

THE BOOK OF

1 Timothy

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

First Things First

OPENING QUESTION

Who has been a spiritual mentor for you? In what ways have they shaped your spiritual life?

READ 1 Timothy 1:1–20.

1. What greeting does Paul give Timothy?

- A. Hi! How ya doin'?
- B. The same as what Paul usually gives in his letters.
- C. Grace and peace to you.
- D. Grace, mercy, and peace from God to you.
- E. I'll be there soon.
- F. I miss you so much!
- G. Listen carefully to what I'm about to say, young one.
- H. I thank God every time I think about you.
- I. Other.

2. What seemed to be Paul's main concern as he began his letter to Timothy?

- A. Study hard so you do well in school.
- B. Jesus is coming back to earth.
- C. Christ died for your sins.
- D. Stop people from teaching false doctrines.
- E. Timothy, you really need a new praise and worship band.
- F. Don't let the older people in the church push you around.
- G. Remember the things I taught you previously.
- H. Make the necessary corrections to your family tree.
- I. Other.

3. Why does Paul seem so concerned about "endless genealogies"?

- A. They are endless.
- B. Rebirth matters more than initial birth.
- C. Paul had wasted a lot of time on this himself.
- D. They take so much time.
- E. Some people try to "one up" others based on their family records.
- F. It distracts from a clear focus on Jesus.
- G. The accuracy of family records could easily be questioned.
- H. The present and future are more important than the past.
- I. Other.

4. What is a good way to use God's law?

- A. Show us what God is like.
- B. Describe what God wants from us.
- C. Improve a righteous lifestyle.
- D. Make people feel guilty so they reach out for a Savior.
- E. Start profitable discussions.
- F. Figure out what's right and what's wrong from God's standard.
- G. Just forget about God's law.
- H. Other.

5. What makes a person qualified to serve God?

- A. Accepting Christ into one's life.
- B. Coming from a well-respected family.
- C. Having experience in serving God for a while.
- D. Admitting you're a loser and then becoming a winner with God.
- E. When God takes your weaknesses and turns them into strengths.
- F. Love—accepting it and giving it.
- G. Other.

6. Who is the "chief of sinners"?

- A. Paul.
- B. I am.
- C. I know who, but I don't want to say it or write it.
- D. Satan.
- E. Christ—when he took our sins on himself.
- F. Hypocrites.
- G. Those who practice the seven deadly sins.
- H. Other.

7. What is God now able to do through you because of your past?

8. In *verse 17* Paul went off on how great God is (King eternal, immortal, invisible, only God, honor and glory forever and ever). What are words you would use to describe how great God is to you?

Let's All Get Together!

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a place where you like to worship God?

READ 1 Timothy 2:1–14.

1. Who do you intercede for and thank God for?

- A. Political leaders—presidents, senators, and other representatives.
- B. Religious leaders; the pope, dalai lama, your church's leaders.
- C. Police; namely racists cops, one who gave you a ticket, and newbies.
- D. Wealthy people; namely Bezos, Musk, Gates, Zuckerberg, Buffet.
- E. Celebrities; namely Beyonce, LeBron, Pitt.
- F. Those in authority over me, like my boss or teacher.
- G. Family.
- H. Friends.
- I. Other.

2. How can Jesus reconcile God and humanity?

- A. He can't unless we agree to it.
- B. He can't unless God agrees to it.
- C. Christ already reconciled us through the cross.
- D. Forgiveness.
- E. More social services to "the least of these."
- F. Complete God's final judgment.
- G. Through a crisis like a major natural disaster or other "act of God."
- H. By having people share the Gospel with others.
- I. Other.

3. With whom are you called to share the Good News?

- A. Nobody.
- B. Everybody.
- C. Family and friends.
- D. People in other parts of the world.
- E. People closest to me.
- F. Strangers.
- G. Only those who need it.
- H. Only those with whom God impresses me to share.
- I. Other.

