keep on continuing even though Paul was about to die.

Verses 16-17 tell of the absolute necessity of the Word of God in believers' lives. It gives wisdom that leads to salvation (ESV—makes you wise for salvation).

2 TIMOTHY 4

What is this chapter about?

It begins with Paul's final charge to Timothy in verses 1-2.
There are several commands in verse 2.

The times are mentioned again in verse 3 as another warning is given.

The time is now—many don't want sound doctrine / teaching, but only those teachings which make them feel good. Paul told Timothy to retain the standard (ESV—follow the pattern) of sound words, 1:13, and be diligent (ESV—do your best) to accurately / rightly handle it, 2:15.

Encourage your group that they'll learn sound doctrine / teaching in this study.

In verse 5, Paul gave some more commands to Timothy.
Paul summarized his life in verses 6-8.

Verses 9-20 are his closing statements to Timothy about coming to him. Verses 14-15, though, give another warning against Alexander who did much harm as he opposed the teaching / message.

Paul gave credit and thanks to the Lord for rescuing him out of all.
He knew the Lord would also bring him safely to the heavenly kingdom.

To close you might ask your group how they summarized the letter (book theme) on their At a Glance charts.

Guard the treasure / good deposit entrusted and entrust to faithful men
Don't be ashamed of the gospel; fulfill your ministry

Ask how they can guard the treasure / good deposit of the Word of God; how they can fulfill their ministry; how they can be the faithful; how they should not be ashamed of the gospel.

2 TIMOTHY LEADER GUIDE Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis

- 2 Timothy 1

REVIEW

Who wrote 2 Timothy and to whom? When? Why?

Paul wrote this letter to Timothy from a prison in Rome. He knew the end of his life was near. Only Luke the physician was with him.

Paul longed to see Timothy and asked him to come soon. He also asked Timothy to stop at Troas and get his cloak before winter. But he especially wanted the parchments and books left with Carpus there.

What is this letter about? Direct your group to look at their At a Glance charts to review the content briefly.

Paul instructed, warned, and encouraged Timothy, especially about God's Word and faithless men. He called Timothy to join him in (ESV—share in) suffering for the gospel.

He called Timothy to guard the treasure / good deposit entrusted to him and entrust it to faithful men.

2 TIMOTHY 1

Verses 1-7

How does this letter begin?

From the beginning Paul encouraged Timothy in this letter.

Paul's beloved son / child, remembered by him day and night in prayer

He longed to see Timothy to be filled with joy.

Ask what your group learned about Timothy from the cross-references in 1 Timothy.

1 Timothy 1:1-2

Timothy was Paul's child in the faith.

1 Timothy 4:12

Timothy was a young man, but Paul called him to be an example.

1 Timothy 5:23

Timothy had frequent ailments and stomach trouble.
Paul told him to care for his health.

What else did Paul write about Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:5? Discuss the word study.

Timothy had a sincere faith.

sincere—"lacking in pretense"¹; "without hypocrisy"²

That sincere faith was first in Timothy's mother and grandmother.
Evidently they had taught him the Scripture since he was a child, 3:15.

Ask your group what they learned about Timothy's background, his sincere faith, and his connection to Paul from the other references they studied.

They can look at "The Sequence of Events in Paul's Life after His Conversion" as a visual aid for this part of the discussion.

Acts 16:1-3

When Paul went to Derbe and Lystra, Timothy was there.

According to the chart, this was 13 to 15 years before Paul wrote 2 Timothy.

Timothy was a disciple well spoken of by the brethren / brothers. His mother was a Jewish believer, and 2 Timothy 1 speaks of her sincere faith as well as his grandmother Lois's sincere faith.

But his father was a Greek, and the text does not say he was a believer. So it's assumed he was not.

Timothy agreed to be circumcised by Paul which showed his humility and eagerness to go with him on the rest of his mission, to follow Paul in his ministry.

1 Corinthians 4:17

Paul and Timothy had been together for a few years by the time Paul wrote the Corinthians this letter. By then Timothy was a clear reminder of Paul's ways and taught as Paul did—sound doctrine.

In this text as in 2 Timothy 1, Paul referred to Timothy as his son / child, but here it's evident he meant son in the faith.

¹Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, electronic ed. of the 2nd edition. (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996, c1989). 1:674.

²James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GGK537.

Philippians 2:19-24

By the time of this letter all knew of Timothy's proven worth as one who was genuinely concerned for the welfare of the brethren.

He served with Paul in proclaiming the gospel and teaching. He went where Paul sent him to check on churches and bring messages back and forth. By the time Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy he knew of his "sincere faith," and longed to see his son in the Lord.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Timothy 1.

What did Paul tell Timothy in verses 6-7? Discuss cross-references and word study.

He reminded him to kindle afresh (ESV—fan into flame) the gift of God within him

Kindle afresh is "to keep blazing"³; "to kindle anew, rekindle, resuscitate."⁴

1 Timothy 4:14

Paul had encouraged Timothy in his first letter to him not to neglect his spiritual gift. And again it's connected to hands being laid on Timothy, Paul participating.

1 Peter 4:10-11

It seems Timothy's gift was in the speaking category and he was encouraged regarding God's Word.

God has given a spirit of power and love and discipline / self-control.

Ask what the group learned about this from the cross-references and word study.

