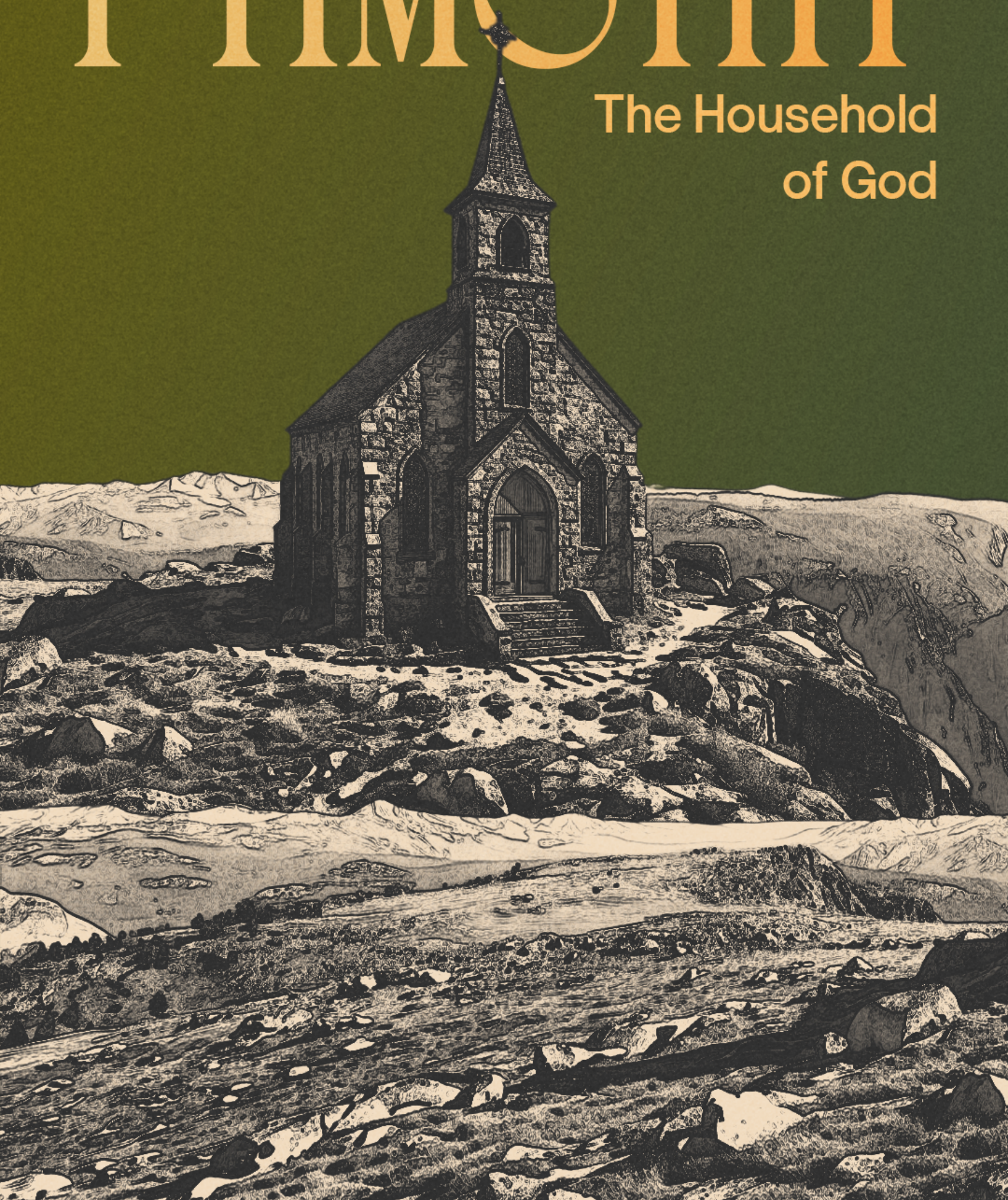
1 TIMOTHY

The Household of God



WEEK 4

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four crucial components for a group to maintain its health: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study the biblical passage in three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, you are free to use any part of this guide that can assist you in achieving this goal.

CONNECT

- Did you play any sports or have any hobbies as a kid?
- What's the hardest thing you've ever trained for?
- What's one unexpected thing that's happened to you this week?

INTRODUCTION

So far in his letter, Paul has instructed Timothy on what makes for a healthy church – and healthy church leadership – that advances the plan of God in Jesus. Next he exhorts Timothy and the church in Ephesus to pursue godliness at all costs. Paul argues that God is worthy of our holiness and that counterfeit gods will destroy us. Therefore we must set our hope on the living God, practice holiness, and trust that many will come to know Jesus as we live this way.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: 1 Timothy 3:14-4:4

Discuss:
What images and metaphors does Paul use to describe the church in 3:14–15? Why might each one matter?

Paul presents Jesus himself as the (revealed) mystery of godliness. Why is Jesus himself a good reason to pursue godliness in your life?

