

1 TIMOTHY: JESUS IS OUR MENTOR REVEALED IN MENTORS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW SUMMARY FOR THE LEADERS:

Just for reference. Not necessarily to be read to group.

1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus are recognized as the 3 Pastoral letters in Scripture. The first few verses introduce us to the two main characters in the book. Paul, an apostle who has an amazing heart for the ministry of Jesus expressed through the church, is writing here in his 60's. Paul is writing to Timothy (probably 40 years old) who Paul references as his son having developed an intimate father son spiritual mentoring relationship.

Paul's writings here address the importance of healthy church leadership as he exposes erroneous teaching and communicates helpful guidelines. Our goal in our groups this week is to get an overview of the book of 1 Timothy and to understand the importance of having lives that are shaped by the Gospel. This requires us to have some understanding of false doctrines that can easily confuse believers, especially those who neglect reading their Bibles.

DISCUSSION ICE BREAKER:

1. Share a time when you made some decision based on information you believed that you later figured out was not correct causing you to regret the decision you'd made.

Paul writes to Timothy exposing beliefs that were being taught in the church that were wrong.

1 Tim 1:3-5 *As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer 4 or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith. 5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. NIV*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

2. What are some common beliefs of our day that are widely embraced yet violate Biblical truth?
3. Notice verse 5 – what does it look like for us to live out a love coming from a pure heart, good conscience and a sincere faith?

Paul is fathering and mentoring Timothy helping him call distractions to order.

4. Share a time somebody you would count as a mentor figure in your life helped you avoid a decision or way of thinking that could have been damaging.

1 Tim 1:12-14 *I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. NIV*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

5. What is one area for you that has been met with God's grace bringing transformation to your life?

1 Timothy 5 talks about how the Gospel should shape the church community, not just our individual lives. Paul gives Timothy various instructions to the church concerning the gospel, community, remarriage, and eldership.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

6. How have you seen gospel community lived out in the various contexts of relationship?

Conclude by having a discussion about how your group specifically can more effectively care for each others' needs as a family within the Destiny family.