

GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Get Into The Word



Week of Sunday August 24, 2025

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**Living out our God-given calling as
we follow Jesus and make
disciples every day.**

Introduction

Life is marked by beginnings and endings, but the true measure lies in how we journey between them. In 2 Timothy 4, Paul illustrates this through his relationships with Demas and Mark, challenging us to reflect on our own faith journey. As you engage with this passage, consider this question: How will you finish? Will you let the world's distractions pull you away, or will you seek restoration and purpose in your walk with Christ? Your decisions today shape your legacy tomorrow.

Disciple Measure

Force for Good: What kind of legacy do you want to leave, and how are you working toward that legacy today?

Discussion Questions

It's Not How You Start, It's How You Finish

HIGHLIGHT

Have someone read aloud...

2 Timothy 4:9-11

EXPLAIN

Discuss the following questions...

Opening Question: Share a time when you started something with enthusiasm but struggled to finish. What helped you persevere (or what caused you to give up)?

- 1. What does it mean to “love this present world,” and what are the consequences of that?

*Have someone read aloud **Acts 15:37-38** and **Philemon 1:24**.*

- 2. Reflect on the transformation of Mark from Acts. How does Mark's story illustrate the possibility of restoration and redemption in the Christian faith?
- 3. In contrast to Mark's story of restoration, what does Demas's story illustrate for us?
- 4. How does Paul's reference to Old Testament scripture deepen the understanding of his experiences and faith? (**Psalms 22**)

Notes:

Discuss the following questions...

- ## RESPOND

Force for Good: How does the investment you make in your group help strengthen one another during difficult times? What is something you could this week to intentionally invest in your group?

Prayer:

Thank God for His faithfulness, even when others desert us. Ask for strength to finish strong in our faith, and for the ability to be a Mark rather than a Demas in the lives of others.

Questions for Families

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

2 Timothy 4:9-11

What can we learn about God from Paul's story in this passage?

For younger children, guide them to understand that God is always with us, just like He was with Paul. For older children and teens, encourage them to explore how God gives us strength, especially in tough times.

Why is it important to finish what we start, just like Paul wanted to?

With the younger children, discuss how completing tasks, like finishing a puzzle or a coloring page, makes us feel good and teaches perseverance. For older children, talk about how sticking with our commitments and responsibilities can shape who we become and reflect our character.

How can we ask for help when we face challenges or feel alone, like Paul might have felt?

Help younger children understand that it's okay to ask for help from parents, teachers, or friends. For older children and teens, discuss the importance of reaching out to God in prayer and talking to trusted adults or peers when they need support.

NT 260

WEEK: 35

- Titus 1
- Titus 2
- Titus 3
- 1 Peter 1
- 1 Peter 2

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 6:27-28

Resources

Resources to Listen to

BEMA Discipleship Podcast - Pastoral Epistles — Timid Timothy & Tough Titus



Marty Solomon takes a deeper dive into the Pastoral Epistles of [Timothy](#) and Titus.
(23 min)

Resources to Watch

Bible Project Guide - The Book of 2 Timothy



See a collection of videos and articles to guide you through the book of [2 Timothy](#).
(20 min)

Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at groups@longhollow.com.

D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.



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Commentary

Notes:

What’s Going On?

In this passage from 2 Timothy 4, we're diving into one of the Apostle Paul's final letters. Paul's writing feels personal and urgent because he knows his life is nearing its end. This is his last opportunity to give advice, encouragement, and warnings to his friends and fellow believers. Paul isn't just writing from any place; he's in a cold, dark Roman prison, likely feeling lonely and possibly scared. This makes his words even more powerful, as he talks about people who have stayed by his side and those who have left him.

His message isn't just a list of goodbyes; it's a call for Timothy, his dear friend, and others to stay strong in their faith and finish their lives well. He wants readers to learn from his experiences: the pains of betrayal and the comfort of true companions. Paul uses simple yet powerful stories about people like Demas, who left him, and Mark, who was once unreliable but later became helpful, to illustrate how important it is to stay committed to their faith, even when it's hard.

Biblical Timeline

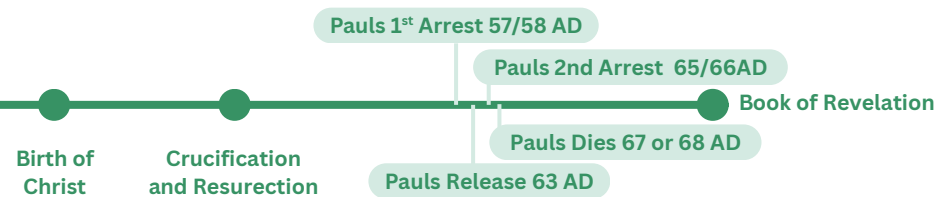


Notes:

A Bit of Background

By the time he wrote this letter, Paul had been through a lot: shipwrecks, arrests, imprisonments, and even beatings. He had been a prisoner in Rome before, but was likely under house arrest then. This second imprisonment is different; he's in a tougher jail this time, called the Mamertine Prison, which was more like a dungeon. During Paul's time, following Jesus could be really risky.

Many believers faced persecution because Romans who worshiped many gods didn't understand or trust Christians, who worshiped only one God and refused to honor the Roman gods or the emperor as divine. This is especially true under Nero, who is believed to be the emperor who executed Paul. Paul knew the cost of following Jesus was high, and his own life was proof of that. Understanding these challenges makes Paul's messages about staying true to one's faith and finishing strong even more inspirational, especially to those early Christians who may have felt scared or uncertain. Paul's words remind us that while his times were tough, his faith remained firm, serving as a guidepost for Christians through the ages.



Sermon Notes

2 Timothy 4:9-11 CSB

Make every effort to come to me soon, because Demas has deserted me, since he loved this present world, and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry.

(Get digital notes on your mobile device at notes.longhollow.com)

Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Spirit-Led Follower

A disciple who walks with Jesus daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

Intentional Friend

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

Humble Guide

A disciple who is a humble guide takes every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

Force For Good

When a disciple lives out their God-given calling, they naturally become a force for good where they live, work, and play. This type of person is looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.



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