

The background of the entire cover is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of numerous white, oval-shaped pills. The pills are scattered across the frame, with some in sharp focus in the foreground and others fading into the background. The lighting is soft, creating a clinical and clean aesthetic.

1TIMOTHY

PRESCRIPTION FOR A HEALTHY CHURCH

AN INDUCTIVE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF 1TIMOTHY

1 TIMOTHY

PRESCRIPTION FOR A HEALTHY CHURCH



GRACE
BIBLE CHURCH

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BIBLE STUDY METHODS

OBSERVE // *what do I see?*

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, “**What do I see?**” This is the crucial skill of **observation**, which lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. Here are four tasks involved in observation which should be performed in the order below:

OBSERVATION TASK 1: MARK UP THE PASSAGE BY VISUALLY IDENTIFYING THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ELEMENTS:

- **Underline all verbs.** A verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action takes place (“*they continue in faith*” in 2:15) or that a state or condition exists (“*it was Adam*” in 2:13). Verbs are often the most significant indicators of the author’s flow of thought.
- **Circle key words or phrases.** These are words or short phrases that are important theologically (like “*church*” in 3:15) or thematically set the theme or main idea for the passage (like “*above reproach*” in 3:2).
- **Highlight repeated words or phrases.** Include words and phrases that are closely related even if not exact duplicates (such as “the faith” and “the sound doctrine”). You will want to highlight things repeated in other places (such as “*godliness*” found in 2:2, 10; 3:16; 4:7, 8; 6:3, 5, 6, 11).
- **Box connecting words.** These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses. Here are eight types of common connecting words to look for:
 1. **COMPARISON:** either points out similarities between two or more related ideas or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include: **and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so** (e.g., “*appeal to him as a father*” in 5:1).
 2. **CONTRAST:** points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include: **but, rather, yet, however** (e.g., “*Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father*” in 5:1).
 3. **PURPOSE:** indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words include: **that, so that, in order that** (e.g., “*Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach*” in 5:7).
 4. **RESULT:** very similar to “purpose,” but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words include: **that, so that, as a result, with the result that** (e.g., “*the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed*” in 5:16).

5. **CAUSE:** expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include: because, since, and sometimes for (e.g., “*serve them all the more, because those who partake ...*” in 6:2).

6. **EXPLANATION:** what follows further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true, why it occurred, or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word for (e.g., “*For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil*” in 6:10).

7. **INFERENCE:** provides a logical consequence, conclusion, or summary to the previous discussion. Inference words include: therefore, for this reason (e.g., “*Therefore I want the men in every place to pray*” in 2:8).

8. **CONDITION:** presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or conclusion can occur. The statement may or may not reflect reality (i.e., it could be hypothetical). Key word is if (e.g., “*If we have food and covering ...*” in 2:8).

OBSERVATION TASK 2: LIST 2-3 PRIMARY THEMES YOU SEE IN THE PASSAGE EACH WEEK.

A primary theme is the big idea, the central truth, or command that the passage focuses on, such as “*all*” and “*one*” in 2:1-7. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

OBSERVATION TASK 3: WRITE TWO OR MORE OBSERVATIONS PER VERSE.

Our observations might identify people, places, or events, point out repeated words or key terms, record important connections between words and sentences, or even point out something missing that we expected to see.

OBSERVATION TASK 4: RECORD YOUR OWN INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS.

Here are a few examples:

WHO is ...

... Paul talking about?

... accomplishing the action?

... benefiting from the action?

WHY did Paul ...

... choose this word?

... include this phrase, statement, or command?

... not say _____?

WHAT is the ...

... meaning of this word?

... significance of this phrase?

... implication of this statement?

... relationship between these phrases?

HOW ...

... was this action accomplished?

... will this situation occur?

INTERPRET // *what does it mean?*

Our observation of a passage should stir interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study: **interpretation**. Fortunately, we do not have to run to a commentary or study Bible for answers (though these are helpful tools to check our conclusions). Use the following six methods, as needed, to tackle a variety of questions. Also, make sure to familiarize yourself with the three “Principles of Interpretation” that appear in the Appendix at the end of this study.

INTERPRETATION METHOD 1: USE THE CONTEXT.

Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question. Try to follow the author’s flow of thought through the whole chapter. This may take you to the previous lesson, so have it handy as a review. You may need to read ahead in 1 Timothy for clues.

INTERPRETATION METHOD 2: STUDY CROSS-REFERENCES (XREFS).

XRefs are simply other passages in any book of the Bible that are somehow related to the verses you are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as you seek to understand your passage. A few such XRefs can be found in the margins of most English Bibles, but more can be found by visiting the online reference www.biblestudytools.com. Simply type in “1 Timothy 1” in the box to the left of the “Search” button and then click “Search.” All of 1 Timothy 1 will appear on the screen. Be sure that “New American Standard” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then click the box next to “Cross References” so that numbers appear throughout the passage. Clicking any of these will move your screen to the bottom of the page where you will find a series of XRefs for specific verses within the passage. This is a great tool for answering tough questions!

INTERPRETATION METHOD 3: LOOK UP KEY WORDS.

While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek is far better and is surprisingly easy, thanks to the internet. Simply log onto www.biblestudytools.com, and as an example, type in “1 Timothy 2” in the box to the left of the “Search” button and then click “Search.” All of 1 Timothy 2 will appear on the screen. Be sure that “New American Standard” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then click the box next to “Strong’s Numbers” so that most of the words will be highlighted in blue. Clicking on any of these will bring up a new screen that will tell you the Greek word used here, its possible definitions, and the total number of times it is used in each book of the New Testament (NT). Click on any of the other NT books (under the title “NAS Verse Count”), and get a list of every verse in that book that uses this Greek word. What used to take hours now takes seconds!

INTERPRETATION METHOD 4: LOOK UP BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

You can find helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary or by looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is *The New Bible Dictionary* by Wood & Marshall. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* by Craig Keener is another excellent example of a verse-by-verse background commentary.

INTERPRETATION METHOD 5: TACKLE TOUGH QUESTIONS STEP-BY-STEP.

When trying to answer the most challenging questions, follow this four-step process:

- (1) List all the options.** Always start by brainstorming every possible answer to your question.
- (2) List pros and cons for each option.** See all the evidence you can find that either argues for or against a particular option. This evidence comes from your study of key words, the grammar of the sentence, the context of surrounding verses and the book as a whole, cross references to other books, and comparison with your overall understanding of Christian theology.
- (3) Choose the most likely option.** Look at your evidence for each option. Typically, evidence from the immediate context is most important, followed closely by evidence from the book as a whole. Evidence from other books of the Bible, or from Christian theology as a whole, does not carry quite as much weight unless the solution contradicts a clear passage elsewhere or a major tenant of Christian doctrine. In that case, since Scripture never lies and God cannot contradict Himself, you must eliminate that option.
- (4) Decide on your certainty level.** Once you have chosen the best solution, step back for a second and humbly gauge how certain you are of its accuracy (90% = I am very sure this is correct ... 60% = This solution is just a bit more likely than the others!). Finally, talk with others and check commentaries or reference books to see what solutions they have chosen and why.

INTERPRETATION METHOD 6: COMPARE MULTIPLE TRANSLATIONS.

This packet uses the New American Standard (NASB) translation. You can often find helpful interpretive clues by comparing this translation with other translations. The New King James Version (NKJV), like the NASB, is a fairly word-for-word translation of the Greek text. The New International Version (NIV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are excellent phrase-to-phrase translations of the Greek and thus often easier to read. Another excellent phrase-to-phrase Bible, which includes extensive translation notes, is the New English Translation (NET) available online for free at net.bible.org. You can find and compare numerous translations of any Bible passage at www.biblestudytools.com.