Power

Acts 1:8

Power from God's Spirit

Ephesians 1:18-23

Resurrection power toward believers—surpassing / immeasurable greatness of His power

Ephesians 3:7, 16, 20

God's grace by the working of His power

Strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man / being

Believers have His power working within to do far more abundantly beyond all they ask or think.

³A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933). 2 Ti 1:6.

⁴Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997, c1984). 2 Ti 1:6.

2 Peter 1:2-3

His power granted believers everything for life and godliness.

Love

1 John 3:1; 4:10

The Father bestows His love on His children, believers.

He loved to the degree that He sent His Son as propitiation for all sins.

discipline / self-control—“sound judgment,”⁵ “self-control”⁶

Luke 8:35; Titus 2:6; and 1 Peter 4:7

These verses use the same Greek word as translated “discipline / self-control” in 2 Timothy 1:7. It’s also translated as “right mind,” “sensible” and “sound judgment.”

At this point, you might ask your group how they can apply what Paul wrote to Timothy.

At the end of this lesson’s guide, there is a short list of what Paul told Timothy to do in this chapter. You might use this list as a visual aid for this discussion.

Verses 8-14

What did Paul instruct Timothy in verse 8?

Do not be ashamed of the testimony of / about our Lord
or of me His prisoner.

Join with me (ESV—share) in suffering for the gospel according to God’s power.

Based on verse 7—God has given power.

Ask your group if either of these instructions applies to them. Is this a call to them as well?

What are verses 9-10 about?

This is the gospel. This is salvation.

God saved and called believers with a holy calling

according to His purpose and grace, not a believer’s works.

Grace was granted in Christ Jesus from all eternity (ESV—before the ages began).

⁵ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GK5406.

⁶ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998), G4995.

Contrast, “now” it’s been revealed / manifested by His appearing—His first coming.

He abolished death and brought life and immortality.

Both God and Christ Jesus are called “our Savior” in these verses.

What do verses 11-12 tell about Paul and how do they connect with verses 9-10?

God appointed him as a preacher, apostle, and teacher of the gospel to take salvation to primarily the Gentile world at that time.

He gladly suffered for the gospel because he was convinced that God is able to guard what he entrusted to Him—his life.

NOTE: The ESV reads that it was God who entrusted something to Paul in verse 12, probably the Gospel from the context.

Paul was not ashamed to suffer for the gospel.

Verses 9-12 are exhortation by Paul’s example of suffering for the gospel and the benefits of the gospel.

What do the cross-references about the gospel add to what 2 Timothy says about it?

Romans 1:14-17

Paul was under obligation to preach the gospel.

Here he again stated that he was not ashamed of the gospel.
Within the gospel is God’s power for salvation for those who believe.
Therefore, the messenger’s responsibility is only to give the gospel.

1 Corinthians 1:17-18; 2:1-7

This is similar to what Romans says. The word of the cross, the gospel, is the power of God to those being saved, those who believe.

But to those who are perishing, it’s foolishness / folly.

Paul, as the example of preaching the gospel, did not proclaim it according to his own persuasive / plausible words of wisdom. The power for salvation lies within the simple points of the gospel.

Paul preached in demonstration of God’s Spirit and God’s power. Therefore, their faith was built on God’s power and not on Paul’s delivery. Their faith was not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

The main points of the gospel are:

Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and He was buried.

He was raised on the 3rd day according to the Scriptures, and He appeared to many.

Galatians 1:11-12

Paul received the gospel he preached from Jesus.

Philippians 1:12-14

Paul's imprisonment progressed the gospel. Because of Paul, other believers had more courage to preach the gospel without fear. He handled his circumstances well.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Timothy 1. What are the instructions in verses 13-14?

Both have to do with the Word of God, giving the gospel, teaching the Word.

Retain the standard (ESV—follow the pattern) of sound words.

Timothy had done that and had seen/ heard Paul do the same.

The last instruction in this chapter is to guard the treasure / good deposit entrusted to you. Guard through / by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

How do the commands in verses 8-14 apply to believers now? Give time for discussion.

What did Paul write to Timothy in 1 Timothy about entrusting?

1 Timothy 1:11, 18; and 6:20

Paul was entrusted with the gospel.

He entrusted it to Timothy.

Then he instructed Timothy to guard what was entrusted to him.

The same thing he commanded in 2 Timothy 1:14.

Verses 15-18

What are these verses about? What is the contrast?

The chapter ends with examples and a contrast.

Paul and Timothy were faithful.

Phygelus, Hermogenes, and all in Asia turned away, were not faithful.

Onesiphorus was faithful in Rome and Ephesus.

He was not ashamed of Paul the prisoner of the Lord.

Three times this chapter speaks of not being ashamed.

Paul told Timothy not to be ashamed.

Paul and Onesiphorus weren't ashamed. Ask your group what they recorded on their At a Glance charts as a theme of this chapter.

Maybe something like:

Don't be ashamed of the testimony, the gospel or the Word

Ask your group if they are prepared to

- Not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord
- Suffer for the gospel according to God's power
- Retain the standard (ESV—follow the pattern) of sound words
- Guard the treasure (ESV—good deposit) entrusted to them

This study will equip them to do those things in the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells all believers.

Don't be ashamed of Lord's testimony

Suffer for the gospel

Retain the standard / follow the pattern of sound words

Guard the treasure / good deposit entrusted

**2 TIMOTHY
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3**

Lesson emphasis

2 Timothy 2:1-13

REVIEW

Why did Paul write to Timothy?

