

Community Groups

Sermon Discussion Guide

June 7th, 2026 | The Book of 2 Timothy

Opening Question:

Think of someone whose faith clearly shaped the way they lived (a parent, grandparent, or mentor). What's one thing about them that stuck with you?

Setting the Scene:

Paul is writing this letter from prison during what is likely his final imprisonment in Rome before his execution. He's writing to Timothy, his closest ministry son, who is leading the church at Ephesus. Timothy was apparently struggling with timidity, possibly tempted to back away from the gospel under pressure. This is Paul's most personal letter. He's not just writing as an apostle giving doctrine, but he's also writing as a father urging his son not to be ashamed of what they both know is true."

Read The Text: Read 2 Timothy 1:1-14 out loud as a group.

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?
2. Paul says God gave us a spirit of power, love, and discipline, not timidity (v. 7). What do you notice about those three words? What's the opposite of each one?
3. The sermon drew a contrast: our default targets (comfort, reputation, possessions, personal goals) versus where faith redirects us (dependence, witness, service, sanctification). Looking at the text, where do you see that contrast showing up in what Paul is asking Timothy to do?

What Does it Mean?

1. Paul says our calling has nothing to do with our works, but it was given "before the ages began." How does remembering that you were chosen before you could earn it change the way you approach suffering or shame for the gospel?"
2. Paul says, "I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced He is able to protect what I have entrusted to Him." What do you think Paul has entrusted to God? What would it mean for you to entrust that same thing?
3. "Is there anything in this passage or in the call to "join Paul in suffering for the gospel" that is genuinely hard to accept? What makes it difficult?

What Does it Ask of Us?

1. Paul tells Timothy to be guided by the gospel and by gospel-guided people, and to guard the gift by the Spirit. Where in your life right now do you most need to "fan into flame" what God has already placed in you?

2. Look at the four default targets from the sermon: comfort, reputation, possessions, personal goals. Which one is most quietly competing with the gospel in your life this season? What would it look like for that area to rest in Christ instead of yourself?
3. What is one specific thing you sense God asking you to trust Him with or do differently this week because of this passage?

Weekly Challenge:

Before the end of this week, have one honest conversation with someone (a friend, spouse, or coworker) where you share something true about your faith that you'd normally keep quiet. Come back next week ready to share how it went.