



LC STUDY GUIDE: DONE IN SYNC WITH THE “EVERYDAY MATTERS” SERMON SERIES

The Passage – 1 Timothy 4:6-16

For LCs meeting 6.15.14 – 6.29.14

These LC studies complement the sermons, often using the same biblical texts, and will help your LC go deeper in personal understanding and application. These italicized portions are meant to resource and help you in leading and are not to be distributed to the entire group (it limits conversation). Not all of these questions need to be used in your LC meeting. Best to consider this a head-start to customize for your LC.

Big Idea: As ministers of Christ Jesus, we are called to oppose false teaching, make disciples that make disciples, and diligently use our God-given gifts.

1 Timothy 4:6-16 (NIV © 2011)

⁶ If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.

⁷ Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. ⁹ This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. ¹⁰ That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Discussion Questions:

In the book of 1 Timothy, Paul gives Timothy instructions about how believers in Ephesus should worship, warns him about false teachers, and charges him to oppose them and their teaching.

Paul encourages Timothy in verse 6 to pass on what he is taught (by Paul) to the believers under his care. What does Timothy have to do in order to be a good minister of Christ? **Note: The word “minister” is at times translated as “servant.”**

(Point out important truths of Scripture to believers in his care, warn them of false teachings, bring false teaching to the light when necessary, be nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching he himself had followed)

Why is it important for leaders and ministers in the Church to be sound in their faith and practice?

(The soundness/healthiness of a church will likely depend on the soundness/healthiness of its leaders)

While it seems that Paul is focusing on spiritual priorities for leaders here, the truth is that all followers of Christ are called to be servants of Him (see 1 Peter 2:5 and 2 Corinthians 5:11-21). How can we (in our culture and time) be good ministers or servants of Christ Jesus?

(Doing the same things Timothy had to do to be a good minister of Christ; be disciples that make disciples; let group members share)

How can you train yourself to be godly as Paul told Timothy to do in verse 7?

(Scripture study, memorization, meditation, practicing other spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting, solitude, silence, reflection, letting God transform your way of thinking and reacting/responding to the world [Romans 12:1-2])

Why does training in godliness have more value than physical training? What should we spend most of our time laboring and striving for and why? (verses 8-10)

(Godliness holds promise in the present life and the life to come; our hope is in the living God, the Savior of all the world)

Have you ever been looked down on because of your age? How did that make you feel?

Notice Paul’s encouragement to Timothy not to let people do that but instead to set an example “...in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” How can you set an example in these ways for the people around you?

Come up with 4 categories for effective ministry as you read verses 13-16 and share them with the group.

(Group members can share their 4 categories as they want to. Example: 1. A lifestyle that reflects Christ 2. Worship centered on God 3. People living out their calling and using their spiritual gifts to edify the Church 4. Evidence of growth and diligence)

Notice that Paul tells Timothy in verse 14 not to neglect his gift. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to every believer in Christ and as we serve, we will begin to discover how we are gifted to build up the Church. Do you know which spiritual gifts you might have?

(For lists of spiritual gifts in Scripture: see Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and 28-30, and Ephesians 4:11-13)

In verse 16, Paul exhorts Timothy to watch his life and doctrine closely. How can each of us do the same?

Summary

What gifts do we see in one another that would make a difference in our LC and our church?

-
- a. **Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting.** Take some time and select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your Life Community group.
 - b. Certain questions work better for certain groups. You are encouraged to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best.
 - c. Complement these questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?).
 - d. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
 - e. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
 - f. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
 - g. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching,” rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.