

# **brentwood baptist**

BRENTWOOD SUMMER SERIES

DISCIPLESHIP

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2; HEBREWS 10:23-25

7/26/2020

## **MAIN POINT**

As disciples of Christ, we share the responsibility to take an active role in discipling others.

## **INTRODUCTION**

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**What are some ways that the word “follow” is used in our culture today? What kinds of things do you follow? (Think: sports teams, the news, people on Twitter, politics, etc.) Why do you follow those things?**

**How would you define “discipleship?” Given that definition, how does discipleship relate to following Jesus?**

Discipleship can be defined as the replication of the authority and life of Christ in the life of believers. You are the most fruitful in your walk when you are helping others who are helping others grow. The apostle Paul disciplined Timothy, and he encouraged Timothy to do the same for others. Paul instructed Timothy to pass on the teachings he had received from him. Timothy was to commit those teachings to reliable men who were qualified to teach them to others. In order to do this, Timothy needed to be empowered and to be willing to endure hardship.

## **UNDERSTANDING**

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2.**

**Why was Paul so concerned about the teaching of Scripture in 2 Timothy 2:2?**

**What must we believe to be true about the Bible if we are to share Paul’s concern?**

**What kinds of things compete with the time we are to spend in the study and understanding of God’s Word?**

**Are all these bad things? If not, have you found anything to be helpful in prioritizing time in the Word?**

Paul had already endured a number of hardships in ministry. Based on the fact that some had turned away because of hardship (1:15), he urged Timothy to be strong and to endure hardship in order to be faithful to his calling, which was primarily to teach the Word of God to others. He called for the young pastor to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Grace, unmerited favor from God, carries with it enabling power. Paul desired that Timothy would have the power within him to go forth and do the will of Christ. He would need God's grace to strengthen him in times of difficulty.

**Read Philippians 3:17. As disciples of Christ, why is it important that our lives be worth imitating? What are some qualities that every disciple of Christ should seek to model to others?**

**How have you seen God use others to minister to you, specifically through encouraging you in your study of the Word of God? Why might those times be important for you as you seek to disciple others?**

**Why is it important for others to hear, from your perspective, about God's faithfulness in your own life during difficult times?**

**What will the effect of hearing your stories be for those you are discipling?**

**What else did Paul instruct Timothy to do in these verses (v. 2)?**

Paul disciplined Timothy and he commanded Timothy to replicate what he experienced with others. The goal of every Christian should be to become a discipler, one who is qualified to teach the Word of God to others through words and actions.

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 10:23-25.**

For the writer of Hebrews, a commitment to Christ included a commitment to His church. As followers of Christ, we are not only to identify ourselves with and experience the church, but must be coworkers in its ministry as well.

**Why must the understanding and application of the Bible not only be done in private, but also in the fellowship of other Christians?**

**What would happen if a Christian only studied the Bible alone?**

**What can our group do to be a community deeply rooted in the teaching and studying of Scripture?**

**In addition to growing in the Word, what are other aspects of discipleship that we are to participate in together?**

As members of the body of Christ, the church, we identify with the needs of fellow members of the body. Our concern for one another has, according to the author of Hebrews, a specific focus. We should promote love and good works. He would not be satisfied with a feel-good type of concern. Our concern for one another should include

helping others grow in their relationship with Christ, so they can turn around and help others grow. This is the way disciple making happens in the church.

**What are some of the specific activities of our church that show we are committed to making disciples who make disciples? How have these ministries helped you grow as a disciple of Christ?**

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

God never intended for discipleship to happen alone. In fact, it's impossible to grow as a disciple without the guidance and influence of other believers. An important reason for being an active member of a local church is the ministry of discipleship—helping others in the church grow in their relationship with Jesus and allowing others to help you grow, too. Through the church, we are able to follow Jesus by loving God and loving others, and the result is the growth of God's kingdom.