4. What is the way men should worship?

- A. Lift up their hands in prayer.
- B. Be on the platform at church.
- C. Have their family all sit together.
- D. Not be on their smart phones during church.
- E. Be in church on Sabbath.
- F. Get into it with mind, heart, and body.
- G. Leave their ego, image, and reputation at the door.
- H. Other.

5. What is the way women should worship?

- A. Be sure not to wear jewelry.
- B. Direct attention to God rather than to one's self.
- C. Overflow with grace.
- D. As quietly as possible.
- E. Dressed as beautiful as possible.
- F. Dressed as ugly as possible.
- G. Not making their external beauty exceed their internal beauty.
- H. Be sure to stay off of the platform and certainly not preach.
- I. Other.

6. How is it that women are “saved by childbirth” (vs. 15)?

- A. They aren't.
- B. Only the ones who survive childbirth are real women.
- C. This challenged the belief that the goddess Artemis helped in childbirth.
- D. Dominant males are still dependent on females to give birth.
- E. God loves mothers more than others.
- F. The salvation Christ provides started with his birth on earth.
- G. Saved by grace: “grace” and “saved” and “birth” have five letters.
- H. Other.

7. How do you relate to, and how do you deal with *verses 11-12*?

8. God created humans as male and female. What part did each gender play in “the Fall” in the Garden of Eden, and what part does each one play in God’s redemption of humans?

Take the Lead

OPENING QUESTION

Name two people you consider to be leaders at your church. What makes them leaders?

READ 1 Timothy 3:1–16.

1. What does it take to become a church leader?

- A. Money.
- B. A good reputation.
- C. You need to be old.
- D. You need to be male.
- E. You need to be married.
- F. You must have a “good” family.
- G. Get on the church nominating committee.
- H. Wine, but not too much.
- I. Other.

2. Why did Paul counsel Timothy to not have new believers become church leaders?

- A. You’ve got to get into church culture before you can lead it.
- B. Paul was just giving some bad counsel on this item.
- C. New believers would offend too many people.
- D. Others wouldn’t follow them.
- E. It might go to their head.
- F. They wouldn’t grow as much spiritually.
- G. You need to give them time to see if they will stick with it.
- H. Older believers would feel left out and fear becoming obsolete.
- I. Other.

3. What’s the difference between elders and deacons?

- A. Elders call for the offering; deacons pick it up.
- B. Elders are first class; deacons are second class.
- C. Elders are held to a higher standard.
- D. Deacons do more for the church and community.
- E. They’re basically the same.
- F. They’re spelled differently.
- G. It depends more on the person than on the title.
- H. You need one more than the other.
- I. Other.

4. What are the qualifications of a female church leader (vs. 11)?

- A. Less than the qualifications of a male church leader.
- B. Higher than the qualifications of a male church leader.
- C. Must be female.
- D. Must be married.
- E. Be close to being the perfect woman.
- F. Can play the piano, put together a potluck, and work with youth.
- G. Not gossip.
- H. Other.

5. How should people conduct themselves in the church of the living God?

- A. Be respectful of others.
- B. Seriously get into worship.
- C. Be on time.
- D. The same as elders, deacons, and deaconesses.
- E. Treat others the way they would be treated at Nordstrom's.
- F. Confess their faults to one another.
- G. Greet one another with a holy kiss.
- H. Change the name of the church from "Church of the Living God" to something else.
- I. Other.

6. What makes Paul's statement such a "mystery" (vs. 16)?

- A. It doesn't make a lot of sense.
- B. Only those who have gone to church a lot can understand it.
- C. The incarnation is easier to pronounce than to comprehend.
- D. It's not a mystery to me.
- E. God's love goes beyond human understanding.
- F. Try to explain the God of the universe becoming a human.
- G. God.
- H. Other.

7. What do you consider to be the top 3 qualifications for a church leader?

8. Would you want to be a member of Timothy's church in Ephesus? Why or why not?

Get It Right

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time when somebody “looked down on you because you were young” by saying or doing something based on you being “young.”