What specific kinds of false teaching does Paul warn about in 4:1-4? Where do those teachings ultimately come from, and what will happen if we listen to them?

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: 1 Timothy 4:6-16

Discuss:
What are some of the commands that Paul gives Timothy in these verses? What should he do, and what must he not do?

What is the promised outcome if Timothy is faithful in these things?

APPLICATION

- In what ways do you need further training in the faith and in sound doctrine? How can you act on that? *(Group leaders, this is a great moment to talk about Establishing Foundations and even offer to take people through it!)*

- Dallas Willard said "Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning." How does this passage encourage you to run harder after God and holiness?

- Timothy is told not to neglect his spiritual gifts, but to immerse himself in using them. What gifts has God given you? What would it look like to use them more fully?

PRAYER

- Praise God like Paul did for this great mystery of godliness. Pray that the global church would be a pillar and foundation of the truth.
- Pray for specific next steps that came up in your conversation - for your group to chase after Jesus and holiness together.

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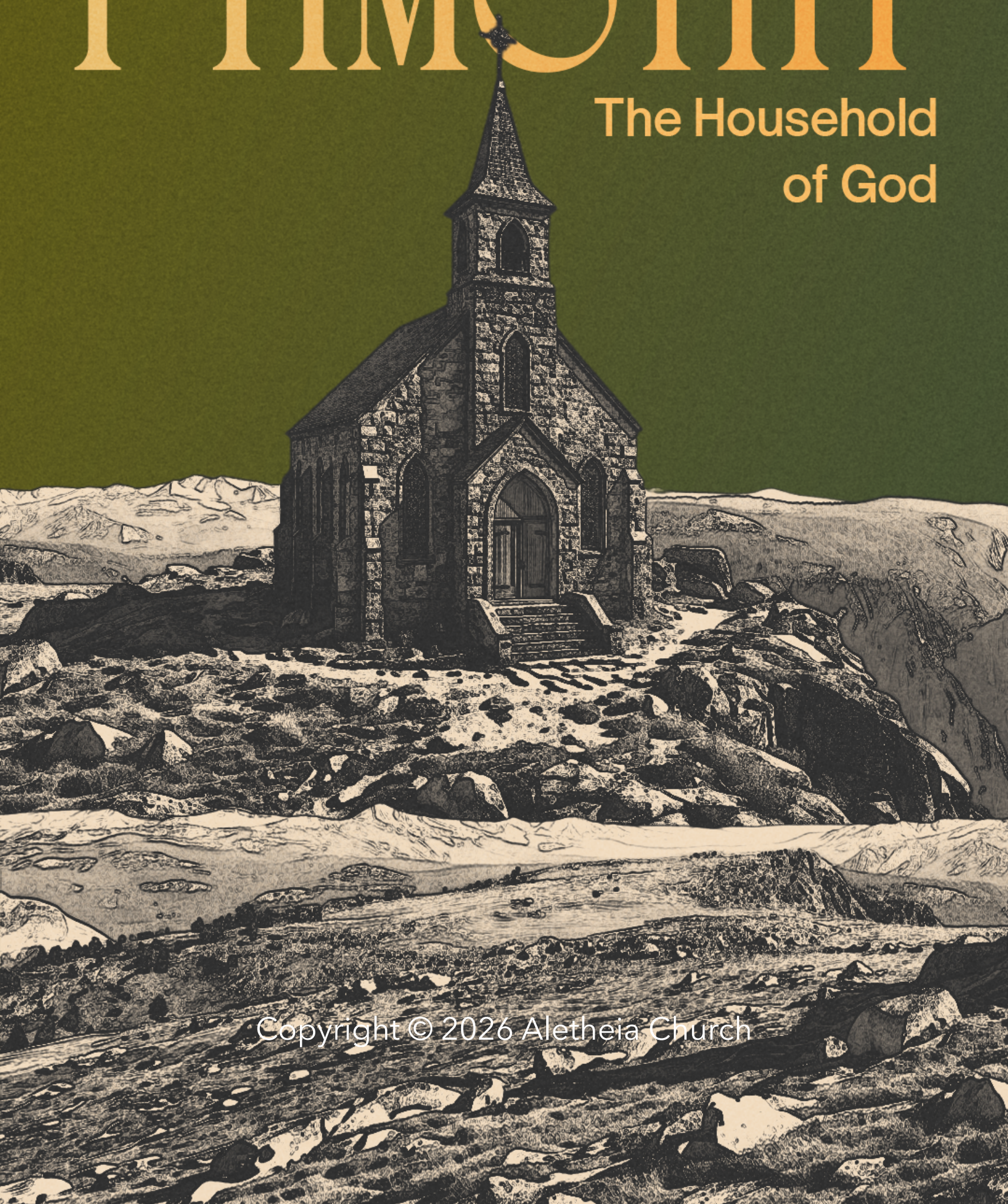

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