Paul had been faithful regarding the gospel and his ministry to preach and teach it. He knew his death was near when he wrote this to Timothy.

Paul wrote Timothy to guard God's Word and fulfill his ministry to it and entrust it to other faithful men.

He warned Timothy about the faithless, those who turn away or oppose the truth.

What is chapter 1 about?

This letter begins with encouragement for Timothy. He was Paul's son in the faith, had a sincere faith and had a spiritual gift to be used. God had given Timothy power, love, and discipline / self-control.

Therefore, he was not to be ashamed of the Lord's testimony nor of Paul His prisoner. He gave him instructions after the encouragement. Instructions about God's Word, the gospel.

Then Paul presented himself and Onesiphorus as examples of those not ashamed. Verse 15 tells of those who were ashamed—all in Asia, specifically Phygelus and Hermogenes. They were unfaithful.

2 TIMOTHY 2

Ask how your group summarized chapter 2 on their At a Glance charts.

Entrust to faithful; the Word of truth; don't be quarrelsome

Verse 1

How does this chapter begin? How does it relate to the end of chapter 1?

Timothy had a need to be strong in grace because of what and who he would face. There are unfaithful who turn aside from the truth.

Timothy needed to be strong / strengthened because of persecution against the gospel of Jesus Christ. God had given him, and all believers, the power to be strong / strengthened in grace.

Paul also told Timothy to do what he did.

He entrusted the things he learned to Timothy, a faithful man who taught those things to others.

Does entrusting God's Word, the gospel, relate to believers now? If so, how does one recognize the faithful? Give time for your group to discuss application.

At the end of this lesson's guide, there are contrasting lists about the faithful and faithless which you can use as a visual aid for this discussion, recording the points as the group discusses them.

Verses 3-6

What is the instruction? How do these illustrations relate to Timothy? To believers now?

Suffer hardship / share in suffering
as a good soldier of Jesus Christ

not entangled with everyday life / civilian pursuits
to please the one who enlisted him

That's how Paul served the Lord Jesus Christ, and that's how Timothy needed to serve as well.

Athlete

Compete according to the rules to win the prize (ESV—crowned).

Farmer

Hard-working

First to receive his share of the crops

There are rules, instructions / commands for the Christian life.

Believers are to labor for Christ in His strength.

The Lord is faithful to provide for His own.

Give time for your group to discuss how this instruction and these illustrations apply to them.

Then ask what they learned about suffering and enduring hardship.

The phrase “suffer hardship with me” means “*to bear evil treatment along with*”¹ or “to undergo the same type of suffering.”²

2 Timothy 4:5

Ministry will be accompanied by hardship that needs to be endured.

James 5:10

The Old Testament prophets are examples of those who suffered for speaking in God’s name.

James 5:13

Prayer should accompany suffering.

Ask your group how these references speak to their lives. And give time for them to discuss application.

Verses 7-13

What are the instructions and the reasoning in these verses? Discuss cross-references.

Consider (ESV—think over); the Lord gives understanding in everything.

This should have been encouraging to Timothy, as well as to all believers.

Maybe Paul was exhorting Timothy about his own soon-coming death.

Remember Jesus had risen from the dead.

Jesus’ resurrection is one of the main points of the gospel. It’s the hope.

Paul was suffering hardship (ESV—suffering) in prison (ESV—bound with chains). But God’s Word was not imprisoned / bound—regardless of one’s situation, there is a way for the Word to be passed on.

2 Timothy 4:16-17

At Paul’s defense, evidently referring to his trial before prison, the Lord stood with him so the proclamation was fully accomplished (ESV—the message was fully proclaimed). The Gentiles heard and still hear the truth. Paul was rescued by going to be with Jesus.

¹ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998). G4777.

² Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 285.

Philippians 1:12-18

When Paul was in prison in Rome the first time, he wrote to the Philippian church. He rejoiced because his imprisonment caused Christ to be known among the guard. Also, other people had more courage to speak the gospel. Christ was proclaimed, regardless of the motives from some preaching.

Colossians 4:2-4

Paul asked for prayer while he was in prison so he would know how to speak. His desire was to speak / declare the mystery of Christ.

Acts 28:16-23, 30-31

This was Paul's first Roman imprisonment. He was able to speak the truth of the kingdom and Jesus Christ to all who came to listen.

He endured because he knew there were people who needed to hear the gospel and be saved. Paul was willing to die for the gospel. He determined he would not deny the Lord.

There is a contrast in the trustworthy statement / saying—endure or deny and be faithless.

Ask what your group learned from their study about the trustworthy statement in verses 11-13.

What does the trustworthy statement / saying say about the faithful?

Died with Christ . . . live with Him

This fits the context of 2 Timothy as Paul was facing physical death. It also fits the immediate context of this chapter as he was calling Timothy to suffer for the gospel and endure like Jesus and Paul.

They endured death for others' salvation. Timothy might have to do the same. Second Corinthians 5:6-8 and Philippians 1:20-24 speak of physical death.

But this also refers to dying with Christ to this life according to Romans 6:5-10 and Colossians 3:3-4. Death to self to live this life for Christ. He is life.

Endure . . . reign with Him

In this context Paul called on Timothy to suffer hardship (ESV—share in suffering) and endure all things, as he himself had done. Endure all things for the sake of those who will hear and believe through him.