APPLY // *how does it work?*

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. And lest we underestimate the value of this last step, remember that in God's eyes it is the person who does not just know His Word, but also obeys His Word that truly loves Him (see John 14:21). So how do we apply a passage to our lives? Application involves the following two tasks:

APPLICATION TASK 1: LIST POTENTIAL PRINCIPLES FROM YOUR PASSAGE.

A "principle" is simply a fact or command stated or implied in a particular passage that is practically relevant to our lives. Legitimate principles are not specific to a particular person (e.g., 1 Timothy 5:23 is just for Timothy) nor a particular time (e.g., "do not leave Jerusalem" in Acts 1:4). An example from 1 Timothy would be, "God has commanded believers to pray for kings and all in authority." It is often helpful when listing principles to consider the following questions:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

APPLICATION TASK 2: CHOOSE ONE PRINCIPLE, AND CREATE A PLAN TO APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK.

Once you complete your principle list, prayerfully choose the one principle you most need to work on (Do not just choose the easiest to apply!). If you felt deeply convicted about one in particular, that is probably the principle God is leading you to apply. Once you have chosen a specific principle, answer these two questions:

- What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.**
- Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?**

MY NOTES

PHARMACY

SURVEY: WHAT IS THE BIG IDEA?

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

Surveying a book like 1 Timothy allows you to grasp the big picture and the overall story line of the book before getting caught up in the details. This survey provides a helpful road map to guide your study during the coming weeks. Begin this crucial first step by taking the next 30 minutes to read straight through 1 Timothy without stopping. Then, answer the questions on the next page before moving on.

How would you describe Paul's audience? Are they believers or unbelievers? Are they spiritually mature or immature? What issues are they facing?

What are the major themes or big ideas in this book? (Hint: Look for repeated words and ideas.)

Now that you have read through the entire book, what are Paul's purposes in writing it? Be as specific as you can.

What specific ways does Paul call these people to live distinctly from their culture? In addition, how does Paul provide Christ as an example for such a lifestyle throughout the book?

BACKGROUND

Once you have completed the introductory questions on the previous page, read this background article on the book of Ephesians (portions compiled from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* and *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*).

AUTHORSHIP

Paul was born in Tarsus into Roman citizenship (Acts 22:28) and later educated under the illustrious rabbi, Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). Zealous for the Law, Paul became the chief persecutor of the early church until his conversion when Jesus Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). Immediately, Paul began to proclaim Jesus as Savior, eventually focusing several missionary journeys to the Gentiles throughout Asia Minor. During his journeys, he traveled to Ephesus and ministered there for almost three years (Acts 20:31). After Paul departed from Ephesus, he left Timothy behind to combat false teaching (1 Timothy 1:3). At some later point, Paul wrote this letter while in prison either in Caesarea or Rome as one of his many “Prison Epistles” in A.D. 60-62. Despite recent debate that the book was written by someone who did not use his own name but instead claimed to be Paul, there is no strong reason to reject Pauline authorship of the book.



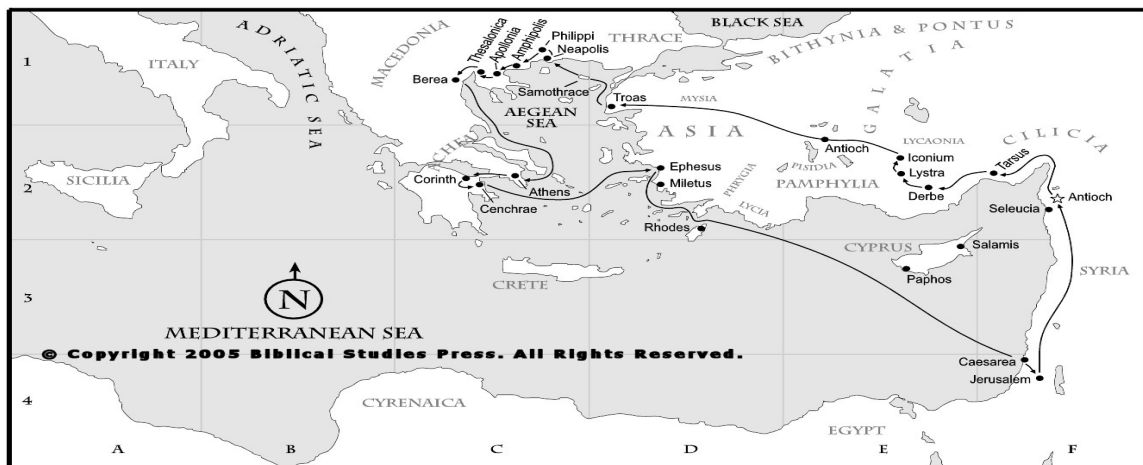
"Saint Paul Writing His Epistles" by Valentin de Boulogne (ca. 16th century)

RECIPIENT

Timothy was the son of a Greek father and Jewish mother (Acts 16:1). No mention is made of his father being a Christian, but his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois were both known for their sincere faith (2 Tim 1:5), and they had already taught the Old Testament Scriptures to Timothy by the time Paul arrived in his hometown of Lystra during Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 14:6; 16:1). Paul took him on as a promising protégé, becoming like a spiritual father to the young man ("my true son in the faith" in 1 Tim 1:2 and "my dear son" in 2 Tim 1:2). Timothy's promise for the ministry was recognized early (1 Tim 1:18; 4:14). He also became Paul's faithful partner, representative, and messenger on multiple occasions (e.g. Acts 19:22; 1 Cor 4:17). Timothy had become so dear to Paul that his last letter to Timothy includes touching appeals for Timothy to join him in his final days of imprisonment (2 Tim 1:4; 4:9, 21).

DATE AND PLACE OF WRITING

Ephesus was a leading city on the west coast of Asia Minor. It essentially linked the western and eastern portions of the Roman Empire on the main highway and even possessed the most favorable seaport in the province of Asia. Due to its location within the Empire, Ephesus exerted great influence culturally, economically, and religiously. With a population over 300,000 people, Ephesus contained a theatre that seated an estimated 25,000 people. It became the center for worship of the goddess Artemis (Diana in Roman mythology), which often included temple prostitution. Her temple ranked as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and became not just a center for worship but also the primary banking institution for all of Asia Minor. As a result, Paul's apostolic ministry that turned people to Christ and away from Artemis represented a significant financial threat to temple-related businesses like that of the silversmith, Demetrius (Acts 19:23-41). Ephesus also became a center of occult practice as many used magic, witchcraft, and sorcery to manipulate hostile spiritual powers to their advantage (Acts 19:11-20).



The Mediterranean region as Paul traveled to Ephesians for first time. From the NET BIBLE on Bible.org.

PURPOSE

1 Timothy provides a glimpse of life inside a fledgling, first-century church. Paul writes to address a young pastor, Timothy, who must handle a series of issues which threaten the health of this church. Specifically, Timothy must guard against false teaching, maintain distinct roles for women and men within the worship service, appoint qualified elders and deacons, care for the vulnerable, encourage simplicity and contentment. All in all, sound doctrine is so vital to the health of the church that it is something to be pursued, fought for, and even suffered for.



Ephesus Library

OUTLINE

Having read the background article on the book, now skim through 1 Timothy one more time and create your own title for each of the major sections below (you can divide these into smaller sections, each with its own title, if you wish). Try not to use the titles in this packet or in your Bible. Create your own titles that capture your understanding of the main idea of each section.

MY 1 TIMOTHY OUTLINE ...

1:1-11

1:12-20

2:1-7

2:8-15

3:1-16 & 5:17-22

4:1-16

5:1-16

6:1-10

6:11-21

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

MY NOTES



LESSON

1

FIGHT FALSE TEACHERS

1 TIMOTHY 1:1-11

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORY VERSE:

*“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith”
— 1 TIMOTHY 1:5*

OBSERVE

what do I see?