**What specific opportunities are there at our church for you to be involved in personal discipleship? How about in the discipling of others?**

**Making disciples takes intentionality. One of the ways we offer through Brentwood Baptist is via gender-based groups of 3-4 people. Meeting organically on their own schedule and talking through the Bible and Greg Ogden's book? Christians basics?**

## PRAYER

Ask God to bless our church with a unity born of genuine love that church members have for one another. Ask God to build up the faith of each person so that he or she may love God with all his or her being and that each might truly demonstrate love for one another by investing in their discipleship. Thank God for the many blessings that each person has received from Christ and His church.

## COMMENTARY

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

2:1. Having just shared his disappointment over the growing apostasy spreading through Asia, Paul turned to Timothy and wrote, You then, my son, be strong. Difficult circumstances, our own weaknesses and fears, and the negative attitudes or unfaithfulness of others should not determine our course in life. Just as Paul wrote of the power which comes from the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 1:7), so now he wrote of the strength which comes from Jesus Christ.

No doubt Timothy knew, as Paul did, that he could not find adequate strength within himself to fulfill the responsibilities thrust upon him on to endure the hardships ahead.

Our confidence and ability to live successfully as followers of Christ comes when we are strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Paul knew that God's grace not only saves us; it enables us to carry out the life of faithful obedience.

2:2. Our own relationship with Christ Jesus must be developing in trust and dependence before we can expect to influence others for his kingdom. The perpetual strength of God's grace would enable Timothy to fulfill his tasks. Timothy must not only guard the gospel; he must take the gospel and the apostolic instructions (things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses) and entrust [them] to reliable men.

Unlike the false teachers who claimed special revelation or secret knowledge, Paul's message stood in accord with all Scripture and in agreement with the apostles. What he received from the Lord he passed on in an open manner (1 Cor. 11:23). Likewise, Timothy received no inside information from Paul. The message was widely known, spoken of freely and before many witnesses.

In his assignment to entrust the gospel to other people, Timothy needed to observe in these believers the quality of adherence to God's truth. Reliability and trustworthiness in remaining true to the gospel were prerequisites.

Timothy must also seek those who evidenced a knowledge and ability to teach others. Paul warned to establish people of godly character who possessed the aptitude for relating divine truth to everyday life, for clarifying ideas, and for maintaining purity in their instruction.

## HEBREW 10:23-25

10:23. The second exhortation appeals to us to maintain spiritual consistency. We are urged to hold firmly to the hope we profess. This hope offers glory which beamed more brightly than the glories of the old order. Unswervingly denotes an object which stands absolutely straight, not departing from the perpendicular. We are to lay hold of Christ and never let go, even in the slightest. No persecution, real or feared, was to lessen the ardor of these believers for Christ.

Is it really possible to live unswervingly? If holding on to the promises depended on personal commitment, we would all be in trouble. God is faithful to provide strength and stamina for endurance. His faithful character is beyond all doubt. In his strength we hold on unswervingly. We will read heroic examples of spiritual steadfastness in chapter 11.

10:24. The third exhortation calls us to responsibility to one another. The appeal to consider demands concentrated attention. The goal of this attention was to spur one another on toward love and good deeds. As Christians we have a corporate responsibility. We must help others who stumble and falter. We must concentrate on the needs of others and not on our individual salvation only.

We can spur people toward either good or bad works. Hebrews calls us to lead others to a practical expression of love and an attractive display of unselfish deeds.

The three important virtues of faith, hope, and love are mentioned in three consecutive verses (see 1 Cor. 13:13). Faith provides assurance. Hope promises an incentive to obedience. Love provides a foundation for prodding believers to godly living.

10:25. To spur other believers forward in the Christian life, followers of Christ must meet together. Some of the readers of Hebrews were neglecting to meet together for worship, and this limited their ability to give and receive encouragement toward good works.

Christians who meet together with the aim of promoting godliness and love for one another can be remarkably successful in their ventures. Regular fellowship with believers is an essential ingredient in Christian growth. The readers of Hebrews knew that the Day of Christ's return was drawing near. The closeness of this day compelled them to stimulate one another in an outburst of energy and concern.

Persecution may have led some believers to drop out of the fellowship. The remedy they needed was to begin meeting again. The verses following in 26–31 showed the final outcome of neglecting to meet with other believers. Such careless living could produce a contempt for Jesus and a renunciation of Christianity.