

Introducing Project 20 : 1 Timothy

1. INTRODUCTION
Over the next year we are going to be unpacking 20 verses in 1 Timothy chapter 1. Get yourself a journal and get ready to go deep into one chapter with so much in it! Before we watch the video 'What do you know about Timothy'?
2. WATCH
Watch this short video clip.
3. READ
Have spare Bibles available but this intro does not have a specific passage.
4. DISCUSS
Questions:
What details strike you about Timothy's background – where he was from, family, culture etc?
Read Acts 14:6-22 – This is where Timothy's mother, grandmother and Timothy became Christians – in Lystra on Paul's first missionary journey. Read Acts 16:1-2 – 3-4 years have since passed so how important do you believe verse 2 was to Paul and why?
Timothy was a strong disciple – what key ingredients make us grow strong in our faith in Jesus?
Paul had many 'sons' in the faith - Philemon 1:10, Titus 1:4, 1 Cor 4:14-15, 2 Timothy 2:1. How important is it to have spiritual fathers and mothers and what does that relationship look like?
We are all called to 'make disciples' as commanded by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20. We should therefore all have 'Timothy's' we are mentoring. How important is this to you?
Timothy is appointed the Pastor of the Ephesian Church, what topics does Paul cover in 1 Timothy for Timothy to address and are these issues relevant in the church today?
Timothy proved faithful and consistent as a disciple – to lead anything in your life eg marriage, parenting, career, ministries etc what other qualities do we need as disciples?
Timothy was around 30 years of age when Paul was writing 1 Timothy – do you think age matters in what we do for Jesus in the church?
Hand out Appendix A to the group – please read this before our next study so you really know who Timothy was. Next time we will start with verse 1!
5. Over to you... (personal application)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you find challenging in this study? • Is there anything the Holy Spirit is highlighting that you need to work on after this study? • Make a decision – let's not just be those who hear God's word but those who live it out. Make a decision based on this study of how you are going to walk this teaching out personally. • We are going to spend the next few months unpacking exactly what 1 Timothy chapter one teaches us. Read 1 Timothy chapter 1:1 before the next study and get yourself a journal ready for questions and thoughts as we study it.

Appendix A

Who was Timothy - Article by Melanie Newton

Timothy was a teenager when he met Paul. His family lived in Lystra (modern day Turkey) so he was a Galatian. His father was a Greek man; we know nothing of his faith. But, Timothy's mum and grandmother were faithful Jewish women who taught the Old Testament scriptures to this boy they loved so much (Acts 16:1-2 Timothy 1:5). As the women heard Paul preach, they believed in Jesus, and so did Timothy. Timothy may have seen Paul heal a lame man in his town. That would have been exciting! He may also have watched as an angry mob threw stones at Paul and left him for dead (Acts 14:8-20). Yet, he also knew Paul survived. When Paul came back to Lystra a couple of years later on his second journey, Paul invited Timothy to travel with him.

Timothy helped Paul to establish churches at Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea (Acts 16:1 – 17:14). When Paul left Berea to go to Athens he left Timothy and Silas behind, but later sent word for them to join him (Acts 17:13-15). Timothy was sent to Thessalonica to strengthen the faith of believers there (1 Thessalonians 3:1-2).

Timothy was a trustworthy friend who carried money collected by the Philippian church to care for Paul's needs in Corinth. During the 3 years Paul was in Ephesus teaching them about the amazing power of God, Timothy was there, too. When Paul was imprisoned in Rome for two years, Timothy was right alongside him much of the time unselfishly taking care of Paul's needs. By now, Timothy was a young man of about 30 who for at least 13 years had been learning how to teach about Jesus and serve God's people well as he watched Paul do it. Paul thought of Timothy not only as a very faithful friend but also as his spiritual son.

After Paul's release from prison in Rome, Timothy and Paul travelled to visit friends in the churches they had founded. When they got to Ephesus, Paul recognized some men in the church were teaching error about Jesus saying that Jesus could not have been a man and God at the same time. Paul wanted to go on to visit his friends in Macedonia, but he didn't want to leave the Ephesian church in turmoil. So, he left Timothy to teach truth to the church there while Paul went on to Macedonia. As an "apostolic representative, Timothy had the authority to order worship (1 Timothy 2:1-15) and appoint elders and deacons (1 Timothy 3:1-3). Paul thought he'd get back to Ephesus soon, but that didn't happen. He was concerned about what was going on in Ephesus, so he wrote Timothy the letter called 1st Timothy around AD 63-64 from Rome or Macedonia.

Six of Paul's letters include Timothy in the greetings. The most tender and moving of Paul's letters was his last one to Timothy. He was a prisoner in a Roman dungeon when he wrote 2 Timothy, approximately AD 67. He knew he had a short time to live, so the letter is his spiritual last will and testament – his "dying wish" – to encourage Timothy and to request that Timothy join him during his final days of imprisonment (2 Timothy 1:4; 4:9, 21). According to Foxe's Book of Martyrs, which was written several centuries later (originally published in 1563), Timothy remained in Ephesus until AD 97. During a pagan celebration of a feast called "Catagogian," Timothy severely reproved the people in the procession for their ridiculous idolatry. This antagonized the partygoers who beat him with clubs "in so dreadful a manner that he died of the injuries two days later."