

STUDY GUIDE



1 TIMOTHY

1 Timothy

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INTRODUCTION

The church is the greatest thing on earth.

Jesus bought the church with his own blood
(Acts 20:28).

Jesus loves the church as his precious bride
(Ephesians 5:25).

Jesus remains with the church through his continued presence (Matthew 18:20; 1 Corinthians 3:16).

Jesus gives his church spiritual gifts and leaders
(Ephesians 4:11-12).

Jesus entrusts his church with the witness of the gospel (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

Jesus pledges his church his unfailing, unlimited power (Matthew 16:18).

Jesus works to perfectly purify and cleanse his church
(Ephesians 5:26-27).

And Jesus will be with his church forever
(Revelation 21:3-4).

The church is at the center of Christ's heart. The church is at the center of the New Testament's picture of the Christian life. The church is at the center of God's plans for this age. And the church is at the center of life eternal with Jesus. If the church is that important to Jesus, it should be that important to us as well.

But that does not mean church is easy. So we need to learn what God's design for His church is today.

That is what the Pastoral Epistles are about. These New Testament letters (1 and 2 Timothy, Titus), written by the apostle Paul, address how a church should behave. Two of these letters were written to a timid young pastor named Timothy, and Paul wanted his protégé to know "how one ought to behave in the household of God" (1 Timothy 3:15).

As we study the letter of 1 Timothy this fall, we will learn much about God's design for his church, and how we ought to live and relate to one another.

My prayer is that through this series, you will come to love the church more and more. That you will learn how to better relate to your brothers and sisters in our church. And, most of all, that you will have greater rejoicing in Jesus by seeing how amazing his love and power really is.

I love you, church. You know what's even better than that? Jesus loves you, church. Let's pursue him together.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

Our prayer is that the Lord will use this study in the life of our church to stir our hearts to rejoice in Christ today, anchored in looking back and looking forward.

In the pages that follow, you will find a series of questions accompanying each week of our sermon series. There will be questions for you to answer based on your own personal study of the text, and further questions to reflect on and discuss in groups.

n order for you to get the most out of this series, we encourage you to read the text and write down your observations before listening to the sermon each Sunday. Devote time in the week leading up to Sunday morning to explore the text for yourself.

You will notice that each week asks the same basic questions:

- What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?
- What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?
- What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?
- What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?
- What is one question you have about this passage?

These questions form a good introductory tactic to studying the Bible. We often rush to application (what it means for my life) without considering what the text really says, and we often read the Bible as if it is primarily about us when it is really about God. So we want you to begin each week by learning about God and the gospel, then by considering what the text says about us, before then moving to what the text calls us to. Remember: application is not simply what we do; application of the Bible is holistic: it is about what we do, say, think, believe, and love.

There will also be opportunities for you to write, and ask, questions that arise during your study. We encourage you to write down these questions, and then share them.

Finally, there are a handful of questions designed to be reflected on and discussed with others. Perhaps your Grace Group will consider discussing them, or maybe you can talk about them with your family, or pull together a small group of trusted friends to walk through this series together with. However it happens, we must remember that Bible study is meant to be done in community.

After each section, you will then find blank pages for additional notes, particularly for note-taking during the sermons. This would allow all of your notes throughout this series, both in personal study and in sermon content, to be together in the same place. If this would be useful, it is there for your benefit.

We pray that this study guide, going along with our weekly sermon series, helps you to grow deeper in understanding and applying the words we will read in Scripture, and that the words you read and the truths you learn will fuel a delight in Jesus Christ that gives you strength to live where the Lord has called you today.

Week 1: August 16, 2026

The Danger Every Church Faces

READ: 1 Timothy 1:1–11

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- Why do you think people are sometimes attracted more to speculations than to the Bible? What examples of this have you seen?
- Why is guarding sound doctrine portrayed as an act of love? How can we be people full of love and truth?
- Is your pursuit of God leading to greater love for Him and for others? If not, why?
- How could this passage help speak into the deconstruction and deconversion trends?
- How can this passage help you keep the gospel central in your life?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 2: August 23, 2026
Christ Saves Sinners!

READ: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- Read about Paul's conversion in Acts 9:1–22. How does that moment influence the way he lived the rest of his life?
- Are you daily amazed at God's grace, or have you taken it for granted? How can this passage help you cultivate gratitude for the gospel?
- How does Paul's story encourage people who might seem "too far gone"? Who do you need to tell about the gospel this week?
- Why are personal testimonies of encountering God's grace so powerful? What is yours?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 3: August 30, 2026

Beware a Shipwrecked Faith

READ: 1 Timothy 1:18-20

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- Why do you think Paul tells us about Hymenaeus and Alexander? What are we meant to learn from their example?
- What is the benefit of handing them over to Satan? What emotions does this kind of talk bring up in you?
- Why are faith and conscience joined together as the two aspects we should not reject? Does this surprise you?
- What lessons can you learn from these verses about how to avoid making “shipwreck” of your faith?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 4: September 6, 2026

A Praying Church

READ: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- Make a list of what Paul says we ought to pray for. Does anything about this list surprise you?
- How does this list line up with, or challenge, your own prayer lists?
- Why do you think Paul connects prayer with evangelism and missions in this passage?
- What hinders your prayer life the most? How can you grow to better prioritize prayer?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 5: September 13, 2026

