

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2 Timothy 2:1-13

QUESTION 1

Begin this time by reading the scripture out loud in your group. **2 Timothy 2:1-13** **You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.** ² **And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.** ³ **Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.** ⁴ **No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.** ⁵ **Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.** ⁶ **The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.** ⁷ **Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.** ⁸ **Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,** ⁹ **for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.** ¹⁰ **Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.** ¹¹ **Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him;** ¹² **if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us;** ¹³ **if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.** Each member of the group, please share one thing that stands out to you from the scripture.

QUESTION 2

The first verse contains a common theme of the New Testament. God strengthens His people. **2 Timothy 2:1** **You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.** As we who follow Christ become weary and burdened, we can know that God desires to strengthen us. In this verse, we also see that we have a role. God's strength does not immediately appear. We are to do what is necessary to **be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.** Tell the story of a time when God strengthened you. Share with your group from your experience what you believe is your role in receiving strength from God.

QUESTION 3

In this section of scripture, Paul uses three everyday examples to teach about the Christian life. ³ **Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.** ⁴ **No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.** ⁵ **Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.** ⁶ **The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.** ⁷ **Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.**

Process the scripture together as a group. Share what immediately jumps out to you. Talk briefly about the invitation to suffer. Take a moment to reflect on how soldiers, athletes, and farmers inspire authentic Christian living.

QUESTION 4

Verses eight through 10 calls us to a deeper understanding of Paul's ministry. ⁸ **Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,** ⁹ **for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.** ¹⁰ **Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.** I find these verses inspiring. What in these verses inspires you? How might these verses affect your view of suffering?

QUESTION 5

Paul ends this section with what he calls a trustworthy saying. Many believe this was an ancient creed that was spoken aloud in first-century church services. Let's examine it together: ¹¹ **Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him;** ¹² **if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us;** ¹³ **if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.** What do you make of this trustworthy saying? Discuss as a group each of the four couplets.