FIGHT FALSE TEACHERS

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, “**What do I see?**”. This is the crucial skill of **observation**, which lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. **We will learn a new observation skill each week** to practice with the others we have already learned. This week, simply read the passage below, and then write one or two observations for each verse in the box that follows. Our observations might identify **people, places, or events**, point out **repeated words or key terms**, record important **connections between words and sentences**, or even point out **something missing** that we expected to see. The first few have been done for you.

1 TIMOTHY 1:1-11

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope, ²To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, ⁴nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. ⁵But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, ⁷wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.

⁸But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers ¹⁰and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, ¹¹according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

THEMES

List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage. _____

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

List everything that Paul says about God the Father and Jesus in verses 1-2.

MY OBSERVATIONS

List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

1-2

- Paul is an apostle of Christ Jesus
- Timothy is Paul's true child in the faith
- Grace, mercy, and peace come from God the Father and Christ Jesus

3-5**6-7****8-11**

INTERPRET
what does it mean?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: USE THE CONTEXT

Our observation of 1 Timothy each week will stir up some of the most interesting and challenging questions encountered in Bible study. Fortunately, we do not have to run to a commentary or study Bible for the answer (though these are helpful tools to check our conclusions). God desires all of us to become approved workmen, “accurately handling the Word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). To that end, **we will learn a new interpretive skill each week** to practice along with the others we have already learned. This week’s interpretive skill greatly improves our understanding of what a passage meant to its original readers—**USE THE CONTEXT**. Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question. Try to follow Paul’s flow of thought through the whole chapter. This may take you to the previous lesson, so have it handy as a review. You may also need to read ahead in 1 Timothy for clues.

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

1) Contrast Paul’s true teaching with the false teaching in this book. Specifically, address the following ...

<i>Paul’s Teaching</i>	<i>False Teaching</i>
<i>Content (what they taught)</i>	
<i>Motivation (why they taught)</i>	
<i>Outcome (results of what they taught)</i>	

2) Why does Paul prioritize love as the goal of all his teaching (cf. Matthew 22)?

- 3) According to Paul in this passage, what does it mean to use the Law in a lawful manner today (cf. Galatians 3:19-25; Romans 7:7, 12)? Furthermore, how had these false teachers incorrectly used the Law?
- 4) Furthermore, why would Paul mention this issue in the beginning of the book and repeatedly throughout? In fact, how does their teaching undermine the “glorious gospel of the blessed God?”

MY SUMMARY TITLE _____

Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week's passage.

APPLY

how does it work?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1) How does our church or your group of friends get caught up in fruitless discussions that distract you from the essentials of the faith?

- 2) Can you think of any examples within our Christian community of man-made standards that we use to judge a person's spiritual maturity (e.g. music you listen to or number of Bible studies you attend)?

PLAN OF ACTION

- 1) After praying to God for conviction and insight, what concrete changes do you feel you should make this week to live a life of hope and joy regardless of circumstances? What exactly will you do differently this week than last week—get specific and be realistic!

- 2) Who will hold you accountable next week to see if you've followed through?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.



LESSON

2

FIND MERCY THROUGH FAITH

1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

OBSERVATION SKILL: ASKING INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS

Like last week, read the passage below and write down your observations in the box on the following page. This week, we will begin to write our own questions as well. Try to write out eight questions next to the relevant verses on the following page. This is probably the simplest skill of all. Just record the questions that naturally come to mind as you try to understand and apply the passage! If you need help getting started, you can use these examples:

WHO is ...

- ... Paul talking about?
- ... accomplishing the action?
- ... benefiting from the action?

WHAT is the ...

- ... meaning of this word?
- ... significance of this phrase?
- ... implication of this statement?
- ... relationship between these phrases?

WHY did Paul...

- ... choose this word?
- ... include this phrase, statement, or command?
- ... not say _____?

HOW ...

- ... was this action accomplished?
- ... will this situation occur?

OBSERVE
what do I see?

MEMORY VERSE:

“This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, 19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. 20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.”

— 1 TIMOTHY 1:18-20

FIND MERCY THROUGH FAITH

1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. ¹⁶ Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁸ This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, ¹⁹ keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. ²⁰ Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

THEMES

List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage. _____

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

- 1) What does Paul tell us about the good news or the “gospel” in this passage?
- 2) List everything Paul tells you about God in this passage.

MY OBSERVATIONS

List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

12-14

15-16

17

18-20

INTERPRET

what does it mean?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: CROSS REFERENCES

Last week we learned to use the context to help us answer our interpretive questions. This week we will add our second interpretive skill — **STUDY CROSS REFERENCES (XRefs)**. XRefs are simply other passages in any book of the Bible that are somehow related to the verses you are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as you seek to understand your passage. A few such XRefs can be found in the margins of most English Bibles, but more can be found by logging again onto www.biblestudytools.com. Simply type in “1 Timothy 1” in the box to the left of the “Search” button and then click “Search.” All of 1 Timothy 1 will appear on the screen. Be sure that “New American Standard” is your selected Bible in the drop down box and then click the box next to “Cross References” so that numbers appear throughout the passage. Clicking any of these will move your screen to the bottom of the page where you will find a series of XRefs for specific verses within the passage. This is a great tool for answering tough questions!

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

- 1) How does Paul’s personal testimony demonstrate the grace and mercy of God (cf. Acts 9; Ephesians 2:1-10)? Specifically, trace the impact of God’s mercy and grace on a person’s past and his future.

- 2) According to this passage, what exactly is the “gospel” that Paul mentioned in verse 11? In other words, how does a person find mercy and salvation?

- 3) According to verse 18, what is the specific command that was entrusted to Timothy (cf. 1:3-4)?

- 4) In verse 19, how could a person reject “faith and a good conscience” (cf. 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:14-18; 4:14)? Furthermore, what does Paul’s use of the “shipwreck” analogy reveal about the condition of such a person’s faith?
- 5) What does it mean that these two men were handed over to Satan (cf. 1 Corinthians 5:1-5)? What is the purpose of this severe treatment (cf. 2 Corinthians 2:5-8; 2 Timothy 2:24-25; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15; James 5:19-20)? Is this something that Paul fears will happen to believers or unbelievers?

MY SUMMARY TITLE _____

Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week’s passage.

APPLY

how does it work?

how does it work?

As in the previous lesson, complete the reflection questions. Then, **step back and look at the passage as a whole and list potential principles**. A “principle” is simply a fact or command stated or implied in a particular passage that is practically relevant to our lives. Legitimate principles are not specific to a particular person (e.g. 1 Timothy 5:23 is just for Timothy) nor a particular time (e.g. “do not leave Jerusalem” in Acts 1:4). A couple of examples are provided for you on the next page.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1) Do you think your past or present sin struggles place you beyond the reach of God's grace and mercy? Why or why not?

- 2) What spiritual storms are you facing today? How will you keep your “ship” afloat through these storms?

LIST PRINCIPLES

List at least five principles from 1 Timothy 1:12-20. Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. *We should respond in thanksgiving as recipients of God's Mercy*
2. *We should look to Jesus Primarily as a source of love*
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

PLAN OF ACTION

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

MY NOTES



LESSON

3

ONE FOR ALL

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORY VERSE:

“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.”

— 1 TIMOTHY 2:5-6

OBSERVE
what do I see?

ONE FOR ALL

OBSERVATION SKILL: LIST PRIMARY THEMES

A primary theme is the big idea, the central truth, or command that the passage focuses on, such as “all” and “one” in 2:1-7. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

¹First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

THEMES

List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage. _____

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

List the kinds of prayers, recipients of prayers, and purpose of prayers:

Circle inclusive words like “all” and box exclusive words like “only” or “one” in this passage.

