D GROUP LESSON

ADULT SMALL-GROUP STUDY | FAITHFUL AND CONTENT | 1 TIMOTHY 6:3–21 | 40 MINUTES

BIG IDEA

Faithful followers of Jesus finish strong by insisting on God's truth, fleeing the things that trip them up, and pursuing a life of faithfulness and contentment.

Purpose: Encourage adults to examine what shapes their beliefs, what competes for their trust, and whether their daily choices reflect a life centered on Jesus. The goal is not merely to begin the Christian life well, but to remain faithful to Christ over time.

Primary Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:3–21. **Supplies:** Bibles and pens.

40-MINUTE PLAN

HOOK — 8 minutes | LOOK — 22 minutes | TOOK — 10 minutes

HOOK — STARTING STRONG VS. FINISHING STRONG (8 MINUTES)

The sermon opens with the 1954 major-league debuts of Jim Greengrass and Hank Aaron. Greengrass had a spectacular first game, hitting four doubles. Aaron went 0-for-5. Yet Aaron went on to hit 755 career home runs and became a baseball legend, while Greengrass's impressive debut did not define his long-term legacy.

> **Discuss: Why are we often quick to judge success by a strong beginning or one memorable moment? Where might that same mindset show up in our faith, work, relationships, or church involvement?**

Paul's message to Timothy reminds us that following Jesus is a marathon, not a sprint. Our past and present struggles do not have to determine how we finish. What matters is continuing to follow Christ faithfully.

> **Opening question: What pressures or distractions make it difficult for adults to remain faithful to Jesus over the long haul?**

LOOK — WHAT DOES A FAITHFUL AND CONTENT LIFE LOOK LIKE? (22 MINUTES)

1. INSIST ON THE TRUTH — Read 1 Timothy 6:3–5 (6 minutes)

Paul warns Timothy about pride and teaching that does not agree with the words of Jesus. Pride can make us unteachable, quick to argue, and more committed to defending our opinions than submitting to God's Word. The sermon gives us a useful heart-check: "Am I teachable?"

> **Discuss: What are some signs that pride is affecting our willingness to learn? How do we distinguish between holding firmly to biblical truth and simply insisting that our own opinion is right? What helps you remain teachable?**

2. FLEE THE THINGS THAT TRIP US UP — Read 1 Timothy 6:6–11a (6 minutes)

Paul tells Timothy to continually flee the things that pull him away from God, especially greed and the desire for more. Possessions are not automatically wrong; the danger comes when they begin to possess our hearts. Comparison feeds discontentment and shifts our trust from God to what we own or hope to acquire.

> **Discuss: Where do you see the pressure to accumulate, upgrade, or compare? How can a person tell when a good thing has become an unhealthy attachment? What does contentment look like in a culture that constantly tells us we need more?**

3. PURSUE A LIFE THAT REFLECTS GOD — Read 1 Timothy 6:11b–16 (6 minutes)

Paul names six qualities to pursue: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Righteousness concerns doing what is right in our actions; godliness concerns the inner motivation behind those actions. Faith is confidence in God. Love shapes our relationship with God and others. Endurance is patience in difficult circumstances, and gentleness is patience with difficult people.

Discuss: Which of these six qualities is strongest in your life right now? Which needs the most attention? Where might your outward actions look right while your inward motivation needs to change? How do endurance and gentleness show up in family life, work, and church relationships?

4. FIX YOUR HOPE ON GOD AND STAY COMMITTED — Read 1 Timothy 6:17–21 (4 minutes)

Paul tells those who have resources not to put their hope in uncertain riches, but in God. He calls believers to do good, be rich in good works, be generous, and share. The sermon closes with Paul's instruction to Timothy to guard what has been entrusted to him. Faithfulness requires intentional commitment to what lasts.

Discuss: What is the difference between enjoying what God provides and placing our security in it? What could being "rich in good works" look like in your home, neighborhood, workplace, or church? Who has helped you stay faithful, and whom can you encourage?

TOOK — MAKE FAITHFULNESS PRACTICAL (10 MINUTES)

Personal reflection (3 minutes): Invite everyone to reflect quietly: (1) Where do I need to be more teachable? (2) What do I need to flee because it is competing for my heart? (3) Which quality—righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, or gentleness—do I need to pursue?