Hebrews 10:32-39; 12:2-3

The believers had endured a great conflict (ESV—a hard struggle) which involved losing property. But they needed to continue in that endurance and receive the promise. They were called to live by faith—as the faithful in 2 Timothy.

Jesus, the author / founder and perfecter of faith, endured the cross for the joy afterward.

The temptation is to grow weary and lose heart / be fainthearted and not endure.

James 1:12; 5:10-11

James also wrote of being “approved” (ESV—standing the test) by God. These are the ones who persevere / remain steadfast in trials. They’ll receive the crown of life. Compare this with 2 Timothy 4:8. Those who endure / remain steadfast are blessed.

Revelation 5:9-10; 20:4-6; 22:5

Here on earth there might be hardship to endure, but when that’s done there is the promise of reigning with Christ—a great promise.

People purchased by Christ’s blood from every tribe, tongue / language, people, and nation will reign upon the earth. Also, those who refused to worship the beast and were killed during the last years before Jesus’ return come to life and reign with Him for 1,000 years. Then Revelation 22 speaks of reigning forever.

What does the trustworthy statement / saying say about the faithless?

If deny Him, He will deny

To deny Christ is to reject Him. This describes unbelievers.

Matthew 10:33

Jesus said that He’d deny before the Father anyone who denied Him before men.

Titus 1:16

Even if someone says he knows the Lord, his deeds or works tell if he truly does. A life of ungodly deeds denies that one knows Him.

Jude 4

As Paul warned Timothy of the faithless he would encounter, so Jude wrote a warning too. Certain persons creep into the church unnoticed. They are ungodly who turn grace into license to sin (ESV—pervert grace into sensuality) and deny Jesus as Lord, ruler of their lives.

If Jesus rejects one before the Father, then that one was never saved. Paul warned Timothy of such men, and even named some of them.

If faithless

People can say they have faith, but have none

Romans 3:2-4

Unbelief in people doesn’t nullify God’s faithfulness.

He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself

The Lord is always faithful.
If He said He'll deny the unfaithful, He's faithful to do that.
He'll not deny or reject what He said.

To end your discussion, ask your group to be sure which heading they fall under; ask if they have tested themselves as 2 Corinthians 13:5 says.

FAITHFUL	FAITHLESS
Entrust to other faithful If died—live with Him If endure—reign with Him	Hymenaeus and Philetus went astray / swerved from the truth Deny Him—denied by Him Faithless—He's still faithful

**2 TIMOTHY
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4**

Lesson emphasis

- 2 Timothy 2:14-26

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember about why Paul wrote this letter to Timothy.

Paul had been faithful regarding the gospel and his ministry to preach and teach it. He knew his death was near.

Paul wrote Timothy to guard God's Word and fulfill his ministry to it, and entrust it to other faithful men.

He warned Timothy about the faithless, those who turn away or oppose the truth.

What is the flow of thought from 1:1–2:13?

Paul encouraged Timothy regarding his faith and gifting and then he instructed him. He told him not to be ashamed, and gave examples of those who were not ashamed contrasted with some who were.

In chapter 2 he commanded Timothy to be strong, entrust the Word to other faithful men. And he told Timothy again about suffering hardship which accompanies giving the gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is another contrast between the faithful and those who deny in the trustworthy statement / saying.

2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

What is the subject of these verses?

This context talks about "words" several times.

Wrangle / quarrel about words
The Word of truth
Worldly and empty chatter / irreverent babble
Talk spread
Speculations / controversies
Quarrels

Verses 14-19

What are the points and commands of these verses? Give time for application at any point.

Remind of these things—the things about God’s Word and the gospel, being willing to suffer for it and the warnings about the faithful and faithless.

Paul told Timothy to remind and charge people not to wrangle / quarrel about words because it’s a useless activity (ESV—does not good) and can ruin those who hear it.

Compare what verse 14 says about charging with 4:1.

How does Paul’s flow of thought continue?

In verses 15-18 there is a contrast between an accurate handling of God’s Word and worldly chatter / irreverent babble and men going astray / swerving from the truth.

Paul again wrote about not being ashamed. This time it’s about how one handles God’s word of truth.

Ask what your group learned from their study of verse 15.

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God (ESV—Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved)

approved—“judged worthy. . . genuine, pertaining to that which is approved by testing”¹

Being approved by God is accomplished by an accurate / right handling of the word of truth

accurately / rightly handling—“to cut straight”²; “to handle correctly, skillfully”³

Then the workman is not ashamed as he does what the word of truth says.

Tell your group to consider how they learn to accurately / rightly handle God’s Word. And ask what they remember from chapter 1 about not being ashamed.

1:8, 12, 16

Paul told Timothy not to be ashamed of the Lord’s testimony or of him—a prisoner.

Paul suffered for the gospel because he wasn’t ashamed of it. And he was calling Timothy to do the same.

¹James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GGK1511.

²James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995). G3718.

³Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G3718.

Paul gave another example of one who was not ashamed of him being a prisoner, Onesiphorus.

What do the cross-references about ashamed add?

Mark 8:38 (Luke 9:26)

Jesus said that when He comes, He will be ashamed of the one who is ashamed of Him and His words.

Romans 1:16

Paul wrote that he was not ashamed of the gospel. It's God's power for salvation.

Ask your group how these statements relate to them. Give them time to discuss application.