MY OBSERVATIONS

List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

1-2**3-4****5-6****7**

INTERPRET

what does it mean?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: LOOK UP KEY WORDS

As you answer the questions below, continue using your first two interpretive skills (use the context and cross references), and add this third one — **LOOK UP KEY WORDS**. While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek is far better and is surprisingly easy, thanks to the internet. Simply log onto www.biblestudytools.com, and as an example, type in “1 Timothy 2” in the box to the left of the “Search” button and then click “Search.” All of 1 Timothy 2 will appear on the screen. Be sure that “New American Standard” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then click the box next to “Strong’s Numbers” so that most of the words will be highlighted in blue. Clicking on any of these will bring up a new screen that will tell you the Greek word used here, its possible definitions, and the total number of times it is used in each book of the New Testament (NT). Click on any of the other NT books (under the title “NAS Verse Count”), and get a list of every verse in that book that uses this Greek word. What used to take hours now takes seconds!

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

- 1) How does this passage relate to the previous passage (look for common themes and ideas)? In other words, why does Paul lead off this chapter with instructions on prayer?

- 2) Why does Paul use 4 different words concerning prayer in 2:1? Furthermore, for what purpose is he calling them to pray?

- 3) According to verses 1-3, what is necessary for us to “grow in respect to salvation (cf. Colossians 3:8-10; James 1:21; 2 Peter 1:3-9)?

- 4) If God “desires all men to be saved” according to verse 4, then why aren’t all men saved? In response to this difficult question, here are the most common interpretive options ...

Option #1 (known as Universalism) = All men are saved ... Yet, do the following Scriptures support this view (cf. Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15)?

Option #2 (known as Calvinism) = “All” only refers to the elect ... Yet, do the following Scriptures support this view (cf. 1 Timothy 1:6; 4:10; 1 John 2:2; 2 Peter 2:1)?

Option #3 = God’s desire (or will) can be unfulfilled at times ... Do the following Scriptures support this view (cf. Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 2 Peter 3:9; Genesis 6:6)?

- 5) How do verses 5-6 support Paul’s statement in verse 4 that “God desires all men to be saved”?
- 6) In our world today, when do we need a “mediator”? Compare and contrast the role of Jesus as our “mediator” in 2:5-6 with a “mediator” in any other situation (cf. Galatians 3:19-20; Hebrews 2:14-18; 8:6; 9:13-15, 24)?
- 7) In verse 6, Paul tells us that Christ “gave Himself for a ransom for all”? What does the imagery of a “ransom” teach us about ourselves and our Savior (cf. Mark 10:45; Colossians 1:13-14; Titus 2:4; 1 Peter 1:18-19)?

MY SUMMARY TITLE: _____

Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week’s passage.

APPLY

how does it work?

As in the previous lesson, complete the reflection questions and then list a few principles you learned from the passage.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How has your prayer life been challenged by this passage?

Is there a group or an individual that you typically overlook? Begin to pray that the Lord would give you a heart to share with them.

LIST PRINCIPLES

List at least five principles from 1 Timothy 2-1-7. Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

PLAN OF ACTION

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

MY NOTES



LESSON

4

WORSHIP WITH DISTINCTION

1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.”

— 1 TIMOTHY 2:9-10

OBSERVE

what do I see?

SUBMISSION TO THE WORLD

OBSERVATION SKILL: UNDERLINE ALL VERBS

As in previous weeks, read the passage below, and write down your observations, questions, and themes on the following page. This week, we will begin to **UNDERLINE ALL OF THE VERBS**. Quick review: a verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action is taking place ("they continue in faith in 2:15") or that a state or condition exists ("it was Adam in 2:13"). Because verbs express the action of the passage, they are often the most significant indicators of the author's flow of thought within the passage.

1TIMOTHY 2:8-15

⁸Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.

⁹Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, ¹⁰but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. ¹¹A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. ¹²But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. ¹³For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. ¹⁴And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. ¹⁵But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

THEMES

List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage. _____

OBSERVATION QUESTION

1) Underline all verbs in this passage.

MY OBSERVATIONS

List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

8

9-10

11-12

13-15

INTERPRET

what does it mean?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: LOOK UP BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This week's interpretive skill greatly improves our understanding of what a passage meant to its original readers—**LOOK UP BACKGROUND INFORMATION**. You can find helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary or by looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is *The New Bible Dictionary* by Wood & Marshall. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* by Craig Keener is another excellent example of a verse-by-verse background commentary.

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

- 1) Why does Paul instruct these men to pray while “lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension”? What might this instruction reveal about their current spiritual condition?

- 2) In the ancient world, women dressed as described in verse 9 to either flaunt wealth or independence from their husbands. As a result, what is the timeless principle(s) taught in verses 9-10?

- 3) In verses 11-12, Paul lays out restrictions for the conduct of women. Answer the following ...
 - a) What exactly is Paul prohibiting women from doing?

 - b) In what specific setting do these restrictions apply (cf. 2:8; 3:14-15; 4:13)?

3) Continued:

- c) In what specific setting(s) do these restrictions not apply (Acts 18:26; 1 Corinthians 11:5; 2 Corinthians 1:5; Titus 2:3-4)?
- d) Do these restrictions imply inferiority or lesser capacity of women compared to men (cf. Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18, 20; Psalm 30:10; 54:4)?

Background info: The first description of the wife found in God's Word is the Hebrew term "ezer" (Gen. 2:18, 20). The word is most often translated "helper", but unfortunately this English word can mask the powerful imagery found in "ezer". Almost every time this word appears in the Hebrew Bible it refers to God! Ezer conveys the idea of "significant assistance, completion" and is often found in contexts of war and danger. See Exodus 18:4; Deut. 33:7, 26, 29; and Psalm 20:2 for additional usages of "ezer".

- e) What reasoning does Paul give for these prohibitions in verses 13-14?
 - f) Based on this reasoning, are these restrictions timeless (apply to all churches at all times) or were they just for Timothy's particular church?
- 4) Verse 15 is exceptionally difficult to interpret!! The key is to note that the word "preserved" (save) has a wide range of meaning in Scripture. Here, it means deliverance from a particular temptation. In order to interpret this verse, answer the questions below ...

- a) What particular temptation do women need rescue from?
- b) How does childbirth deliver them from this temptation?
- c) Why does Paul add the conditional "if" statement at the end of the verse?

MY SUMMARY TITLE: _____

Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week's passage.

APPLY

how does it work?

As in the previous lesson, complete the reflection questions and then list a few principles you learned from the passage. This week adds a third application step - **choose one principle and create a plan** to apply it to your life this week. Once you have completed your principle list, *prayerfully choose the one principle you most need to work on* (do not just choose the easiest to apply). If you felt deeply convicted about one in particular, that is probably the one God is leading you to apply! Once you have chosen a specific principle, follow the directions on the next page to develop a realistic and specific plan to apply it to your life.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why do people react so strongly to passages regarding gender distinction and roles within the church?

How did you feel when you first read this passage? Why did you feel this way?

LIST PRINCIPLES BY AUDIENCE

List principles by the audience they pertain to from 1 Timothy 2:8-15. Remember, a principle is a fact or command stated or implied in the passage.

Men

Women with children

Women without children

PLAN OF ACTION

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

MY NOTES



LESSON

5

ASPIRE TO LEAD

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-16 & 5:17-22

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORY VERSE:

“but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.” — 1 TIMOTHY 3:15

OBSERVE
what do I see?

ASPIRE TO LEAD

OBSERVATION SKILL: CIRCLE KEY WORDS OR PHRASES

Read the passage below, write down your observations, questions, and themes, and underline all verbs. This week we will begin to **CIRCLE ALL OF THE KEY WORDS OR PHRASES**. These are words or short phrases that are important theologically (like “church” in 3:15) or thematically set the theme or main idea for the passage (like “above reproach” in 3:2).

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-16

¹It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. ²An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. ⁴He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), ⁶and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

1 TIMOTHY 5:17-22

¹⁷The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. ¹⁸For the Scripture says, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING,” and “The laborer is worthy of his wages.” ¹⁹Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. ²⁰Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning. ²¹I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality. ²²Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin.

