



Life Group Study Notes

THE PATH: GO!

Ps. James Lowe - May 7, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Who first communicated the Gospel to you in a way you could understand?
- Who was one of your favorite teachers as you grew up? Why?
- Who is a Bible teacher from whom you've learned a lot?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

God wants all people to grow in the knowledge and understanding of who he is, who we are in Christ, what God's plans are for this world, and what God's purposes are for each of us. Paul carried this same burden for people, too. Paul genuinely cared about people's spiritual welfare. He understood that God puts people into spiritual communities, so that they might grow.

2 Timothy 1:1-2 ESV Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Paul regarded Timothy as a beloved son even though he was not Timothy's natural father. He was his spiritual father.
- All of us, like Timothy, need a good spiritual family in addition to a good natural family. Spiritual family is even more needed if we didn't have a good natural family.

2 Timothy 1:3 ESV I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

- Paul cared so much about Timothy, he regularly prayed for him.
- We need others who care enough about us to pray for us. And we need to care enough about others to pray for them.

2 Timothy 1:4 ESV As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy.

- Paul deeply valued his relationship with Timothy, and clearly had a deep impact on him. They both treasured the time that they were able to be together.

- There is no substitute for spending quality time with others in your spiritual family. It is intrinsic to our mutual growth.

2 Timothy 1:5 ESV *I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.*

- Timothy was blessed to have a spiritual legacy in his natural family. But his father was not a believer. He didn't know God. Paul took him under his care and poured into him, regularly encouraging him in his walk with God.
- Many of us were not raised in strong Christian homes or have strong Christian parents. This makes our need for spiritual family even greater.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 ESV *For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

- Paul believed in God's plan and purposes for Timothy. He recognized his weaknesses and fears, and therefore encouraged and exhorted him to be all God called him to be and to fulfill all God wanted him to do.
- We also need to know one another well enough to know best how to encourage and spur each other on to live our lives to their full potential in God.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV *You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

- Paul wanted Timothy to take all that had been poured into him and turn around and pass it on to others. More than that, he wanted Timothy to pour into others so that those people who would turn around and pour into yet others.
- We should aim to so pour into people's lives, that they will pass it on so well that those recipients will be able to do the same with others.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Who influenced (or is influencing) you the most to walk with Jesus and keep pursuing his purposes?
- Who is someone that you especially helped find and/or follow Christ? How did you help them?
- What could you do to grow more in your knowledge and understanding of God and of his purposes for you?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Ask God whether there are some practical steps he wants you to take to learn more about the Bible, God, and serving him?
- Ask God if there is someone he wants you to help grow in their knowledge and understanding of who God is and how to follow him.
- Ask God to increase your hunger for the Word of God and your desire to help others follow him.