Who and what are verses 16-18 about?

Avoid worldly and empty chatter (ESV—irreverent babble).

It leads to ungodliness.
It spreads like gangrene.
It's astray / swerved from the truth.

The result was that the faith of some was upset.

Those who know the Lord, the truly faithful, are to abstain / depart from wickedness / iniquity, ungodliness.

Specifically, Paul warned Timothy about Hymenaeus and Philetus who said the resurrection had already taken place.

Was this the first time Paul warned Timothy about men straying from the truth of God's Word or from the faith? Ask what your group learned from the cross-references in 1 Timothy.

1 Timothy 4:1-8

This chapter begins with a strong warning about some falling away from the faith and doctrines / teachings of demons. Paul cautioned him about worldly fables (ESV—irreverent, silly myths) and encouraged him to teach sound doctrine using his spiritual gift.

1 Timothy 6:3-5

Sound words, doctrine / teaching conforming to godliness, is contrasted with those who engage in controversial questions and disputes / quarrels. Some men are deprived of the truth.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Timothy 2. You might ask your group if they can recognize worldly and empty chatter / irreverent babble so they can avoid it.

If it's astray / swerved from the truth, then avoid it.

Believers know and recognize the truth because of doing what verse 15 says.

How will believers entrust the things they've learned to faithful people, verse 2, if they don't know how to recognize them?

Paul told Timothy throughout this letter how to recognize the faithful and the unfaithful.

Encourage your group to pay attention to this as they face the same kinds of people.

Verse 19

What does this verse mean, based on its context?

Whether or not men are faithful or holding to the truth, God is/does, verse 13.

His foundation stands regardless of what men do and say.

God knows those who are truly His—truly saved.

They're the ones who aren't to live in wickedness / iniquity like the faithless men named in this letter. Paul warned Timothy about those who named the Lord's name, but didn't abstain from wickedness (ESV—depart from iniquity) in their lives.

Compare this with the cross-references.

2 Corinthians 1:22

God sealed believers and gave the Holy Spirit in their hearts as a pledge / guarantee.

Ephesians 1:13; 4:30

After believing the gospel, being saved, believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit. Believers are sealed for the day of redemption and are not to grieve the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 7:21-23 and 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus said that not everyone who calls Him Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the Father's will.

Even some of the ones prophesying in His name, casting out demons in His name, and performing miracles (ESV—mighty works) in His name will not enter heaven because they practiced lawlessness, not righteousness.

They were false prophets.
They were tares / weeds.

Luke 13:22-28

There is a narrow door which leads to eternal life.

John 10:14-15, 27-28

Jesus knows His own, and they know Him. They hear His voice and follow Him.
His own are believers in Him, those with eternal life and security in Him.

Verses 20-21

What is the relationship of these two verses to verse 19?

Verse 20 seems like an illustration of the truth stated in verse 19.

Then verse 21 tells what to do about it.

The large house might symbolize the church.

Vessels of gold, silver—vessels of honor
These might represent the faithful who truly know the Lord.

Vessels of earthenware / clay—vessels of dishonor
These then would represent the faithless who claim to know Him.

If one cleanses himself from these (the faithless, unsaved), then he'll be

a vessel for honor (ESV—honorable use)
sanctified (ESV—set apart as holy)
useful to the Master
prepared / ready for every good work

How does this relate to 1 Corinthians 15:33 and 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15?

Bad company corrupts / ruins good morals.

Keep away from brothers who are unruly and undisciplined (ESV—idle) in life.
Don't associate with them so that they're shamed by admonishment.

Verses 22-26

What else did Paul tell Timothy to do?

Flee youthful lusts / passions—Timothy was a young man
Here Paul spoke of words, quarrels, and handling the word of truth.
Sexual sin is not mentioned in this context.

Pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart
As contrasted with those who claimed to know Him but were still practicing
wickedness.

How does verse 23 fit the context of verses 14-22 and being a vessel of honor?

This is still in the context about what people speak.
Refuse (ESV—have nothing to do with) foolish and ignorant speculations / controversies.
They produce / breed quarrels.
Compare this with verse 16.

How is the Lord's bond-servant described? What is he to do?

The Lord's servant Timothy and all believers
must not be quarrelsome
be kind to all
able to teach
patient when wronged (ESV—patiently enduring evil)
with gentleness correct those in opposition

What are the desired results in verses 25-26?

God granting repentance to the one who opposed the truth because of the gentle correcting by His servant. That repentance leads to the knowledge of the truth.

This is escape for those who oppose the truth, held captive by the devil to do his will.

Does quarreling with someone help that one to escape from the devil's snare?

Probably not

What does?

Love
Pure heart of the one speaking with him
Kindness of speech
Accurate teaching—knowledge of the truth
Patience with the one in opposition, even when wronged by him
Correcting with gentle speech
Seeking repentance for him

How does Titus 3 compare with these verses in 2 Timothy?

Titus 3:9-11

Paul also wrote Titus about similar things as in 2 Timothy. Avoid controversies, disputes / quarrels, etc. Those things are not profitable; they're worthless. Reject men who are factious / stir up division.

Give time for your group to discuss any relevant application.

**2 TIMOTHY
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5**

Lesson emphasis

- 2 Timothy 3

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask your group why Paul wrote this letter to Timothy.