THEMES

List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage. _____

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

List all requirements for the following. Then, find common traits and group them together:

- Overseer/Elder

- Deacons

MY OBSERVATIONS

List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

3:1-3

3:4-6

5:17-18

5:19-22

INTERPRET

what does it mean?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: TOUGH QUESTIONS

PART 1 - LIST OPTIONS, PROS & CONS

How do we answer difficult interpretive questions when more than one option seems possible? This requires two skills, the first of which is ... **LIST ALL THE OPTIONS WITH PROS AND CONS.** Always start by brainstorming, listing every possible answer to your question. Be open-minded and creative, and do not rush this process. You will often find that your third option proves better than your first. Once you have created a list of possible options, list both pros and cons for each one. You are looking for all the evidence you can find that either argues for or against a particular option. This evidence comes from your study of key words, the grammar of the sentence, the context of surrounding verses and the book as a whole, cross references to other books, and comparison with your overall understanding of Christian theology. Once you have thought about it for a while individually, feel free to talk with others and to check commentaries or references to see if you have missed any options (However, do not just assume that their favorite option is necessarily correct!).

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

- 1) Create and answer any three of your own interpretive questions from this passage:
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
- 2) How does this passage relate to the previous chapter?
- 3) Paul commends those who have ambition to be an elder. What distinguishes good ambition from bad ambition (cf. Romans 15:20; 2 Corinthians 5:9; Philip-
pians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:17)?

- 4) Why does God set such a high bar on the character qualities for those who would be elders or deacons?

- 5) Why does the list include “managing his own household well” (cf. 3:15)? Note, this automatically excludes single men, married men without kids, and even married men with unbelieving wives in Titus 1:6. How would you respond to those who argue that this is unfair?

- 6) According to 5:17-22; Acts 20:28-31; Titus 1:5-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3, what are the titles used for this position? And what do they tell you about the position?

What are the responsibilities or tasks that elders are appointed to fulfill in the church?

- 7) What are the responsibilities of deacons (cf. Acts 6)? In fact, what did the word “deacon” actually mean (refer back to pg 3 for instructions on word study)?

- 8) In your own words, summarize the church’s confession in verse 16.

MY SUMMARY TITLE: _____

Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week’s passage.

APPLY

how does it work?

This week's application section involves the same three steps as last week's, which we will continue to use throughout our study: reflect on your own life, list principles, and choose one to apply this week. It is often helpful when working through the second and third steps to consider the following list of questions:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

REFLECTION QUESTION

What prevents you from leading or serving in your church?

Is there a particular character quality listed in either passage that you feel particularly challenged by or convicted by?

LIST PRINCIPLES

List at least five principles from 1 Timothy 3:1-16; 5: 17-22. A principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

PLAN OF ACTION

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

MY NOTES



LESSON

6

TRAINING FOR GODLINESS

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-16

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; 8 for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

— 1 TIMOTHY 4:7b-8

OBSERVE

what do I see?

TRAINING FOR GODLINESS

OBSERVATION SKILL: HIGHLIGHT REPEATED WORDS OR PHRASES

Read the passage below, write down your observations, questions, and themes, and underline all verbs. This week we will begin to **HIGHLIGHT REPEATED WORDS OR PHRASES**. Include words and phrases that are closely related even if not exact duplicates (such as “the faith” and “the sound doctrine”). You will want to highlight things repeated in other places (such as “godliness” found in 2:2, 10; 3:16; 4:7, 8; 6:3, 5, 6, 11).

1TIMOTHY 4:1-16

¹But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ²by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, ³men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;

⁵for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer. ⁶In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. ⁷But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; ⁸for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. ¹⁰For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

¹¹Prescribe and teach these things. ¹²Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. ¹³Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. ¹⁵Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. ¹⁶Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

THEMES

List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage. _____

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

- 1) Highlight repeated words.
- 2) False teaching dominates this entire passage. Double underline anything that identifies the content of this false teaching. Then, answer the following.
 - What is the source of the false teaching?
 - What methods are employed by these false teachers?
 - What results from this false teaching?

MY OBSERVATIONS

List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

6-8

9-11

12-14

15-16

INTERPRET

what does it mean?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: TOUGH QUESTIONS

PART 2 - CHOOSE THE MOST LIKELY OPTION AND DECIDE ON CERTAINTY

The second skill needed to answer difficult interpretive questions is CHOOSE THE MOST LIKELY OPTION AND DECIDE ON CERTAINTY. Look back at all of your evidence for each option. Typically, evidence from the immediate context is most important, followed closely by evidence from the book as a whole. Evidence from other books, or from Christian theology as a whole, does not carry quite as much weight, unless the solution you are looking at contradicts a clear passage elsewhere or a major tenant of Christian doctrine. In that case, since Scripture never lies and God cannot contradict Himself, you know that option is invalid. Once you have chosen the best solution, step back for a second and humbly gauge how certain you are of its accuracy (90% = I am very sure this is correct ... 60% = This solution is just a bit more likely than the others!). Finally, talk with others and check commentaries or reference books to see what solutions they have chosen and why.

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

1) Create and answer any three of your own interpretive questions from this passage:

a)

b)

c)

2) How does this passage relate to the previous chapter and the book as a whole?

3) When are the “later times”? Specifically, are we in them now or are they coming in the future (cf. 2 Timothy 3:1; Hebrews 1:2; 2 Peter 3:3)?

- 4) What does it mean to “fall away from the faith” (cf. 1:18-20; 6:10, 20-21; Acts 20:29; Hebrews 3:12; James 5:19-20; 2 Peter 2:20)?
- 5) What reasoning does Paul provide in verses 4-5 to contradict this specific false teaching (cf. Genesis 1:29-31; Acts 10:10-15)?
- 6) Why is discipline for godliness so much more profitable than bodily discipline?
- 7) List each instruction that Paul provides Timothy in verses 11-16. What would happen to a church and its leadership if any one of these was not followed?

MY SUMMARY TITLE: _____

Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week's passage.

APPLY

how does it work?

This week's application section involves the same three steps as last week's, which we will continue to use throughout our study: reflect on your own life, list principles, and choose one to apply this week. It is often helpful when working through the second and third steps to consider the following list of questions:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1) How does this passage shape what you should look for in a church and its leadership?

2) How are you disciplining yourself for the purpose of godliness?

LIST PRINCIPLES

List at least five principles from 1 Timothy 4:1-16. Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

PLAN OF ACTION

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

MY NOTES

BONUS BACKGROUND

To further aid your understanding of v19 read the following commentary from the IVPBBC ...

While there are many views on this verse, the three main ones are (1) that between his death and resurrection, Jesus preached to the unrighteous dead in Hades, perhaps specifically to those who lived before the flood of Noah (the view of many church fathers); (2) that in line with Peter's description of Noah as a "preacher of righteousness" in 2 Pet 2:5, Christ preached through Noah to disobedient people in Noah's day (the view of many Reformers); (3) that before or after his resurrection, Jesus proclaimed triumph over the fallen angels referred to in 2 Peter 2:4-5 where Peter equates them with "the sons of God" from Genesis 6:1-2 (the view of most scholars today). This third view is supported by the direct mention of angelic beings in v22 and by the fact that in early Christian literature, "spirits" nearly always refers to angelic spirits rather than human spirits, except when explicit statements are made to the contrary.



LESSON

CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE

1 TIMOTHY 5:1-16

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

OBSERVATION SKILL: BOX CONNECTING WORDS (PART ONE)

As in previous weeks, read the passage below and write down your observations, questions, and themes on the following page. Also, circle all key words and highlight all repeated words or phrases. This week, we will begin to **BOX CONNECTING WORDS**. These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses. We will learn four types of connecting words this week:

COMPARISON: either points out similarities between two or more related ideas or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include: and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so (e.g., “*appeal to him as a father*” in 5:1).

