

**Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, February 16th, 2025**

Series: **“Growing in Christ”**

Message: **“Practicing What We Preach”**

Sermon Text: **1 Timothy 4:6-16**; Old Testament Text: **Psalm 105:8-15**; Gospel Text: **Mark 4:26-29**.

Read **1 Timothy 4:6-16** as you listen to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

1. Read **1 Timothy 4:6**. To what is Paul referring when he instructs Timothy to *put these things before the brothers*?

Why would Paul consider Timothy *a good servant of Christ Jesus if he did this*?

2. Read **1 Timothy 4:7**. What was one of *the irreverent silly myths being* proclaimed at that time?

How does *someone train themselves for godliness*?

3. Read **1 Timothy 4:8-9**. Why is *being trained in godliness* superior to *bodily training*?

4. Read **1 Timothy 4:10-11**. To whom is Paul referring when he says, *to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe*?

What things are Timothy instructed to *command and teach*?

5. Read **1 Timothy 4:12**. Now read **1 Timothy 4:12** from the (NIV): *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in*

*love, in faith and in purity.* What do you think Paul was trying to tell Timothy when he told him, *Let no one despise you?*

If Timothy sets an example for the people *in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity,* should any believer be disappointed in his leadership?

How might you also set examples for people in those five areas?

6. Read **1 Timothy 4:13**. Why would Paul want Timothy to *devote himself to the public reading of scripture?*

What does the word *exhortation* mean?

How could *teaching* tie these first two things together?

7. Read **1 Timothy 4:14**. What was the gift Timothy received through prophecy and the laying on of hands?
8. Read **1 Timothy 4:15**. What does Paul mean when he instructs Timothy to *immerse himself in these things?*
9. Read **1 Timothy 4:16**. Why did Paul encourage Timothy to *keep a close watch on himself and on his teaching?*

What did Paul promise Timothy that this would do for *himself and his hearers?*

10. What will you remember most from this message?

### **Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting**

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Psalm 105:8-15** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
  1. In **Psalm 108:8-11**, the psalmist talks about God's covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. What is a covenant?
  2. What was God's specific covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?
  3. In **Psalm 108:12-15**, the psalmist spells out how God intervened on Israel's behalf. What were some of the ways in which God protected His people?
  4. What do these verses show us about God's promises with His people?
  
- II. Next read **Mark 4:26-29**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
  1. To what is Jesus comparing the kingdom of God in **Mark 4:26**?
  2. In **Mark 4:27**, what does Jesus say the man understands about the process of seeds germinating and growing?
  3. What is Jesus implying about man's understanding of the kingdom of God?
  4. When you read **Mark 4:28-29**, what should it tell you about man's future?
  
- III. Now read **1 Timothy 4:1-16** utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
  1. In **1 Timothy 4:1-3**, of what things does Paul say the Holy Spirit warns us?
  2. In **1 Timothy 4:4-5**, how does Paul prove that the things the Spirit warns us of are true?
  3. In **1 Timothy 4:6**, to what is Paul referring when he instructs Timothy to *put these things before the brothers*?
  4. Why would Paul consider Timothy *a good servant of Christ Jesus if he did this*?
  5. In **1 Timothy 4:7**, what was one of *the irreverent silly myths being* proclaimed at that time?
  6. How does *someone train themselves for godliness*?
  7. According to **1 Timothy 4:8-9**, why is *being trained in godliness* superior to *bodily training*?
  8. In **1 Timothy 4:10-11**, to whom is Paul referring when he says, *to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe*?
  9. According to **1 Timothy 4:11**, what things are Timothy instructed to *command and teach*?

10. Read **1 Timothy 4:12** from the ESV. Now read **1 Timothy 4:12** from the (NIV):  
*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*  
What do you think Paul was trying to tell Timothy when he told him, *Let no one despise you?*
11. If Timothy sets an example for the people *in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity*, should any believer be disappointed by his leadership?
12. How might you also set examples for people in those five areas?
13. Read **1 Timothy 4:13**. Why would Paul want Timothy to *devote himself to the public reading of scripture?*
14. What does the word *exhortation* mean?
15. How could *teaching* tie these first two things together?
16. Read **1 Timothy 4:14**. What was the gift Timothy received through prophecy and the laying on of hands?
17. Read **1 Timothy 4:15**. What does Paul mean when he instructs Timothy to *immerse himself in these things?*
18. According to **1 Timothy 4:16**, why did Paul encourage Timothy to *keep a close watch on himself and on his teaching?*