

life group study guide

CORE VALUES: TRUTH



Week 1: February 5 - CORE VALUE - Truth | Family Central Sunday

2 Timothy 4:1-5, John 8:31-32

Bottom Line: We are to teach and live out the Truth of God's Word.

Items needed: white board, markers (or large poster board), pens/paper

Get Started:

Imagine that you were writing the final part of a letter to someone you've led to Christ. Of course, there are a million things you'd like to say, but it's time to close and sign off. What final instructions would you leave for today's disciple?

Depending on time, you can have individuals share verbally, or give them a piece of paper and have them write a final paragraph or two. As time allows, have several of them share their thoughts.

Get the Scoop:

Paul was in just such a position, as he closed out his second letter to Timothy. His personal charge to Timothy spans 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8. Take a moment to read 3:14-4:8.

As a group, make a list of all of the directives Paul gives to Timothy in this passage. (Write on whiteboard.)

Before returning to Heaven, Jesus commanded his disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20.) We can look at Paul's charge to Timothy as a detailed description of how to carry out the "Great Commission" found in Matthew 28.

Dig In:

The call to live out God's word; teach, preach, equip, encourage, disciple – is not only for the "professionals" – the pastors, missionaries, Bible college professors – but for each and every one of us who identify ourselves in Christ.

Read John 8:31-32.

Q: How can we know whether/not we are His disciples?

Q: What will the TRUTH do for us?

Look again at 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

Q: What did Paul predict, in vs. 3-5, when he said, "For the time will come?"

Q: How do we see this in today's culture?

Q: What is to be our response to just such occurrences? (Vs. 2, 5.)

Let's look at each one of those directives and personalize it for ourselves. (depending on group size, you may break into smaller groups of 3-4 to discuss how each of these would look for us individually.)

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4:2: Preach the Word – what does that look like for you?

4:2: Be prepared in season and out of season (*be ready to serve in any situations – regardless of convenience. Be aware of the opportunities God's placed before you. Henry Blackaby wrote a powerful Bible study several years ago, called "Experience God". One of the things I still remember learning is that God is ALWAYS at work around us. It's up to us to notice and join His working. It's not going to be convenient or easy – but it's a charge we're given as children of God.*

Q: Where do you see God at work around you? Have you been hesitant to join Him b/c of inconvenience, fear, etc.?

Q: What's holding you back?

4:2: Correct, rebuke, encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. - What does correction/rebuking/encouraging mean? When are correcting/rebuking appropriate? Notice that Paul encourages Timothy to temper correction/rebuke with great patience and careful instruction. Patience – that's pretty easy to define – though difficult to do.

Q: What do you think "careful instruction" means?

Q: How would you carry that out today?

4:5: Keep your head in all situations – one way to look at this would be to make sure you're morally alert to temptation, resistant to pressure, and vigilant when facing large responsibilities. (Take time to explain that definition, if you need to.)

Q: Where do you find it hardest to keep your head?

Q: What safeguards can you put in place to make sure you're alert and aware in those situations?

4:5: Endure hardship

4:5: Do the work of an evangelist

Take It Home

We've been encouraged today to be ready to teach the Word, correct/rebuke, and encourage, keep our heads, and live lives that are worthy of the calling (enduring hardship, do the work of the evangelist, etc.)

Q: Which of these is the easiest for you?

Q: Which of these has been missing in your Christian walk?

Q: Why?

Q: What is your next best step in applying these charges?

Q: Which will you work on this week?

Q: Who will you ask to help/keep you accountable?

Prayer time

Break into smaller groups, 2-4, to share their next best step and pray for strength, direction in getting it done.

Encourage individuals that if they feel like they're ready to go to the next step in their own personal study, in sharing, etc., that you're willing to help them – or connect them with someone who can.