CONTRAST: points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include: but, rather, yet, however (e.g., “*Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father*” in 5:1).

PURPOSE: indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words include: that, so that, in order that (e.g., “*Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach*” in 5:7).

RESULT: very similar to “purpose,” but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words include: that, so that, as a result, with the result that (e.g., “*the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed*” in 5:16).

MEMORY VERSE:

“Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach. But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

— 1 TIMOTHY 5:7-8

OBSERVE
what do I see?

CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE

1 TIMOTHY 5:1-16

¹Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, ²the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.

³Honor widows who are widows indeed; ⁴but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God. ⁵Now she who is a widow indeed and who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day. ⁶But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives. ⁷Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach. ⁸But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

⁹A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, ¹⁰having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work. ¹¹But refuse to put younger widows on the list, for when they feel sensual desires in disregard of Christ, they want to get married, ¹²thus incurring condemnation, because they have set aside their previous pledge. ¹³At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention. ¹⁴Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach; ¹⁵for some have already turned aside to follow Satan. ¹⁶If any woman who is a believer has dependent widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

THEMES

List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage. _____

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

- 1) Box all connecting words.
- 2) Underline all the qualifications for a widow to be put on the list.

MY OBSERVATIONS

List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

1-2

3-4

5-6

7-8

INTERPRET

what does it mean?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION

PRINCIPLE #1 - DISCERN THE AUTHOR'S INTENDED MEANING

For the next few weeks, we will learn three fundamental **PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION** that help us to use our interpretive skills accurately. **Principle #1 - Your goal is to discern the author's intended meaning to the original audience.** Unfortunately, most people begin their Bible study by asking, "What does this passage mean to me?" While there may be multiple possible applications to my life, there is only one meaning, the author's intended meaning; and we must first seek this out. This involves three important steps:

1. Always **start your study with prayer**, asking the same God who composed Scripture through these ancient authors to give you insight to understand His intended meaning.
2. Be very careful to **avoid reading your 21st century circumstances and theological issues** into the text as they will skew your understanding.
3. Work diligently to see the text **from the point of view of the original readers**. To do this: (a) dig into the historical and cultural background using Bible dictionaries and commentaries, and (b) spend a few moments thinking about the original audience's religious understanding by asking, "What books of the Bible did they have access to? What did they know about God? about Jesus? about salvation? etc."

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

- 1) Create and answer any three of your own interpretation questions from this passage:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- 2) How does this passage relate back to the previous chapter and the book as a whole? Specifically, how does the theme of the "church as the household of God" in 3:15 continue to weave itself through this passage?

- 3) Why does God lead Paul to place such significance on the issue of caring for widows? In other words, why does it get almost a whole chapter? (Exodus. 22:21-24; Deuteronomy 10:17-18; Isaiah 1:17; Jeremiah. 7:5-7; Malachi. 3:5; Acts 6:1; James 1:26-27)

Background info: Widows, women whose husbands have died, faced far worse hardships in the ancient world than widows typically do today. Women relied on their husbands for financial support, security, and access to the community. There were few if any jobs available to women, and all property typically reverted to the deceased husband's family, leaving the widow without claim to land. In a world without governmental safety nets like Social Security, this left most widows struggling for survival, subsisting on the edge of poverty and vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Information from Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology. Edited by Walter A. Elwell

- 4) What qualifications must a widow meet to make it on the list?
- 5) Why was the bar so high to be on the list? In particular, why does Paul exclude...
- young widows
 - widows with family
 - spiritually immature widows
- 6) In verse 8, Paul rebukes the Christian who doesn't care for the vulnerable in his own family. How exactly has he denied the faith? Why does it make him "worse than an unbeliever"?

MY SUMMARY TITLE: _____

Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week's passage.

APPLY

how does it work?

This week's application section involves the same three steps as last week's, which we will continue to use throughout our study: reflect on your own life, list principles, and choose one to apply this week. It is often helpful when working through the second and third steps to consider the following list of questions:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1) In what ways do we as a society tend to neglect those who are elderly and vulnerable?

LIST PRINCIPLES

1) How should my family apply this passage?

2) How should our church apply this passage?

PLAN OF ACTION

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

MY NOTES



LESSON

8

WATCH YOUR MOTIVES!

1 TIMOTHY 6:1-10

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

OBSERVATION SKILL: BOX CONNECTING WORDS (PART TWO)

Read the passage below, record your observations, questions, and themes on the following page. Also, circle all key words and highlight all repeated words or phrases and continue to **BOX CONNECTING WORDS**. Here are four types to box this week:

CAUSE: expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include: because, since, and sometimes for (e.g., “*serve them all the more, because those who partake ...*” in 6:2).

EXPLANATION: what follows further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true, why it occurred, or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word for (e.g., “*For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil*” in 6:10).

INFERENCE: provides a logical consequence, conclusion, or summary to the previous discussion. Inference words include: therefore, for this reason (e.g., “*Therefore I want the men in every place to pray*” in 2:8).

CONDITION: presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or conclusion can occur. The statement may or may not reflect reality (i.e., it could be hypothetical). Key word is if (e.g., “*If we have food and covering ...*” in 2:8).

MEMORY VERSE:

“But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” — 1 TIMOTHY 6:9-10

OBSERVE
what do I see?

WATCH YOUR MOTIVES!

1 TIMOTHY 6:1-10

¹ All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against. ² Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles.

³ If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, ⁴ he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. ⁶ But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. ⁷ For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. ⁸ If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

THEMES

List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage. _____

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

- 1) Box all connecting words in this passage.
- 2) Underline all of the descriptions of the false teachers in this passage.

MY OBSERVATIONS

List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

1-2

3-5

6-8

9-10

INTERPRET

what does it mean?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION

PRINCIPLE #2 - ASSUME A "NORMAL" USE OF LANGUAGE

This week we will learn our second of three **PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION**. **Principle #2 - Assume a "normal" use of language.** The Bible was given to us because God desired to communicate with us, not to hide Himself from us. Therefore, we should not be looking for hidden meanings as we study. Instead, we should use the normal techniques we would use to understand any piece of literature:

1. **Study the grammar.** Yes, most of us hated grammar in junior high, but it really is helpful for understanding Scripture! Pay attention to nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions. Think through any figures of speech. Observe how phrases and clauses are connected into sentences and how sentences are linked together into paragraphs.

2. **Remember that chapters came later.** When Paul wrote Ephesians or Luke wrote the book of Acts, they wrote single, unified stories without verse or chapter divisions. These books were meant to be read just like you would read a letter or a novel. Always keep the overall story in mind as you study each passage.

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

- 1) How does this passage relate to 5:17-25? What specific thread ties these sections together?
- 2) Refer to the background box below about slavery in the ancient world as you answer the following questions.
 - a) Why should all slaves honor their masters according to verse 1 (cf. Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-24; 1 Peter 2:18-20)?
 - b) In verse 2, why are believing masters all the more worthy of honor?

Background info: Slavery in the ancient world was significantly different than slavery in per-Civil War America. It was not based on race, nor was it inescapable. Slavery was often the only way to avoid starvation for the desperately poor. While some masters were cruel, many did look out for the interests of their slaves and provided security and opportunities for advancement and even freedom. That said, the New Testament does demand fair treatment of slaves (Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1), clarifies that freedom is better than slavery (1 Corinthians 7:20-24), and lays the theological and ethical foundation that led to emancipation.

3) The theme of “godliness” has dominated this book (see 2:2, 10; 3:16; 4:7, 8; 6:3, 5, 6, 11; 2 Timothy 3:5). The Greek word for “godliness” is a compound term made up of “eu” and “sebeia” = “good” and “reverence.” Look up the word in the passages provided and list out all that is included in godliness! (see also 2 Peter 1:3, 6-7; 3:11)?

