

Community Groups

Sermon Discussion Guide

June 21st, 2026 | The Book of 2 Timothy

Opening Question:

Have you ever bought something that looked like the real thing but turned out to be a counterfeit? or been drawn to something that seemed good but wasn't?

Setting the Scene:

Paul has been preparing Timothy to suffer well for the gospel. Now he tells him where the most dangerous threat actually comes from. Not persecution from the outside, but from people inside the church who have the form of godliness but have denied its power. The sermon's question today was: what are the counterfeits of authentic faith and how does the gospel produce the real thing? Paul's answer is that information alone never transforms anyone. Only the living Word of God, applied by the Spirit, produces a life that actually looks like Christ.

Read The Text: Read 2 Timothy 3:1-17 out loud as a group. You can split it up into sections and take turns reading it.

What Does it Say?

1. What word or phrase stood out to you when we read that passage? Why do you think it caught your attention?

This question helps the group slow down and engage with the passage before moving into deeper discussion. Encourage people to share what they noticed, whether it was something challenging, confusing, or encouraging from the text.

2. What do you notice about the 20 characteristics of the people in the last days? How do they hold a form of godliness but deny its power?

Help the group see that Paul is describing people who may look spiritually impressive on the outside but whose hearts are still shaped by self instead of Christ. Guide the conversation toward the difference between outward religious activity and genuine transformation through the gospel.

3. What does Paul say that Scripture is useful for? What is the difference and purpose of each of these?

Encourage the group to notice that Scripture does more than give information, it shapes and transforms us. Help them see how teaching, correction, correction of wrong thinking, and training in righteousness all work together to make believers mature and equipped for God's work.

What Does it Mean?

1. The sermon said difficult days come not from people outside the church living in the world, but from people inside the church living like the world. Why is that harder to navigate than outright opposition?

Help the group recognize that spiritual deception is dangerous because it often looks familiar and acceptable. Paul warns Timothy that the greatest threats are not always obvious attacks against faith, but subtle distortions that pull people away from true devotion to Christ.

2. In verses 6–7, Paul describes people who are “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” The accumulation of information does not equate to spiritual transformation. What does Paul say is actually blocking their transformation and what does that reveal about what transformation requires?

Guide the group to see that the issue is not a lack of knowledge but a heart unwilling to submit to God's truth. True transformation requires more than gaining information. It requires humility, repentance, and allowing God's Word to change the way we live.

3. Verse 12 tells us that if we desire to live a Godly life in Christ that we will be persecuted. How is that intended to encourage and strengthen us through hardships?

Help the group understand that opposition is not always a sign that we are doing something wrong; sometimes it is evidence that we are faithfully following Jesus. Paul reminds Timothy that suffering for Christ is part of the normal Christian life and that God uses it to strengthen our faith and endurance.

What Does it Ask of Us?

1. The sermon described three ways to press through: honoring Christ's Lordship through hardship, staying committed to faith and community, and being anchored to the Word to weather deception and discouragement. Which of those three do you most need to lean into right now? What will it look like?

Encourage people to move from identifying what is true to considering how God is calling them to respond. Help them think practically about how they can keep Christ at the center, remain connected to other believers, and stay rooted in Scripture in their current season.

2. What is one specific thing you sense the gospel calling you to trust God with or do differently this week because of this passage?

End by helping the group identify a clear next step rather than just a takeaway. Encourage responses that involve obedience, dependence on Christ, deeper commitment to God's Word, or a step toward faithfulness in the middle of difficulty.

Weekly Challenge:

Pick one of the four functions of Scripture from verses 16–17 that you tend to avoid — teaching, rebuke, correction, or training. This week, read a passage of Scripture specifically asking God to apply that function to your life. Come back next week ready to share what He showed you and what it required of you.