C-Group Study Guide

1 Timothy

Cultivating our Community for Christ

1 Cor. 3: 6-9

Calendar

Feb 21	week 1	1 Timothy 1
Feb 28	week 2	1 Timothy 2
Mar 7	week 3	1 Timothy 3
Mar 14	week 4	1 Timothy 4
Mar 21	week 5	1 Timothy 5
Mar 28	Week 6	1 Timothy 6

2021 Connection Groups

Leader(s)	Demographic	Location	Day/Time
Barricklow	Open Group	Upper Room	SUN. – 5:30 P.M.
McHale	Open Group	Prayer Room	SUN. – 5:30 P.M.
Reynolds	Open Group	Conference Room	SUN. – 5:30 P.M.
Simpkins	Open Group	King's Classroom	SUN. – 5:30 P.M.
Gillispie	Ladies	King's Classroom	WED. – 10:00 A.M.
Jennings	Open Group	Parsley Home	WED. – 5:30 P.M.

Helpful Tips for Studying Scripture

Below are some helpful questions to ask and answer when reading, understanding, and applying scripture to our lives. You do not need to answer all these questions as part of each week, but as you read through the passages you are encouraged to keep these questions nearby to enhance your experience reading God's word.

Understanding the Bible

1. **What do we learn about God?**
    a. Look for God's character (who he is, what he is like).
    b. Look for God's conduct (what he is doing).
    c. Look for God's concerns (what things, events, and people he is concerned about).
2. **What do we learn about people?**
    a. Look for aspects of what it means to be created in God's image.
    b. Look for fallen condition
    c. Look for how God's people should live.
3. **What do we learn about relating to God?**
    a. Look for things to praise and thank God for.
    b. Look for sin to confess and repent.
    c. Look for promises and truths to believe.
4. **What do we learn about relating to others?**
    a. Look for how we should interact with and treat others.
    b. Look for ways to pursue reconciliation with others.
    c. Look for specific ways to love, serve, and care for others.

Applying the Bible

1. **What does God want me to understand?**
2. **What does God want me to believe?**
3. **What does God want me to desire?**
4. **What does God want me to do?**

Content taken from Dr. Matthew Harmon's book, *Asking the Right Questions*, Crossway, 2017. Used with permission.

1 Timothy

Background:

Paul wrote this letter to his true child in the faith, Timothy, and to other church leaders around the time of A.D. 64, most likely prior to Paul's imprisonment in Rome. The purpose of this letter was to give encouragement and instruction to Timothy in the areas of church administration, discipline, and combatting false teaching that was arising in the church at Ephesus where Timothy most likely was serving as a leader for a time. Despite his young age, Timothy was a godly leader and servant who Paul knew and trusted to lead with upright integrity. This is exactly why Paul writes to Timothy, "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."

Week 1
1 Timothy 1

Connect:
What was a doctrinal stance that you have changed over the course of your relationship with Christ?

Interpret:

1. What were some of the false teachings Paul may have had in mind while writing this letter (Col. 2:8, 18)? What specific instruction does Paul give Timothy regarding false teachers?

2. Read Acts 20:25-31. Summarize Paul's main concern when he left the leaders at Ephesus. What was his final advice to them?

Apply:
Paul considered Timothy a "son" and discipled him in the faith. Who in your life serves as your Paul? Who is your Timothy?

Pray:
Pray for the Paul's and Timothy's in your life; or if you have none, pray that God would lead you to finding one.

Week 2
1 Timothy 2

Connect:
Do you believe prayer changes things? Why?

Interpret:

1. For whom did Paul command that prayers be made for? What are our prayers meant to look like according to Jesus in Matthew 6:5-15?

2. What does Paul's command to pray for all people imply? Will everyone be saved? (See also Eph. 1:3-5)

Apply:
If every Christian in your church imitated your personal prayer life, how much prayer would be taking place? What needs to change in your prayer habits?

Pray:
Pray for a richer and fuller prayer life.

Week 3
1 Timothy 3

Connect:
What qualities does society generally see as indispensable for leadership?

Interpret:

1. What qualities should be apparent in the lives of church elders (Phil. 3:17; 2 Tim. 2:15, 24; Tit. 1:6-9)? What actions or flaws are disqualifying from one being a leader in the church (Matt. 6:24; 2 Tim. 2:24-25; Tit. 1:7)?

2. Read 1 Pet. 5:1-3. What insights are revealed about the correct motives for leading God's church? How did Jesus radically redefine leadership in his kingdom in Mark 10:42-45?

Apply:
What positive leadership qualities do you want to see more of in your life? What negative ones would you want to get rid of?

Pray:
Pray for God to develop and grow leadership qualities where you are lacking.

Week 4
1 Timothy 4

Connect:
What acceptance and tolerance does the Bible advocate for? How does this differ from culture's brand of "tolerance"?

Interpret:

1. How does Paul's harsh words regarding false teaching emphasize the importance of truth (1-5)?

2. What does it mean to "be an example" found in Paul's advice to Timothy in vs. 12-14? How did Paul model this to others like the Thessalonians as seen in 1 Thess. 2:7-12?

Apply:
This passage speaks on being an example to other believers. Considering this, what kind of an example are you? How evident is your spiritual progress?

Pray:
Pray for your example that you are in the circles that you have in your life (church, family, job, unbelievers) and how you can better conform to the image of Christ in how you live.

Week 5
1 Timothy 5

Connect:
What pastor, elder, or leader stands out to you as one who has served with exceptional commitment? What was it that set them apart?

Interpret:

1. How were widows to be cared for (5:3-16)? What specific distinctions were made and why?

2. What all did Paul instruct regarding biblical eldership (5:17-25)?

Apply:
What widows or elders in the church can you encourage or help this week?

Pray:
Pray for those in authority over you and for those who Paul wrote about being worthy of honor.

Week 6
1 Timothy 6

Connect:
Describe a time in your life when you experienced true contentment?

Interpret:

1. In what ways is the love of money a snare (6:6-10)? What point does Paul intentionally make in drawing the correlation between false teachers and greed?

2. What insights about the glory of God do you gain from Paul's description in vs. 14-16 and Isaiah's description in Isaiah 6:1-8?

Apply:
How does your view of money affect your level of contentment and your ability to glorify God in your life?

Pray:
Pray for contentment in the area of your life where there is the least amount of contentment.

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