

Study Buddies

Quick Bible Reference Guides

1 & 2 TIMOTHY: Leadership Training for God's Kingdom

Note: This resource was prepared based on the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. It is always good to use more than one Bible version as a reference. This practice will enable you to compare the languages of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.

Overview

Paul wrote these letters to Timothy to advise and encourage him and warn him about false teachings. Like Timothy, many Christians need this type of advice. In fact, the first letter became a leadership manual for the early churches. The second letter, more personal in tone, includes Paul's last instructions to Timothy and encourages Timothy to "Keep on being faithful to what you were taught" (3.14).

We can still gain valuable insight from this writing because, as it is written, "Everything in the Scripture is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and for showing them how to live." (2 Timothy 3.16, CEV)

Key Points and Verses

Please read the whole book to gain the fullest experience. These points are just a few of the highlights that have been encapsulated from the text.

- 1 Tim 1.12-17 God's mercy
- 1 Tim 2.1-8 Importance of prayer
- 1 Tim 3.1-13 Church leadership
- 1 Tim 4.1-5; 6.3-10 Avoid turning from the faith
- 2 Tim 1.5, 6 Passing on the faith from one generation to another
- 2 Tim 2.1-13 Soldiers for Christ Jesus
- 2 Tim 1.7, 8; 3.1—4.8 Courage and faithfulness to the end

Study Questions

1. What, according to the text in 1 Timothy, is "the whole truth?" (2.4-6; also 4.16). What are some of the things Paul suggests followers of Christ do (and *not* do) in order to "be faithful and have a clear conscience?" (2.1; 4.7; 4.16; 5.1-3; 6.11).
2. What does the letter say church leaders should be like and what is expected of them? (1 Tim 3.1-13). In your opinion, what are the five most important traits of a church leader, pastor, or priest?
3. What advice did the letter give Timothy about being a respected and effective leader? (1 Tim 4.12; 5.1,2). How much does your church encourage young people to be involved?
4. Timothy's church seemed to reflect diversity among the people. How is each group to be treated? (see also, 5.22). What is expected of each group?
5. In 2 Tim 1.7, what three things does God's Spirit give? Why would these things be important to a young leader of the church like Timothy? How are they important for Christians living today?

1 & 2 TIMOTHY (*Continued*):

6. In 2 Tim 2.3-7, three types of people are described as hard workers: a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer. What qualities did these different workers have that the author wants Timothy to imitate? Which type of worker do you think best depicts the life of a Christian? Why? What other images could be used to describe a Christian's life?
7. Read the advice given to Timothy in 2 Tim 2.22-26. Why is this advice important to someone who is a leader in the church? Which pieces of advice would be helpful also to people who are not in positions of leadership? Why? In your opinion, what difficult temptations do Christians face today? Where do you find strength to face temptations?
8. In 2 Tim 3.1-5, the author gives Timothy a brief description of how difficult the "last days" will be. What does the author say people will be like at that time? How are the behavior and thoughts of the "people" described here different from the kinds of behavior and thoughts the author tells Timothy Christians are to practice elsewhere in the letter?
9. What special warnings did the letter writer have for people who thought religion was supposed to make them rich? (1 Tim 6.3-10). How can a relationship with God make a person's life "rich?" Are you "content with what you have?"

Something to Think About

How does sharing a common faith in God strengthen a relationship? How can Christians help one another strengthen their individual relationships with God? Who in your life shares your faith and how do you help each other strengthen spiritual bonds?

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Dear Group Leader:

If you're looking for a straightforward resource to enhance study time with your group, you have come to the right place. Study Buddies give a brief synopsis of the Bible book you wish to study and highlight key points and verses throughout the text. There are also thought-provoking questions included to get the discussion going.

These study sheets were prepared based upon the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. But when studying, it is always good to use more than one version as a reference. We encourage this practice because it will enable you and your companions to compare the language of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.

Study Buddies can be used at church, in the home, or in the workplace (where permitted) **free of charge**. Here are a few ways for you to get the most out of them:

- Use in church classroom settings for both adult and youth groups. Add a little flavor by touching upon topics that are relevant to your community. Are you in an urban setting? Rural? Suburban? How does your community compare to the communities and people of the Bible? Find ties that will make the lessons personal and relevant to the specific circumstances that you are facing.
- Use with people who don't know much about the Bible. Maybe they are new Christians or people who are uncertain about what the Bible is about. These sheets can act as a primer to basic Bible knowledge about the contents of each book and why it was written.
- Use during family time with your teens and pre-teens as a reinforcement to the lessons learned in church. While your son or daughter may already think that they're adults, these study sheets can help you help them transition into adulthood with grace and compassion.
- Finally, use with your neighbors, co-workers, friends and loved ones who have expressed an interest in the Bible. Form a small in home group and increase your awareness of what the Scriptures are saying. Try to develop bonds that will help each of you remain faithful to God and his Word.

We hope that you'll find these study sheets to be an excellent starting point for your lessons.

Sincerely,
American Bible Society