4) According to this passage, 6:18-19; 2 Corinthians 12:10; Phil 4:10-13; Hebrews 13:5 ...

Define contentment in your own words.

How does contentment relate to godliness?

How does contentment lead to “gain”?

What truths help grow contentment?

5) According to this passage, what are the dangers and limitations of money (cf. Proverbs 18:10-11; 23:4-5; 30:8-9; Matthew 13:22)?

6) Conversely, how can money be utilized in a godly way (cf. 6:18-19; Proverbs 3:9-10; Luke 12:33-34; 1 Corinthians 9:14; Ephesians 4:28)?

MY SUMMARY TITLE: _____

Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week’s passage.

APPLY

how does it work?

This week's application section involves the same three steps as last week's, which we will continue to use throughout our study: reflect on your own life, list principles, and choose one to apply this week. It is often helpful when working through the second and third steps to consider the following list of questions:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1) How does this discussion of contentment apply to your career, lifestyle, giving, and saving?
- 2) In what areas of your life do you struggle to be content with God's provision?

LIST PRINCIPLES

List at least five principles from 1 Timothy 6:1-10. Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

PLAN OF ACTION

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

MY NOTES



LESSON

9

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

1 TIMOTHY 6:11-21

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORY VERSE:

“But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” — 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-12

OBSERVE
what do I see?

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

As in previous weeks, write down your observations, questions, and themes on the following page. Also, circle all key words, highlight all repeated words or phrases, and box connecting words. A new observational skill will be introduced after you have finished.

1 TIMOTHY 6:11-21

¹¹ But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. ²⁰ Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”— ²¹ which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

THEMES

List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage. _____

OBSERVATION TASKS

- 1) Underline all verbs in this section.
- 2) Circle any repeated words that you find in this passage.

MY OBSERVATIONS

List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

11-12**13-16****17-19****20-21**

OBSERVE

what do I see?

OBSERVATION SKILL: MAP THE PASSAGE

This week we will begin to **MAP THE PASSAGE**. This skill is a fantastic way to discover the author's intended meaning and flow of thought. It also will help you answer many of your interpretive questions. The first rule of mapping a passage is: **There is not one "right" way!** However you create your map, you should be to discover the author's flow of thought by graphically laying out the passage. Before you complete the passage map on the next page, here are some rules to follow with examples from Ephesians 1:3-5 ...

1) First, identify the main subject and verb of the first sentence (These form the main clause of your sentence). Write the main clause at the top left of your paper. Think of your map as an outline: This would be your Roman number I.

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

This is the main clause of Eph. 1:3

2. Continue writing the first sentence, placing any modifying phrases or words directly under the words they modify. A modifying phrase describes something in the main clause—how, why, when, to whom, etc. In an outline, this would be your first subheading.

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

↑ *who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing*

"who" modifies, or is talking about, God in this sentence

3. If there are multiple modifiers (several phrases or words all talking about the same thing), line them up underneath each other, under the word or phrase they are modifying.

1:3 ... who has blessed us ...

4 just as He chose us ...

5 ... He predestined us ...

Both of the phrases in vv4-5 will have modifiers in your final map, but the phrases themselves should be lined up since they both modify God's act of blessing. This is like the a., b., c. in your outline.

4. Continue writing out the phrases in your sentence, each under whatever word(s) they modify, until you reach the end of the sentence or idea being discussed.

5. Your map will continue moving to the right of your paper until the author begins a new idea. At that point, you would put the next main clause back to the far left of your paper and begin at step one again. Ideally, you should be able to glance down to the left side of your paper and see the main ideas of the passage you are mapping.

6. As you work, box all connecting words, and note how they are being used.

1:4 just as He chose us ... (AS implies comparison)

MAP THE PASSAGE

INTERPRET

what does it mean?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION

PRINCIPLE #3 - LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE

This week we will learn our last of three **PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION**. **Principle #3 - Let Scripture interpret Scripture.** Since God is unchangingly truthful and always consistent (John 17:17; Hebrews 3:6; James 1:17), we can, and should, expect the same of His Word. This has two practical applications:

1. **Check your conclusions.** Always compare your conclusions with the teachings of Scripture as a whole. If you find your interpretation of a passage contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture elsewhere, you probably need to revise your conclusions.
2. **Allow clear passages to illuminate ambiguous passages.** Whenever you encounter a passage that is confusing or open to multiple possible interpretations, use clearer passages of Scripture to guide you to the correct interpretation.

One last caution: remember that God revealed Scripture progressively, not all at once. Therefore, we should not be surprised by differences between how people related to and understood God at different times in the history of Scripture. For example, while Abraham needed only believe that God was faithful in order to be justified (Genesis 15:6), in the New Testament era, we must believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus to be saved (1 Corinthians 15:1-7).

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

- 1) How does this passage relate to the previous section in chapter 6?
- 2a) Paul begins this passage with a flurry of commands. What do each of these commands teach us about the spiritual life?
 - Flee (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:22)
 - Pursue (cf. Matthew 6:33; Romans 14:19; 1 Peter 3:11)
 - Fight (cf. 1:18; 2 Timothy 4:7; 1 Corinthians 9:26-27)
 - Take hold (cf. 6:12 and 6:19)

- 2b) Together these commands create a healthy balance for one's spiritual life (cf. 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Cor 6:18-20; 1 Peter 3:11). What can result if any of these are missing?

- 3) The adjective "good" shows up throughout this passage in 6:12, 13, 18, 19. Why might Paul use this word to describe a series of very different things here at the end of the book? For example, how was Christ's confession before Pilate "good" (cf. Matthew 27:11-14; Mark 15:1-5)?

- 4) To what extent does Paul call Timothy to "keep the commandment" in verse 14? Furthermore, how do verses 13-16 provide ample motivation for such obedience?

- 5) How does generosity provide for a "good foundation for the future" (cf. Matthew 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15)?

MY SUMMARY TITLE: _____

Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week's passage.

APPLY

how does it work?

This week's application section involves the same three steps as last week's, which we will continue to use throughout our study: reflect on your own life, list principles, and choose one to apply this week. It is often helpful when working through the second and third steps to consider the following list of questions:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1) In verse 11 and 2 Peter 1:5-9, Paul lays out a series of character qualities that we are to pursue. Which of these qualities need development in your life?
- 2) What are some practical ways that you can be more mindful of the return of Christ this week?

LIST PRINCIPLES

List at least five principles from 1 Timothy 6:11-21. Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

PLAN OF ACTION

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

MY NOTES

MEMORIZE

- 1:5
- 1:18-20
- 2:5-6
- 2:9-10
- 3:15
- 3:7b-8
- 5:7-8
- 6:9-10
- 6:11-12

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

1) What “diseases” threatened the health of this early church in Ephesus?

2) What did Paul “prescribe” for Timothy as he handled each of these “diseases”?

SYNTHESIS

how does it all fit together?

During the past nine lessons, we have observed, interpreted, and applied the entire book of 1 Timothy. That is no small task! Now it is time to draw our detailed study to a useful conclusion, a process known as **synthesis**. Our goal is to create an overall summary of the book of 1 Timothy that we can quickly review any time in the future to remind us of the flow and content of the book.

OUTLINE THE BOOK

The first step of this synthesis is to **CREATE YOUR OWN OUTLINE OF THE BOOK**. Review the work you completed each week, especially the summary titles you created for each passage in the “My Summary Titles” section. Then, create your own brief outline on the next page. Feel free to use any outlining style, but here is an example of how you might start.

1) *Greeting (1:1-2)*

2) *Instructions Concerning False Teaching (1:3-20)*

- *Danger of false teaching (1:3-11)*
- *Entrance into faith (1:12-17)*
- *Continuance in faith (1:18-20)*

MY 1 TIMOTHY OUTLINE

SYNTHESIS

how does it all fit together?

The second step of this synthesis is to **RECORD WHAT YOU LEARNED OR WERE REMINDED OF**. This is more personal than your outline. Create a list of the theological truths and life lessons you have either learned for the first time or been reminded of from your study of 1 Timothy.

As an example of a theological truth, you might write:

I was taught that all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Jesus.

An example of a life lesson would be:

This book reminded me that the church's goal is to present every man complete in Christ through a process that comes with great cost & struggle.

List at least ten theological truths and ten life lessons on this page that you learned from your study of 1 Timothy, and record the verses where each is addressed.

THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS I'VE LEARNED

LIFE LESSONS I'VE LEARNED

The final step of this synthesis is to PRAYERFULLY CHOOSE TWO APPLICATIONS TO PRACTICE. These can be applications that you developed and began to practice during previous lessons, or you can create entirely new applications. Whatever your choice, two things must be true about them:

1. Both applications should touch on **areas of your life where you are currently in need of growth**. Do not choose “*be kind to others*” if this is already something you do very well.
2. Both should **be specific** with a clear plan for growth and the name of someone who will hold you accountable. “*Study the Word more*” is not sufficiently detailed. Instead, develop a specific plan such “*I will read through Romans this next month and write down my observations, interpretive questions, and applications in a journal. Steve will hold me accountable weekly.*”

APPLICATION #1

- Principle from 1 Timothy:
- Verses where it's discussed:
- Plan of Action: *I will ...*

APPLICATION #2

- Principle from 1 Timothy:
- Verses where it's discussed:
- Plan of Action: *I will ...*

SYNTHESIS

how does it all fit together?

MY NOTES

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

APPENDIX

PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION

PRINCIPLE#1: YOUR GOAL IS TO DISCERN THE AUTHOR’S INTENDED MEANING TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE. Unfortunately, most people begin their Bible study by asking, “What does this passage mean to me?” While there may be multiple possible applications to my life, there is only one meaning—the author’s intended meaning; and we must first seek this out. This involves three important steps.

1. Always **start your study with prayer**, asking the same God who composed Scripture through these ancient authors to give you insight to understand His intended meaning.
2. Be very careful to **avoid reading your 21st century circumstances and theological issues** into the text as they will skew your understanding.
3. Work diligently to see the text **from the point of view of the original readers**. To do this: [a] dig into the historical and cultural background using Bible dictionaries and commentaries, and [b] spend a few moments thinking about the original audience’s religious understanding by asking, “What books of the Bible did they have access to? What did they know about God? About Jesus? About salvation? Etc.”

PRINCIPLE #2 - ASSUME A “NORMAL” USE OF LANGUAGE. The Bible was given to us because God desired to communicate with us, not to hide Himself from us. Therefore, we should not be looking for “hidden” meanings as we study. Instead, we should use the “normal” techniques we would use to understand any piece of literature:

1. **Study the grammar.** Yes, most of us hated grammar in junior high, but it really is helpful for understanding Scripture! Pay attention to nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions. Think through any figures of speech. Observe how phrases and clauses are connected into sentences and how sentences are linked together into paragraphs.
2. **Remember that chapter divisions came later.** When Paul wrote Corinthians or Luke wrote the book of Acts, they wrote single, unified stories without verse or chapter divisions. These books were meant to be read just like you would read a letter or a novel. Always keep the overall story in mind as you study each passage.

PRINCIPLE #3 - LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE. Since God is unchangingly truthful and always consistent (John 17:17; Hebrews 3:6; James 1:17), we can, and should, expect the same of His Word. This has two practical applications:

1. **Check your conclusions.** Always compare your conclusions with the teachings of Scripture as a whole. If you find that your interpretation of a passage contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture elsewhere, you probably need to revise your conclusions.
2. **Allow clear passages to illuminate ambiguous passages.** Whenever you encounter a passage that is confusing or open to multiple possible interpretations, use clearer passages of Scripture to guide you to the correct interpretation.

One last caution - remember that God revealed Scripture progressively, not all at once. Therefore, we should not be surprised by differences between how people related to and understood God at different times in the history of Scripture. For example, while Abraham needed only believe that God was faithful in order to be justified (Genesis 15:6), in the NT era, we must believe in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection to be saved (1 Corinthians 15:1-7).

BONUS SKILL: CREATING LISTS

This skill involves identifying a key word, subject, person, place, or event in the passage and then listing every fact given about that word. For example, if you made a list on “God” from 2 Timothy 1, it might look like this:

GOD...

- 1. MADE PAUL AN APOSTLE BY HIS WILL (V1).**
- 2. GIVES GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE (V2).**
- 3. IS THE FATHER (V2).**
- 4. IS THANKED AND SERVED (V3).**
- 5. GIVES GIFTS (V6).**
- 6. DOESN'T GIVE SPIRIT OF TIMIDITY (V7).**
- 7. GIVES SPIRIT OF POWER, LOVE, AND SOUND MIND (V7).**
- 8. GIVES POWER FOR SUFFERING (V9).**
- 9. SAVED US (V9).**
- 10. CALLED US (V9).**

As you read this list, what jumps out at you? Perhaps you see that “God gives” is mentioned five times in this list. What a gracious and loving God we serve! You have discovered one of the characteristics of God: His generous grace toward men. By creating these lists, you will begin to see patterns of truth that you will want to study further. For example, this list about God may lead you to do a word study on give or find all the other references in Paul’s epistles to God’s giving nature. Furthermore, this list can now be used for meditation, to praise and worship God, to encourage others, and to proclaim the character of God to the lost.

One word of caution about lists, however. Just because you are able to create a list centered on a key word, such as “God” in 2 Timothy 1, does not mean that Paul’s main point in the passage is to talk about that key word. Paul’s emphasis in 2 Timothy 1, in fact, is not to discuss attributes about God; it is to encourage Timothy to press on in the ministry of the gospel. Make sure that before you create any lists, you complete the initial processes of observation: list themes, mark up the text, and record your most significant observations. However, after these initial tasks, creating lists is a great way to deepen your study of a passage!

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

One of the predominant themes throughout the book of 1 Corinthians is Paul's desire to present every man complete in Christ. It is important that we know the truth of the Bible and that our lives more and more begin to reflect Jesus Christ. Spiritual growth clearly involves study of God's word, but it also involves transformation of our character and life. This process is often called "discipleship" and refers to an intentional relationship between a mature believer and a younger believer, where the former trains the latter towards the goal of spiritual maturity. Paul's discipleship of Timothy (and Titus as well) is one of the greatest examples we have of this process in all of Scripture. And like Paul, we too can make a lasting impact for God's kingdom by spiritually reproducing ourselves in the lives of others.

Going through this Bible study was one of the best steps you could take to prepare you to disciple someone else because now you know how to explain and defend key biblical truths like the gospel, spiritual leadership, grace, and salvation. Just as important, you have now learned and practiced the basic method of Bible study - survey, observe, interpret, apply, synthesize. These are key steps towards spiritual maturity that you can now pass on to others! Where can you go from here to learn more about spiritual multiplication? Here are a few helpful resources:

THE MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM by Robert Coleman

This is a highly motivational analysis of Jesus' own principles of evangelism and discipleship.

THE LOST ART OF DISCIPLE MAKING by Leroy Eims

This very practical resource will give you a detailed structure to follow and great content to cover as you begin to disciple a new believer.

A SURVEY OF BIBLE DOCTRINE by Charles Ryrie

This is not a book about discipleship. It is, instead, an easy-to-read, relatively short systematic theology primer that you can walk a new believer through to ground them in the faith.

ESSENTIALS OF THE FAITH by Grace Bible Church, College Station, TX

This small group Bible study packet walks a new believer through the fundamental truths and practices of the Christian faith in ten self-paced lessons.

