

# PRE-DECIDE

Group Guide:  
Week 4



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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four components to a healthy group: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study 2 Timothy 4:1-8 using inductive Bible study, which has three components: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, feel free to use whatever parts of this guide most help you do this!

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## CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- Describe the most grueling physical activity you've done. What motivated you to get to the end?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word "perseverance"?
- Discipleship check-in:
  - Have you prayed and read your Bible consistently in the past week?
  - Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week?

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## INTRODUCTION

If you were an alien and you watched an hour of television ads, you might conclude that the best possible life for a human is one that prioritizes comfort and pleasure above all else. If you (still as an alien, of course) read Paul's letter to

Timothy, you'd learn that sacrificing comfort and pleasure for a greater prize makes for a better life. We only get the greater prize if we pre-decide to persevere for the sake of Christ when life feels like sacrifice.

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## OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

BID IDEA: We must pre-decide to persevere.

READ: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

DISCUSS:

- Paul says that he's looking forward to receiving a crown from Jesus on judgment day. In Paul's day, this "crown" was a wreath awarded to military leaders or athletes for major accomplishments. Based on the passage, what has Paul accomplished? What does this accomplishment involve?
  - Verse three describes the pressure that makes perseverance necessary and difficult. Why is it dangerous for people to wander into myths that endorse their passions and don't line up with the truth?
  - Paul gives Timothy some very specific instructions—actions to persevere in, to keep doing. What stands out to you about these actions and why?
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## APPLICATION *WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?*

DISCUSS:

- Paul describes his life as a drink offering, a sacrifice. What kinds of sacrifice has God been calling you into recently?
  - Paul encouraged Timothy to persevere in his ministry. What ministry have you received from God? Are you persevering in it?
  - Describe what it is about Christ that makes you desire his return.
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## PRAYER

Pray for an orientation towards the eternal reward we'll receive from Jesus.

Pray for grace to fight the good fight and run the good race.