Paul knew his death was near when he wrote this to Timothy. Paul had been faithful regarding the gospel and his ministry to preach and teach it. And he instructed and encouraged Timothy to do the same.

He told Timothy to guard God's Word and fulfill his ministry to it and entrust it to other faithful men.

He also warned Timothy about the faithless, those who turn away or oppose the truth.

Ask your group what 2 Timothy is about. Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts.

Guard the treasure / good deposit entrusted, and entrust it to faithful men

1—Don't be ashamed of the gospel; retain the standard of sound words
(ESV—follow the pattern)

2—Be diligent to accurately handle the Word of truth
(ESV—do your best to rightly handle...)

How does chapter 2 end?

Paul warned Timothy about what various people say.
Things that are useless / do no good, lead to ruin and quarrels.

Then he described the Lord's servant as one who is gentle when correcting.
Hoping to lead those who oppose to repentance.

2 TIMOTHY 3

Verses 1-9

How does this chapter begin?

Paul told Timothy to realize something serious.

This begins with a contrast to the Lord’s servant. In the last days, men will love themselves. There is a list describing the ungodly in verses 1-9 and 13.

Direct your group to look at the lists in the lesson as visual aids for this part of your discussion. Then ask what they observed in the list about the ungodly or the faithless in this chapter. Also ask about application.

Lovers of self and money
Boastful / proud and arrogant
Revilers / abusive
Disobedient to parents
Ungrateful
Unholy
Unloving / heartless
Irreconcilable / unappeasable
Malicious gossips / slanderous
Without self-control
Brutal
Haters of (ESV—not loving) good
Treacherous
Reckless
Conceited (ESV—swollen with conceit)
Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

These are people in “the church.”

Holding to a form (ESV— having the appearance) of godliness
Denied the power of godliness; contrast with 1:7-8
Enter / creep into households and captivate weak women
Oppose the truth
“truth” is in 2:15, 18, 25; 3:7 and 8
Jannes and Jambres—examples of opposing Moses

Depraved / corrupted mind
Rejected / disqualified in regard to the faith—the faithless
Folly
Evil
Imposters—they hold to a form of godliness, but are not godly
Proceed / go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived

Ask what they observed about the women of verses 6-7.

Weak
Weighed down / burdened with sins
Led by their impulses / passions
Always learning
Never able to come to (ESV—arrive at) the knowledge of the truth

Just because people are always studying and learning doesn't mean they know the truth.

This is also a warning.

Give time for your group to consider these men and women of chapter 3. Help them evaluate if they are around any.

Verse 5 gives the command to avoid such as these.

From the middle of 2 Timothy 2 to the middle of 3 there is a long warning of people and situations true believers are to avoid or refuse.

quarrelsome people
foolish speculations / controversies and empty chatter / irreverent babble
those who have a form of godliness but deny its power
the weak women who are easily captivated / captured

Those are all people who don't know or have turned away from the truth.

Verses 10-12

Ask now what Paul wrote in chapter 3 which describes the godly. What is the application for believers today?

Timothy followed Paul. A follower is a disciple.

Teaching—the truth of God's Word, the standard / pattern of sound words
Conduct—not ashamed, strong, gentle, and not quarrelsome
Purpose / aim in life—this letter is about that purpose / aim
Faith; they both had a sincere faith
Patience, as in 2:24
Love—Paul was to give his life because of his love for God and men
Perseverance / steadfastness
Persecutions
Sufferings

These things are for all true believers, those who desire to live godly lives in Christ. Paul was an example of all these, and he prepared Timothy that the same would happen to him.

The same is true now, too.

Verses 14-17

What did Paul tell Timothy in these verses which believers can apply?

Continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of (ESV—firmly believed).

Encourage your group that this means what they've studied in this 2 Timothy course.
Apply what they've learned.

How can they apply verses 14-15?

Teach the Scriptures to their children, grandchildren, and others' children.

God's Word is able to lead them to salvation.

Now ask what your group learned from verses 14-15 about the "sacred writings."

Timothy learned them from childhood. They are able to give wisdom leading to (ESV—
make you wise for) salvation by faith in Christ.

The sacred writings Timothy knew were the Old Testament writings.
The New Testament was not completely written at that time.

Ask what your group learned from the word studies in verse 16.
As a visual aid, you might draw a Bible and note some of these terms around it.

inspired—"God-breathed; hence *divinely inspired*"¹²

God's word is profitable for

teaching—"doctrine . . . instruction"¹³

reproof—"bring to light, expose"¹⁴; "conviction"¹⁵

correction—"restoration to an upright or right state"¹⁶

training—"the rearing of a child . . . discipline"¹⁷; "to provide instruction, with
the intent of forming proper habits of behavior"¹⁸

¹²Timothy 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). 196.

¹³Barclay Moon Newman, *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. (Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; United Bible Societies, 1993). 45.

¹⁴ 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), 142.

¹⁵ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995). G1650.

¹⁶W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1996). 2:130.

¹⁷Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981), G3809.

¹⁸ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, electronic ed. of the 2nd edition. (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996, c1989). 1:413.

Scripture is valuable to give believers instruction—tell what to believe, know; to give instruction for godly living.

It also shows when one is wrong, and tells how to get right again.

The Bible is the textbook for living a righteous life. If believers are diligent (ESV—do their best) to accurately / rightly handle it, retaining the standard (ESV—following the pattern) of sound words, then it trains in how to live.

