

1 TIMOTHY

The Household of God

Week 1

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

- Can you remember getting into strange or useless arguments when you were younger? What were they about?
- What activities do you like to do as the weather's getting warmer?
- When you hear the phrase "fight the good fight of the faith," what comes to mind?

INTRODUCTION

Imagine you got to read an encrypted email between the Secretary of State and an ambassador to a pivotal nation. That's a little like what we have with 1 Timothy, but unencrypted for our benefit. Paul planted the church in Ephesus but left Timothy in charge. Paul wanted the church to thrive, so he wrote to Timothy with his best stuff. To start the letter, Paul charges Timothy to fight for the good of the church. A healthy church wouldn't come without a fight for Timothy, and our church won't be healthy unless we engage in the same fight.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: 1 Timothy 1:1-11

- What's going on in the church that Timothy needs to confront? What's at stake if he just lets it go?
- Based on this passage, what makes for healthy teaching? What are its features and outcomes?

Read: 1 Timothy 1:12-20

- Paul summarizes the gospel like this: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (v. 15). Strange teaching tends to avoid the topic of sin. Why do you think that is?
- What questions come to mind from this chapter that remain unanswered?

APPLICATION

- Do you feel like you are personally "waging the good warfare" for the gospel? Why or why not?
- If healthy teaching and healthy learning are happening in a church, the topics of love and sin will be constant. When's the last time you were convicted of sin? How did you respond?
- Paul erupts in praise after telling his own story of sin and grace. If you were to write your own story of sin and grace in five verses like Paul, what would it say?

PRAYER

- Read verses 15 thru 17 a few times and spend time glorifying God for his grace.
- Pray prayers of repentance and healing in areas of sin.
- Pray that love would continue to advance the plan of God in and through our church.