READ 1 Timothy 4:1–16.

1. Why is it so important for “sound doctrine” to be taught?

- A. It isn’t; doctrine is rather boring.
- B. It provides clarity for correct beliefs.
- C. You have to teach it or else nobody will get it.
- D. It keeps lots of people busy.
- E. Doctrine distracts people from Jesus.
- F. Doctrine provides a greater understanding of Jesus.
- G. What else would people do during Sabbath School?
- H. Frequently doctrine isn’t very “sound.”
- I. Other.

2. What kind of food is now allowed for followers of Jesus?

- A. Anything.
- B. Anything as long as it’s received with thanksgiving.
- C. Anything served for Thanksgiving dinner.
- D. Only a vegan diet.
- E. Preferably a vegetarian diet.
- F. Clean meats are okay, but unclean meat isn’t.
- G. A Mediterranean diet.
- H. Just pray and eat; don’t ask questions.
- I. Other.

3. What are some of the best ways to train for godliness?

- A. Read the Bible.
- B. Pray.
- C. Live with nice people.
- D. Live with difficult people.
- E. Take classes on godliness.
- F. Meet regularly with a spiritual coach.
- G. Go on a short-term mission trip.
- H. Increase your acts of service.
- I. Other.

4. What is the value/benefit of godliness in this present life?

- A. Not much.
- B. It removes anxiety by taking care of the next life.
- C. More happiness.
- D. If you do it long enough, eventually there are some payoffs.
- E. You can get into certain social groupings.
- F. Increased love for others.
- G. You're more likely to stay out of jail.
- H. Self-discipline.
- I. Other.

5. Why do older people so often look down on younger people?

- A. Young people have too much bark; not enough wag.
- B. Older people forget what it was like to be young.
- C. Young people don't show enough respect to older people.
- D. Older people are often insecure and easily threatened.
- E. Young people get too many breaks so they don't learn responsibility.
- F. Young people don't do things the same way older people do.
- G. Older people are getting more and more out of touch with reality.
- H. Other.

6. What do you think might have been Timothy's gift (vs. 14)?

- A. Preaching.
- B. Teaching.
- C. Prophecy.
- D. Celibacy.
- E. Administration.
- F. A Home Depot gift card.
- G. He received it only because others laid hands on him.
- H. Other.

7. What have you found causes people to be susceptible to strange religious teachings?

8. What has been your progress in godliness over the past year? The past 5 years?

Who to Help

OPENING QUESTION

What is your typical, gut response when somebody asks you for some type of a handout?

READ 1 Timothy 5:1–25.

1. How is Timothy told to treat others?

- A. Treat everyone the same.
- B. Treat everyone well.
- C. Treat each person uniquely.
- D. Young male pastors need to be careful with young females.
- E. Relate to all believers as “family.”
- F. Just do what comes naturally for you—be yourself.
- G. The golden rule: Treat others the way you want to be treated.
- H. Treat those inside the church better than those outside the church.
- I. Other.

2. Who should the church help with material needs?

- A. Widows.
- B. Old widows.
- C. Old widows without family.
- D. Anyone in need who doesn't have family to care for them.
- E. Anyone in need the government doesn't help.
- F. Those in need who are part of the church.
- G. Those in need who are not part of the church.
- H. Those who help a lot at the church or who are nice people.
- I. Other.

3. Based on *verse 14*, would you say Paul is “pro-marriage”?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. Don't forget what Paul wrote in *1 Corinthians 7*.
- D. Only for those who are young.
- E. Marriage is better than being a gossip or a busy-body.
- F. Only if marriage leads to procreation.
- G. Young women need it more than older women.
- H. It's hard to be pro-marriage these days.
- I. Other.

