

# Life Group Homework

For the week of May 21, 2017

## MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) Did you do anything with last week's four decisions: I will **start**, **stop**, **stay** and **go**? If so, what?

## QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

## DIGGING DEEPER

Read the following verses and passage from a commentary.

### *Acts 16:1-3*

*Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek.<sup>2</sup> Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium,<sup>3</sup> so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey*

### A Summary of Paul and Timothy

from *The Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*

**TIMOTHY** Personal name meaning "honoring God." Friend and trusted coworker of Paul. When Timothy was a child, his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois taught him the Scriptures (*2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15*). A native of Lystra, he may have been converted on Paul's first missionary journey (*Acts 14:6-23*). Paul referred to Timothy as his child in the faith (*1 Cor. 4:17; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2*). This probably means that Paul was instrumental in Timothy's conversion. When Paul came to Lystra on his second journey, Timothy was a disciple who was well respected by the believers (*Acts 16:1-2*). Paul asked Timothy to accompany him. Timothy's father was a Greek, and Timothy had not been circumcised. Because they would be ministering to many Jews and because Timothy's mother was Jewish, Paul had Timothy circumcised (*Acts 16:3*).

Timothy not only accompanied Paul but also was sent on many crucial missions by Paul (*Acts 17:14-15; 18:5; 19:22; 20:4; Rom. 16:21; 1 Cor. 16:10; 2 Cor. 1:19; 1 Thess. 3:2, 6*). For example, when Paul was unable to go to Corinth, he sent Timothy to represent Paul and his teachings (*1 Cor. 4:17*). Later when Paul was in prison, he sent Timothy to Philippi (*Phil. 2:19*). Paul felt that no one had any more compassion and commitment than Timothy (*Phil. 2:20-22*).

So close were Paul and Timothy that both names are listed as the authors of six of Paul's letters (*2 Cor. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:1; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1; Philem. 1*). In addition, Paul wrote two letters to Timothy (*1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2*). As Paul's ministry neared the end, he challenged Timothy to remain true to his calling (*1 Tim. 1:18*). As Paul faced death, he asked Timothy to come to be with him (*2 Tim. 4:9*). At some point in his life, Timothy was imprisoned, but he was released.

- 4) Who was Timothy's mentor?
- 5) Why was Paul and Timothy's relationship significant?

### *Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)*

*<sup>17</sup>As iron sharpens iron,  
so a friend sharpens a friend.*

- 6) How was Paul and Timothy's relationship a good example of this verse?

### *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)*

*<sup>9</sup>Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. <sup>10</sup>If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. <sup>11</sup>Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? <sup>12</sup>A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*

- 7) What is the main theme or idea of this passage, and why is it important?
- 8) Would it be accurate to describe Paul and Timothy's friendship like the one above?
- 9) Who do you have in your life that is like Paul? Someone who is farther down the road in their spiritual journey?

## TAKING IT HOME

In the previous verses, we discussed the importance of connection with someone farther on in their walk with Christ. Paul and Timothy shared this kind of friendship, and we can assume Timothy as a young pastor did the same for others. Answer the following questions:

- 10) Have you ever found it hard to make close friends in the Church? If so, why?
- 11) Do you have a mentor? If so, what is that friendship like?
- 12) If you are farther along in your walk, do you mentor others? If so, what is that friendship like?

If you struggled to answer the previous questions, be encouraged. God made us to be in relationships with others, and His desire is for you to have those close personal friends you can walk with.

- 13) Here is a challenge this week. Seek out someone you would like to be your mentor and ask them for coffee, or call your mentor if you already have one. Pray and ask God to bring the right person into your life. He will. It's time to **start, stay, or go** find friends following Jesus. Maybe it's time to **stop** an unhealthy relationship.

### CHAIR TIME TOOL

This week read 1 & 2 Timothy and answer the following questions.

- 1) How did Paul view Timothy?
- 2) What is the tone and theme of his letters?
- 3) What does God want you to do with the friendships you have in your life?

## The LONG and the SHORT of it.

*It's Time to Agree with God*

*(Series inspired by Craig Groeschel's book "Divine Direction")*

### Week 4

*Pastor Craig Sweeney*

#### Simple decisions that WILL change the direction of your life:

1. I will START...
2. I will STOP...
3. I will STAY...
4. I will GO...

#### **Sociologists acknowledge 3 types of poverty that plague us:**

- **Material** poverty...(Lack of basic needs)
- **Spiritual** poverty...(Lack of eternal meaning)
- **Relational** Poverty...(Lack of intimate friendships)

*"the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone." (Gen 2:18)*

- The average American has **2** close friends.
- **80 million** Americans report having no close friendships.

#### **ONE MAIN THOUGHT:** The Long and the Short of it is...I need **Connection**.

*"Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer but his father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup> Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium, <sup>3</sup> so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey." (Acts 16:1-2)*

#### 5. I will **Connect**...

- To **GOD**

*"This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all." (1 Tim 1:15)*

- To friendship for **FRIENDSHIP'S** sake.
- To mentors for **VULNERABILITY**.

*"This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. <sup>16</sup> But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. <sup>17</sup> All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God." (1 Tim 1:15-17)*

#### Change your thinking:

#### Change your doing: