

GUARDING THE GOSPEL

2 TIMOTHY

studies on

2 Timothy

for dpc growth groups

2 Timothy - an overview



Read all of 2 Timothy out loud. Perhaps have one person (who has practiced beforehand) stand up and read it aloud to your group.

Keep your bibles closed, and as a group, on a whiteboard or large sheet of paper, write down everything you can remember about the letter.

Now open your bibles!

Why was Paul writing?

What do we know about his circumstances and his reasons for writing?

How can a letter by Paul to Timothy written in such a specific circumstance encourage us?

See if you can find some key verses that sum up the letter.

Challenge: Pick a verse each to learn. (Can be the same verse for everyone, or each person picks a different one.)

PRAYER & COMMUNITY

Each person pick one thing to pray for your growth group from this letter. Then pray that thing for your group together.

Not ashamed! 2 Timothy1:1-12



INTRO

ashamed /əˈʃeɪmd/ *adjective* feeling guilty or embarrassed about something you have done or about a quality in your character

Can you think of something you've been ashamed of?

BIBLE

Pray and then read 2 Timothy1:1-12 together. What do we learn about Paul in verses 3 to 7?

What do we learn about Timothy in verses 3 to 7?

What do we learn about their relationship?

From verse 8 to 12 what is that Paul wants Timothy to do?

Why do you think Timothy might be ashamed of Paul?

Why do you think Timothy might be ashamed of Jesus?

Compare verse 8 and verse 12.

When do you feel the pressure to be ashamed of Jesus or his church?

What reasons are there to not be ashamed of Jesus?

In verse 9 Paul wants Timothy to join with him in suffering for the gospel. What are some of the reasons that this is very countercultural for us?

Where might we need to suffer for the gospel?

Take a minute or two to think about where you are for each of these:

Comfortable Suffering for Jesus
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10)

Living for self Living for eternity
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10)

Ashamed of the gospel Brave for the gospel
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10)

Sincere in the faith Still working out my faith
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10)

PRAYER

Reflect on the above and choose one ongoing thing you would like prayer for personally as you come together as a growth group this term. It might be a word, a phrase or a prayer. Write it down, with your name, and swap them each week as you pray for one other member of your group each week.

COMMUNITY

Pick one of these and share with your group:

- A time when you can remember being filled with tears for a brother or sister in Christ.
- An older person, a grandmother, a mother, or a person from church, who passed the truth on to you. $_{\textit{Page 4}}$

Enduring!

2 Timothy: 1:13-2:13



INTRO

Share a time when you have had to endure something hard...What kept you going?

BIBLE

Pray and then read 2 Timothy:1:13-2:13 together.

In this passage we discover exactly what Paul wants Timothy to do.

What does Paul want Timothy to do?

In pairs or 3s, list as many things as you can find that Paul tells Timothy to do in 1:13 - 2:2.

Come back and share them. How do they all tie together? The word 'endure' comes up 2 times in this passage! What is Timothy to endure?

Why is he to endure?

What do we learn about God in these passages that can help us endure hard things?

Pick one or two of these to mull over:

Are there things in your life at the moment that make it hard to endure as a Christian? When do you find it hard to endure? What keeps you enduring?

PRAYER

When people are finding it hard as a Christian, what would be good to pray for them specifically, from this passage?

COMMUNITY

Read 2 Timothy 1:16-17. How can we be like this to each other?

Can you think of a specific way this week you can refresh someone or search someone out to help them?

Useful!

2 Timothy 2:14-3:9



INTRO

What's your favourite household gadget or utensil? Why do you like it?

BIBLE

Read verse 14 to 26.

What problems do we come across in the church in Timothy's day?

In what way can we be tempted by these kinds of things today?

How can Timothy make himself useful for the gospel and for eternity?

Did you notice that this is less about skills and more about character... In what way can you make yourself useful in God's church, as you live now for eternity?

Try to think of one or two specific ways that you could be an instrument in God's hands for good purposes... are there any things you need to change/flee from/cleanse yourself from?

Share this with your group (be as specific or as general as you want) so they can pray for you!

PRAYER

Can you think of someone currently who is a friend or a member of church who has wandered away from the truth?

Spent some time praying together for people like this whom you know.

You don't need to share your names if you feel uncomfortable about sharing their names but pray specifically for people.

COMMUNITY

How is our 'talk' as a growth group?

Do you find out conversations before and after group helpful or do they tend to be gossip?

Are our discussions in growth group encouraging or do you sometimes feel we are quarrelling?

Are we kind to each other in our group?

Are there any ways as a group we could be encouraging each other better?

INTRO

In 3:15 we find out that some people have known the bible from infancy, others later. Have one or two people from your group share their testimony.

BIBLE

Recap: What various forms of opposition have we seen to the Word of God so far in 2 Timothy? How successful has it been?

Read 3:10-17

What evidence does Paul give of his own faithfulness to the gospel in 3:10-13.

Why is this important for Timothy to know?

What does it mean that the Bible is God-Breathed? (cf 2 Peter 1:20-21)

What then should our attitude be to the Bible? (cf James 1:22-25)

For what things will the Bible be useful?

Try and flesh out the differences between teaching, rebuking, correcting and training.

Can you give examples of how or why the bible might be useful in each of these situations?

What do you make of verse 13?
Why do you think Paul says this to Timothy?

If the word of God is so wonderful, so valuable, so, so critical to godliness and salvation, why do you think there is so much opposition to it here in 2 Timothy and today?

Think about these: is there one in particular that you'd like to grow in? Teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance.

PRAYER

Pray 3:14 for each other!

COMMMUNITY

What examples have you seen at Church of the kind of things described in verse 10 and 14 in other people and how does it encourage you?

INTRO

Share an example of when you haven't listened to someone properly and it turned out badly!

In 2 Timothy 3:16 Paul says "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..."

Let's spend an entire study digging into this truth!

Before we start though, read these paragraphs from the Uniting Church.

The UCA, coming from the traditions of reformed and evangelical churches, understands that Jesus Christ is the Word of God. The astonishing message of God's unlimited love for human beings revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the message which calls the Church into being, so that it may offer its worship and obedience to God in Christ, by the Holy Spirit. The scriptures are prophetic and apostolic witness to the Word of God.(i.e. to Jesus Christ). They are an essential witness through which the Church hears the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church reads the Scriptures to hear the gospel again and again.

When we ask ourselves how to order the life of the church today, the <u>fundamental</u> question for us is therefore <u>not</u>, What did the New Testament writers think about this?' nor 'How did the New Testament Church order <u>its</u> life?' although of course much is to be learned from that. The fundamental question for us today, and for every period of history is rather, 'What is the gospel of Jesus Christ?' This is then followed by, 'What does the gospel imply for the ordering of the Church?'

Excerpt from 'Why does the Uniting Church in Australia ordain Women to the Ministry of the Word' Assembly Standing Committee of the Uniting Church in Australia, 1991, page 10

According to the Uniting Church, what is the 'Word of God'? How does 'Scripture' relate to the Word of God?

We are going to see the bible itself has a different view, let's take, $a_a | q \rho k$.

1. What is the Word of G	iod	?
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Look up the following references to the 'Word of God'.

What is the word of God?

Dan 9:2 Malachi 1:1 Psalm 119:9-16

Jn 1:1-4,14

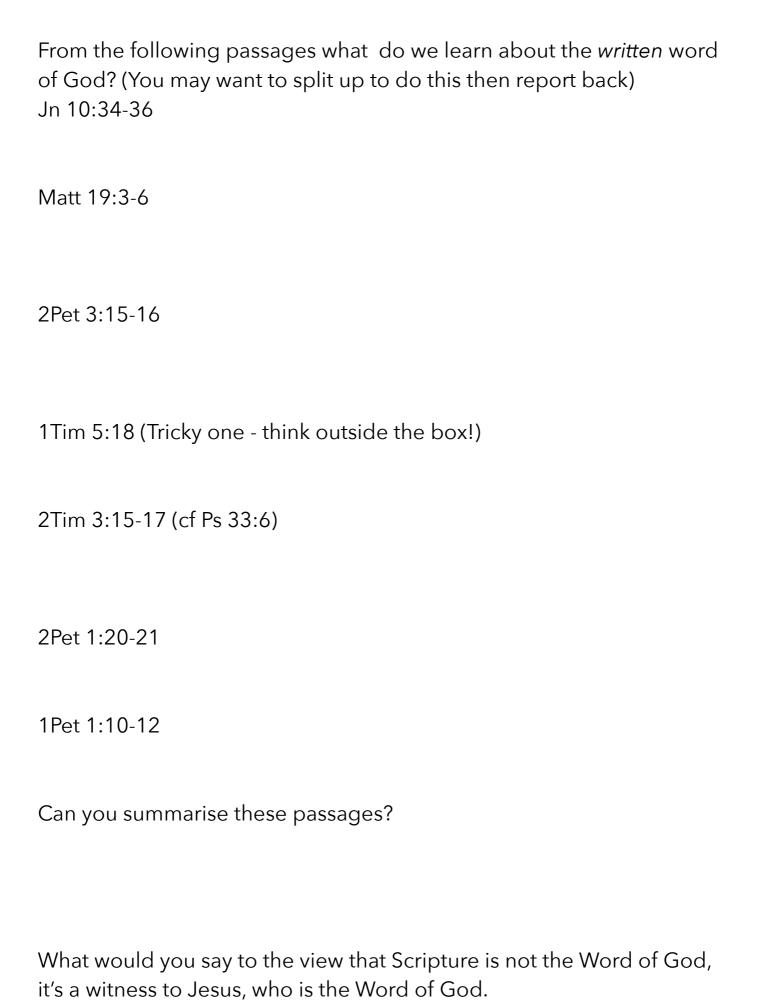
Psalm 33:6

2. What is the Word of God like?

What do the following passages tell us about the Word of God? Which Word?

	What we learn	Which Word?
Ps 18:30		
Ps 33:4		
1Pet 1:23-25		
Ps 119:89		
Ps 119:105		
2Sam 22:31		
Jas 1:18		
ls 55:10-11		
Heb 4:12-13		

How many 'Word of God's are there and how are they similar?



Read 2Tim 3:16-17 again. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
Why do you think Paul reminds Timothy of this in the context of the letter? Why is it important for Timothy to be confident about this?
How should we respond to what we read in the Bible?
In what ways does the Bible come under attack today?
How will our view of the Bible affect the way we respond to it?
Why might people come up with a view like the Uniting Church holds?

What is the problem with such a view?

Living for Eternity!

2 Timothy 4



INTRO

If you were stuck on a desert island and could take one item with you, (apart from your Bible) what would it be?

BIBLE

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Here Paul gives some commands to Timothy as a preacher. Make a list of all the things in Timothy's job description that Paul tells Timothy to do.

Paul has already told Timothy to pass on the gospel (2:2) and continue in the word of God (3:14). What do these verses here add to this?

What is hard about being a bible teacher or preacher?

What sort of things do you think that 'itching ears want to hear'?

Read verse 6-8.

What do we learn about Paul?

Why do you think Paul wants Timothy to know this?

Before Paul commanded Timothy to preach the gospel, he started with a charge, an encouragement, back in verse 1.

What did Paul encourage Timothy to look to and why?

If we view our lives from the perspective of Eternity, how will that change what we value and do?

PRAYER

Spend some time praying for our preachers, Bible Study leaders, kidschurch teachers etc and then for ourselves, that they and we would view things from an eternal perspective..

COMMUNITY

Read 4:9-21.

What examples do we see of people living for now in these verses?

What examples do we see of people living for eternity?

In 2 Timothy 4:13, Paul who is in chains asks for his cloak and his scrolls. Are there any practical ways that we can be caring for each other in our group at the moment?