What is the result of verse 16?

The man or woman of God, the Christian, is

adequate / complete (“*fully qualified*”¹⁹; “*competent*”²⁰),

equipped (“to furnish or fit completely”²¹)

for every good work.

The Bible is what makes believers completely able to live the Christian life and endure hardship and present the gospel so that others are saved.

How do the cross-references on Day Four add information about God’s inspired Word?

Hebrews 1:1-2

God said that He spoke in / by the prophets. And He spoke in / by His Son Jesus. Compare John 12:49-50 with this—the Father told Jesus what to say.

Old Testament and New Testament are from Him.

2 Peter 1:20-21

God’s Holy Spirit spoke through men; they didn’t just write what they wanted. He chose to write His Word through men.

Moses, Jeremiah, Paul, and Peter wrote what the Holy Spirit said to write; those things were God-breathed through His Spirit to them for us.

The interpretation of prophecy belongs to God, not man.

Exodus 4:10-12

The Lord told Moses that He would be with his mouth and teach him what to say.

¹⁹Barclay Moon Newman, *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. (Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; United Bible Societies, 1993). 25.

²⁰James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GGK787.

²¹Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G1822.

Jeremiah 1:6-9

God Himself put His words into the prophet's mouth, and all the Old Testament prophets.

What were some occasions when God wrote or spoke?

Exodus 31:18; 32:16

God wrote with His finger the Ten Commandments on stone tablets.

Daniel 5:5, 24-28

He wrote on a wall about the last king of the Babylonian Empire. He wrote that his kingdom was divided and given to the Medes and Persians. It happened that night.

Matthew 3:17 and 17:5

The Father spoke from heaven about His beloved Son. He said to listen to Him.

What did Jesus say about God's Word, Old and New Testaments?

These references are in Day Five of the lesson.

Matthew 5:17-18 and Luke 24:25-27

Jesus didn't abolish the Law or the Prophets (Old Testament).

He fulfilled the Old Testament Law and Prophets as they spoke of Him.

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but His Words will not pass away.

Matthew 12, 19 and 24; Mark 10 and 13; Luke 11 and 17

Jesus validated the accuracy of creation in Genesis, Noah and the flood, and Jonah.

At this point, you might ask how what God says about His Word compares with what man says about it. Give time for discussion.

You might ask your group if they've ever heard any worldly and empty chatter (irreverent babble) or foolish and ignorant speculations / controversies about these terms describing the Bible?

It happens now.

True believers are to avoid, refuse such things.

Ask how your group summarized this chapter.

Avoid those who oppose, and continue in the things you've learned—God's Word

**2 TIMOTHY
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6**

Lesson emphasis

- 2 Timothy 4

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember about 2 Timothy. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart if they need help.

2 TIMOTHY 4

Verses 1-5

How does this chapter continue the flow of thought about Timothy's responsibility for God's Word, the gospel?

It begins with a charge to Timothy to preach the Word.
Paul charged Timothy in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus.
He reminded him of the judgment and 2nd coming of Christ—exhortation.

When He appears, He'll judge.
The faithful are part of His kingdom.
The faithless are not.

How was Timothy to preach the Word according to verse 2? What are the other instructions?

Be ready in season and out
Always be ready—Bible study prepares believers to be ready.
If one knows the Word and accurately / rightly handles it, then that one is ready at all times; prepared with the standard / pattern of sound words.

Reprove
Rebuke
Exhort

This is what Paul did when he wrote this letter to Timothy and for all who have read it after him.

With patience and instruction

Compare with how the Lord's servant is to correct those in opposition.

How does verse 3 relate to the times we live in now?

The time has come.

Many won't endure sound doctrine / teaching, but run to listen to those who tell them what they want to hear. Things that make them feel good. This goes on in "the church."

The time is here that people are turning away from sound doctrine / teaching.

What is the contrast in verse 5?

But you (ESV—As for you), Timothy...

Be sober in all things (ESV—be sober-minded)

Endure hardship / suffering; this repetition began in chapter 1.

Do the work of an evangelist. Preach the gospel.

Fulfill your ministry

Verses 6-8

Why did Paul give these instructions to Timothy? What is Paul's example in these verses?

Paul was near the time of his departure, his death. He reminded Timothy of his life as exhortation for Timothy to fulfill his ministry as Paul had done.

Paul's life since he was saved had been filled with many sacrifices and offerings to God. But this was the last—his physical life was finally being poured out.

NOTE: The drink offering was poured out after the grain and burnt offerings. When a drink offering was made, it was the last.

He had done what the Lord intended for him to do with his life on earth.

Paul kept the faith, even in the midst of suffering hardships.

He finished his course as he urged Timothy to fulfill his ministry.

What was one of the things Paul was looking forward to in his future and why?

The crown of righteousness

Awarded by the Lord, the righteous Judge (verse 1)

On that day, in the future

The Lord will award it to all who have loved His appearing (verse 1).

That will be all who look forward to the Lord's return and presence with Him.

Ask what else your group learned about crowns.

Crown of life

James 1:12 and Revelation 2:10

Promised by the Lord to those who love Him, those who persevere / remain steadfast in trials, those who are faithful when tested.

Crown of exultation / boasting

1 Thessalonians 2:19 and Philippians 4:1

This seems to be others brought to the Lord or nurtured in Him.

Joy is connected with this.

At His coming.

