

# 1 TIMOTHY

The Household of God

## Week 2

### **\*\*Special note to group leaders:**

Name for your group that you're tackling a hard passage of Scripture today. Any time Scripture is difficult for us to understand, we have an opportunity to lean in together with humility. Encourage people that you might not leave all perfectly agreeing with each other, but that this is an opportunity to seek out what God is saying in his Word and grow deeper in community as you do it together. Pray before the discussion and encourage humility and curiosity. Review the group leader resource guide for answers to questions that are likely to come up this week.

## CONNECT

- What's God been saying to you through his word lately?
- Who is someone you were close to growing up, whether it was a sibling or friend, who was very different from you? How did those differences complement each other?

## INTRODUCTION

1 Timothy 2 is one of the most counter-cultural parts of Paul's letter. Most find it surprising; many find it offensive. Like any part of the Bible that rubs us the wrong way, we need to lean in and ask, How is this good news? What we'll see is that Paul's instructions for men and women in a healthy church helps tell the story of the gospel itself—who we're made to be, what's gone wrong, and how God is rescuing and restoring it in Christ. This chapter is both surprising AND very, very good news.

## OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

**Read:** 1 Timothy 2:1-7

- Paul says that in a healthy church prayer is a "first of all" priority. What is it about prayer that reveals and cultivates health for a church?
- The testimony that the church at Ephesus was founded on is that there is one God and one mediator between people and God. Why can only Jesus be the Mediator?

**Read:** 1 Timothy 2:8-15

- In verses 13-15, Paul refers to creation as the basis for his instructions. How do chapters 2 and 3 of Genesis help us understand Paul's instructions for churches? (Even turn there and look if you have time.)
- Sin has twisted manhood and womanhood. But that which sin has twisted, Christ has come to redeem. What's one way you can think of that Christ's life and death shapes our understanding of what it means to be a man and what it means to be a woman?

## APPLICATION

- Paul says a healthy church prays for the spread of the gospel. How can you keep this a priority in your own life?
- Paul's specific instructions to men and women are related to propensities that men and women have—men towards anger and arguing, women towards an unhealthy occupation with appearance.
  - For men: Paul directs men away from anger and towards prayer. Are you engaging in spiritual warfare? How can you strengthen your fight?
  - For women: Paul directs women away from an unhealthy occupation with appearance and towards good works on behalf of others. How is God calling you to respond to these instructions?

## PRAYER

- Thank Jesus for his willingness to be our Mediator.
- Praise Jesus for perfectly doing everything he calls men and women to do.
- Ask the Spirit for strength to be a man or woman of God in Christ.

### ***\*\*Final Note to Leaders***

Before your group closes, remind people that there is value in digging into hard passages of the Bible, and that the discussion doesn't end here! If there are unanswered questions, commit to helping find resources that answer them. Offer that if anyone wants to talk more, you're a resource. The goal is for people to feel that relationships are strong at the end of this conversation and the door is open to more exploration of what the Bible is saying here.