Women in the Church

READ: 1 Timothy 2:8-15

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- When you read this passage, what emotions, questions, or concerns does it immediately bring up?
- Is it possible to both equally affirm the dignity of men and women and believe there are different roles for men and women? Why, or why not?
- What does Paul say in this passage to men? To women? How do these instructions challenge you today?
- How can you honor and celebrate the gifts of your sisters at Grace?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 6: September 20, 2026

How a Church is Led, Part 1: Godly Elders

READ: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- Think about a pastor who greatly influenced you. What about him was impactful to you?
- Paul says this is a noble task. Why is that? Do you view leadership in the church the same way, or not?
- Most of these qualifications are about character rather than skill. What should this teach us about God's priorities for leadership?
- These qualifications are good for all to strive toward, Elder or not. Which do you most want to grow in? What steps can you take toward that growth?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 7: September 27, 2026

How a Church is Led, Part 2: Godly Deacons

READ: 1 Timothy 3:8-13

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- Think of a person you admire who served the church faithfully “behind the scenes”. What did you learn from them? How did their example impact you?
- What similarities do you observe with the list for Elders? What differences? What is significant about these differences?
- Read Acts 6:1–7. What two priorities do you see? How might this help us better understand the roles of Elders and Deacons?
- What is one qualification you see listed here that you would like to grow in? How can you take steps toward that growth?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 8: October 4, 2026
What is the church?

READ: 1 Timothy 3:14-16

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- If someone asked you to describe what the church is, how would you respond?
- What descriptions of the church does Paul give in these verses? What are these meant to teach us?
- What difference(s) does it make viewing the church primarily as a family rather than an organization?
- Why is it important that the church is sent on mission?
- What does verse 16 teach us about Jesus? How can you share these truths with someone this week?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 9: October 11, 2026

How to depart from the faith

READ: 1 Timothy 4:1-5

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- Have you seen someone who once professed faith walk away from it? What did you observe in his/her life that led to it?
- What are some reasons given in this passage for a person falling away from the faith? How should this caution us?
- Why is there such a temptation to add to God's Word? How can we guard against this?
- How does a person grow in wisdom and discernment?
- How can you enjoy God's good gifts without idolizing them?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 10: October 18, 2026

How to persevere in the faith

READ: 1 Timothy 4:6-16

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- What do you spend time training in? How can a person actually train for godliness?
- Faithfulness in both life and doctrine matters greatly. What growth have you seen in your life that encourages you?
- What growth have you seen in the lives of a fellow brother or sister? Make it a point to tell them this week.
- Who is watching your example? How can you influence them toward godliness?
- Paul lists five areas to set an example for others in: speech, conduct, faith, love, and purity (v.12). Which do you most want to grow in?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 11: October 25, 2026
A family of love

READ: 1 Timothy 5:1-16

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- How does understanding the church as a family shape the way you see others? The way you prioritize them? The way you care for them?
- How does this passage call the different generations to relate to one another? How can you grow in this?
- How can you develop healthy relationships with brothers and sisters in the church?
- Who in our church do you see needing greater care, help, and or encouragement? What can you do this week to meet those needs?
- Who has been like a spiritual family to you? Tell them, and thank them, this week.

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 12: November 1, 2026
How a church cares for their pastor

READ: 1 Timothy 5:17-25

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- Which pastor(s) have made a significant impact in your life? What did they do that was so meaningful? If they are still living, and you are able, send them a note this week thanking them.
- Do you tend to give church leaders too much or too little trust? Why is that?
- What pastoral responsibilities does Paul highlight in this passage? How should we respond to them?
- How can a church love, care for, and encourage their pastors and leaders?
- How can you pray for your leaders?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 13: November 8, 2026

The value of humility

READ: 1 Timothy 6:1-2

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- How are we supposed to interpret a passage that was written when slavery was very prevalent? What challenges does this present?
- How does the gospel change relationships? What evidences should be seen in how we treat others?
- Why do you think Paul connects honoring employers (masters) with witness for the gospel? What does your work say about what you believe?
- Are you are tempted to cut corners or give less than your best at work? How do you avoid this?
- How can you grow to more reflect and witness to Christ through your work?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 14: November 15, 2026
The value of contentment

READ: 1 Timothy 6:3-10

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- How can you know if you have an unhealthy craving for controversy and quarrels (v.4)?
- Everyone wants more money, so what does Paul mean by the desire to be rich (v.9)? Why is the love of money the root of all kinds of evil (v.10)?
- What is biblical contentment? Where is it hardest for you to practice contentment?
- How can you grow to be more content in God and His provision?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 15: November 22, 2026

The value of perseverance

READ: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- Paul lists things to flee and things to pursue as a Christian. Why are both important?
- What temptations do you need to flee today?
- What godliness do you need to pursue today?
- What truths about Jesus most encouraged you from this passage?
- How does this passage help and encourage you to persevere in the faith?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Week 16: November 29, 2026

The value of generosity

READ: 1 Timothy 6:17–21

What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about the gospel?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about yourself?

What is one thing this passage teaches you about how God commands you to live?

What is one question you have about this passage?

Questions for Further Reflection and Discussion:

- Why can wealth be a particular temptation to put our hopes in? What other things are we tempted to hope in today?
- What does the way you use your money reveal about your priorities?
- How can you be generous with what you have this week?
- How does remembering eternity shape the way we live today?
- How can you guard the gospel deposit that has been entrusted to you?

Sermon Notes:

Text:

Title:

Preacher:

Notes:



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