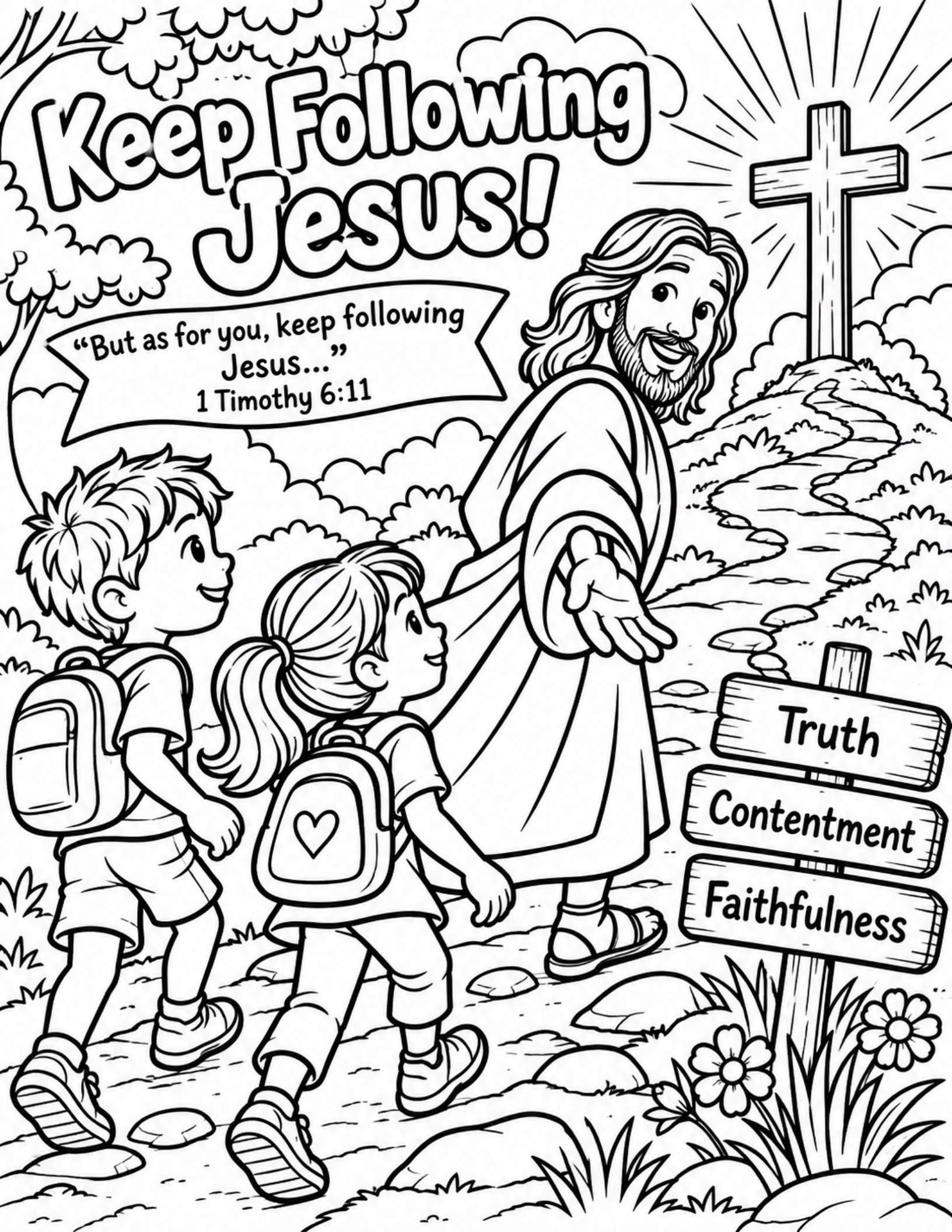
Choose one next step (4 minutes): Ask each person to complete: "With God's help, this week I will…" Encourage a concrete action: practice gratitude instead of comparison, give generously, listen before responding, make a choice rooted in Scripture, show patience to a difficult person, or encourage someone who is growing weary.

Closing challenge (1 minute): A faithful life is not built by accident. Hold fast to the truth of Jesus, flee what trips you up, and keep pursuing the life God calls you to live. Keep your hope in Him, not in the things that can be lost.

Closing prayer (2 minutes): "Father, help us finish faithfully. Keep us rooted in the truth of Jesus and make us teachable. Show us what we need to flee, and teach us to be content with what You provide. Grow righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness in us. Help us put our hope in You, do good, and encourage one another to remain faithful. In Jesus' name, amen."

LEADER NOTE

Keep the discussion reflective rather than judgmental. The sermon does not say that having possessions is wrong; it warns against allowing possessions, pride, or comparison to take the place of trust in God. Invite honest reflection and practical steps of growth.


Keep Following Jesus!
"But as for you, keep following Jesus..."
1 Timothy 6:11
Truth
Contentment
Faithfulness

PARENT CHALLENGE

KEEP FOLLOWING JESUS! | A FAMILY FAITH CHALLENGE

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA
We can keep following Jesus by choosing what is true, being content with what God gives us, and faithfully doing what is right.

1. READ IT TOGETHER

Read **1 Timothy 6:11** together. Say this simple reminder: "Keep following Jesus!" Ask your child to repeat it and explain what it means in their own words.

2. TALK ABOUT IT

TRUTH	How can we listen to what God says and choose what is right?
CONTENTMENT	What is something God has given our family that we can thank Him for?
FAITHFULNESS	What is one way we can keep following Jesus, even when it is hard?

3. TRY THE FAMILY CHALLENGE

OUR "KEEP FOLLOWING JESUS" CHALLENGE
Choose one action to practice together this week:

- **Choose truth:** Tell the truth and listen to God's Word.
- **Practice contentment:** Name three things you are thankful for instead of wishing for more.
- **Show faithfulness:** Do a responsibility with a good attitude, or keep a promise.

Our family's choice: _____

We will do it on: _____ **Parent initials:** _____

4. PRAY TOGETHER

"Jesus, thank You for loving us. Help our family follow You. Teach us to love what is true, be thankful for what You give us, and faithfully do what is right. Help us keep following You every day. Amen."

PARENT TIP: Keep the conversation encouraging and simple. Look for a moment during the week to notice your child choosing truth, showing gratitude, or following through—and celebrate that step.

REMEMBER: Keep following Jesus—one faithful step at a time!