Crown of glory

1 Peter 5:4

In this context, this refers to a crown for elders / shepherds.

Revelation 4:4, 9-10

The twenty-four elders cast their crowns before God on His throne in heaven as they fall down to worship Him.

Might that be what believers do with their crowns, too?

Lead your discussion back to 2 Timothy 4.

What was Paul's request of Timothy in verses 9, 11, 13 and 21?

He wanted Timothy, his son in the faith, to come to him soon and bring Mark, the cloak left at Troas and the books, especially the parchments. He wanted Timothy to come before winter.

Verses 9-13

Who and what are these verses about?

Demas

He loved the present world more than suffering for the gospel, so he deserted Paul.

Demas was a fellow-worker with Paul and Luke at Colossae.

Like others mentioned in 2 Timothy, he turned away.

Crescens went to Galatia.

It was a region Paul had ministered in before.

Paul wrote the New Testament book of Galatians to the churches there.

Titus went to Dalmatia.

He was another young man Paul disciplined and wrote a letter to—Titus—in the New Testament. He is mentioned several times in Paul's epistles as a valuable and godly minister of God's Word and work. He even pastored the churches on the island of Crete for a while.

Only Luke was with Paul when he wrote this last letter.

As a fellow-worker, Luke accompanied Paul several times in his ministry. He was the beloved physician who wrote the Gospel of Luke and Acts.

NOTE: Luke, probably a Gentile, wrote both of these New Testament books to explain what he knew to another Gentile named Theophilus.

Paul asked Timothy to bring Mark.

This young man was Barnabas's cousin who accompanied Paul and Barnabas on part of a missionary journey and then deserted them to go home to Jerusalem.

They were Jews taking the gospel to Jews and Gentiles;
Saul (Jewish name) or Paul (Greek name)
and John (Jewish name) or Mark (Greek name).

When time came for the next journey, Paul and Barnabas had a sharp disagreement over taking Mark with them. It resulted in separate journeys.

Barnabas took his cousin Mark, like Paul did Timothy, to disciple him into a man useful to the kingdom of God. Mark was with the apostle Peter when he wrote his first letter to Jewish believers.

At the end of his life, Paul wanted Mark to come and serve with him in his last days. Barnabas—the son of encouragement—had done for Mark what he also did for Paul.

NOTE: Both Mark and Luke each wrote one of the Gospels in the New Testament before 2 Timothy was written.

Who is named in verse 12?

Tychicus was sent to Ephesus.

Another godly man who Paul sent various places in service to the Lord.

Paul said that Tychicus encouraged and comforted hearts when he went somewhere.

He might have been from Ephesus as he was of Asia. Ephesus was in Asia.

Paul took the gospel to Ephesus and wrote the New Testament book of Ephesians to the believers there.

Verses 14-15

Who and what are these verses about?

This is a warning against Alexander the coppersmith.

That was a common Greek name, so he might or might not be the same as the Alexander in Acts. Paul warned Timothy about him, so at some point in going to Paul, Timothy would encounter Alexander. It might have been at Ephesus.

But it does seem that he is the same Alexander as mentioned in 1 Timothy. Hymenaeus is in both letters also, 2:17, as one who went astray from the truth. Timothy was at Ephesus when Paul wrote 1 Timothy to him.

In this last letter, Paul named the people Timothy was to beware of.

Alexander vigorously opposed the teaching of the truth.
Paul said that the Lord will repay him.

Verses 16-18

What are these verses about?

Contrast what Paul said about being deserted at his first defense with what he said about Alexander vigorously opposing his teaching in verses 14-15.

The Lord will repay Alexander according to his deeds.

May it not be counted against them—maybe a reference to believers who weren't strong enough at the time to withstand persecution to that degree.

Paul's first defense might have been a reference to the first time he defended himself before being imprisoned the first time for two years, recorded at the end of Acts.

Or it might be a reference to giving more than one defense in his trial to being imprisoned this last time.

If the first imprisonment is meant, it makes clear the reference to his proclamation fully accomplished among the Gentiles and his being rescued from the lion's mouth of death.

Paul made clear here that it's the Lord who rescues from death and the one who rescues from evil by taking believers safely to His heavenly kingdom.

He looked forward to that passage.

Verses 19-21

Ask your group what they learned about the people named in these verses.

Prisca and Aquila

They were a Jewish husband and wife Paul met when in Corinth. They all worked together as they were in the same trade of tent-making.

Paul left them in Ephesus at the end of his second missionary journey. They taught the Scriptures there and were gentle with Apollos, as the Lord's bond-servants are to be, when they explained more accurately the way of God to him.

They made their way back to Rome and had a church in their house there, too.

Onesiphorus

He was in chapter 1 as the man who was in Rome and searched for Paul until he found him. He's an example of one who was not ashamed.

Erastus

Paul had sent Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia at some point. They ministered to Paul. He might have been the same as the city treasurer of Rome.

Trophimus

He was one of the ones from Asia who accompanied Paul. He was a Gentile who Paul took to Jerusalem, and others thought he'd gone into the temple.

Paul ended his last letter with a warning of specific people. But he mostly exhorted the people he loved and who had served with him in guarding the treasure of God's Word. Let your group discuss how they might do the same.

How did they summarize this last chapter?

Fulfill your ministry or Preach the Word

You might end your discussion by asking the group what impacted them most from their study of 2 Timothy.