4. How much should pastors be paid?

- A. Nothing; they should serve voluntarily like everyone else.
- B. It depends on how well they serve as a pastor.
- C. The average wage in the community where they live.
- D. A graduated scale based on education and experience.
- E. Whatever the local church chooses to pay them.
- F. Enough to be able to retire and have health insurance.
- G. All pastors should be on the same wage scale.
- H. Have them live by faith and let God provide for them.
- I. Other.

5. How should a pastor be reproved?

- A. Talk among the people at church and let that get back to the pastor.
- B. Complain to the conference president.
- C. Mail an unsigned letter.
- D. Publicly.
- E. Privately.
- F. You need at least two or three witnesses to come forward.
- G. If you don't like something the pastor does, get the pastor removed.
- H. Other.

6. What is Paul's message to Timothy about drinking wine (vs. 23)?

- A. Do it.
- B. Do it only for health reasons.
- C. Don't do it at all.
- D. Drink only unfermented wine.
- E. Your impure drinking water needs something to kill the germs.
- F. Wine is okay; but no beer or liquor.
- G. Social drinking is fine; just don't get drunk.
- H. Other.

7. Who does your church help? Who do you help? What's the difference?

8. What is your paraphrase of verses 24-25? To what extent have you found this to be true?

I Could Care Less

OPENING QUESTION

If someone gave you \$1,000,000 as a gift, what would you do with it?

READ 1 Timothy 6:1–21.

1. What does Paul say to Timothy about slavery (vs. 1-2)?

- A. Fight to abolish it.
- B. Don't make this your cause as a Christian.
- C. Tell slaves to be good slaves.
- D. Ask slave owners to give their slaves freedom, like with Philemon.
- E. Show respect for one another.
- F. Consider yourself a slave to God.
- G. This isn't God's ideal, but it's a reality we have to live with now.
- H. Slavery comes in different forms—some worse than others.
- I. Other.

2. How is a “show of godliness” just a way to get wealthy (vs. 5)?

- A. Being a Christian increases a person's wealth.
- B. When you believe, God gives you bountiful blessings.
- C. You might be able to become a big media evangelist.
- D. It can boost your image.
- E. People will donate to those they consider to be godly.
- F. Claim God's promises.
- G. Churches are more generous to those who show godliness.
- H. It hasn't worked for me.
- I. Other.

3. What is the difference between “money” and the “love of money”?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Everything.
- C. Motivation.
- D. If you have one, you won't have the other.
- E. Those with money usually have a stronger desire for money.
- F. Those without money usually have a stronger desire for money.
- G. The love of money affects those with money and those without it.
- H. People without money are usually happier than those with money.
- I. Other.

4. What leads people to be content?

- A. Having a lot.
- B. Having little.
- C. It's an attitude.
- D. Truly trusting God.
- E. Being very mellow and laid back.
- F. Lacking personal drive or ambition.
- G. Coming to a point of self-acceptance.
- H. Other.

5. Paul claimed that only God is immortal (vs. 16). Why do so many Christians believe in the immortality of the soul, and why do so many non-Christians believe in reincarnation or having a spark of eternal life within?

- A. This comes from a denial of our mortality.
- B. It's just wishful thinking.
- C. Because everyone does have a spark or piece of god.
- D. Paul got this wrong.
- E. It's just a cultural thing (Greek or Hindu roots).
- F. These are misleading beliefs from the devil.
- G. Some people communicate with those who have died.
- H. Other.

6. Why did Paul encourage Timothy to hold tightly to the eternal life God gave him (vs. 12)?

- A. It's easy to lose it.
- B. This makes it a priority in one's life.
- C. Materialism threatened Timothy's salvation.
- D. It would strengthen his dependence on God alone.
- E. With so many distractions, Paul wanted to refocus Timothy.
- F. Debates and endless discussions lead people to forget about it.
- G. Timothy lacked the assurance of salvation.
- H. Other.

7. What do YOU need to have in order to be content?

8. Paul told Timothy to: 1) Run from evil; and 2) Pursue godly living. What are practical ways to do these two things?

