

2 Timothy

Lesson 2 Leader Notes – 2 Timothy 2:1-13

To Begin ...

1. Share about your first job or your favorite job. Tell the group where you worked, what you did, how long you worked for that employer, why you left, if you'd ever work for that employer again, etc.

Hey Life Group Leaders! Welcome to Week 2 of our new Life Group Video Series, through the New Testament book of 2 Timothy! We hope that this series will be uplifting, challenging, and help you find your next step in your journey with God!

You have seven questions based the video lesson and scripture passage this week! Remember that these Leader Notes are to serve as a guide for further and deepening conversation with your Life Group, not as the answers! Enjoy this week's discussion and always remember to ask an extra question such as "Why do you believe that?" to draw out some more conversation from your group members!

To start off this lesson, you have one question that everyone in your group should be able to answer. It is personal, but you should have fun with it! Please make sure that your group feels the safety of sharing within the group. There is no right or wrong answer here. No snap judgments or quick fixes. And as always, be encouraging and show grace as your group members are working through their salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**).

Discussion Prompts

1. Share either something you learned or a belief you had reinforced from the video discussion.

This is a question that everyone in your group should be able to answer. Maybe this is something that made you think, or that you possibly disagreed with? Why do you disagree and what is your biblical interpretation to support your opinion? This is great for discussion and a healthy back and forth conversation.

2. In **2 Timothy 2:2**, Paul instructs Timothy to pass on his teachings and faith to other people. Who are you currently mentoring, teaching, and/or setting an example for? What are you specifically doing to invest in them? If you aren't pouring into anyone, who in your life could you spiritually leading?

2 Timothy 2:2 reads, *"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."*

This is another question that everyone in your group should be able to answer because it is asking for your experiences. This may be difficult for some people to talk through because they do not feel like they are doing enough or feel like they are not ready to invest in someone in this manner. However, if the church were to consistently follow this advice, it would expand geometrically as well-taught believers would teach others and commission them, in turn, to teach still others. Disciples need to be equipped to pass on their faith; our work is not done until new believers are able to make disciples of others. Remember please, no snap judgments or quick fixes. And as always, be encouraging and show grace as your group members are working through their salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**).

3. Paul invites Timothy to suffer with him (**2 Timothy 2:3**).

- Why might we not be excited to answer YES to Paul's invitation?
- What happens when people answer NO to suffering for Jesus?
- What is the result when individuals answer YES to suffering for Jesus?

2 Timothy 2:3 reads, *“Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”*

As Timothy preached and taught, he would face suffering, but he should be able to endure. Paul used a comparison with soldiers, athletes, and farmers who must discipline themselves and be willing to sacrifice to achieve the results they want. Endurance through suffering takes effort, is rarely fun, and is often quite difficult. Sometimes the suffering lasts much longer than we feel we are able to bear, yet God gives us the gift of longsuffering; long and patient endurance of injury, trouble, or provocation. This is an actual fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**). The ability to suffer long is necessary if one wishes to follow Jesus and carry their cross as he did. Anyone who says NO to suffering for Jesus will miss out on blessings that come from faithful obedience to his call in their life. Although they may not seem like blessings at the time, God brings about good things even from negative situations. Beware of the temptation to engage in the Christian life like a kind of absentee landlord, expecting the benefits without having to do any of the hard work. By the same token, if you want rewards, get on with the work. We will see that our suffering is worthwhile when we achieve our goal of glorifying God, winning people to Christ, and one day living eternally with him.

4. Through the metaphor of a soldier (**2 Timothy 2:3-4**), Paul emphasizes the need for believers to be DEVOTED to Jesus. According to **verses 3-4**, what are the characteristics of a good soldier? What does it look like for believers to be devoted to Jesus as soldiers are devoted to their commander?

2 Timothy 2:3-4 reads, *“Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.”*

Some answers to this question may include that like soldiers, we have to give up worldly security and endure rigorous discipline. We must be willing to obey our commander and do what he/she is instructing us to do regardless of how we feel. Often times the commanding officer has a greater perspective to be able to see more than the soldiers can. The soldier must lead a life of discipline and obedience, focused on certain key operations, and the soldier mustn't get distracted or sidetracked. The Christian is called into cheerful confrontation with the world that resists the gospel, and mustn't look for easier activities on the side which would keep him or her busy but not embody the cutting edge and challenge of the gospel.

5. Drawing from **2 Timothy 2:3-7**, which of the following do you struggle with the most— the devoted soldier, the honest athlete, or the hard-working farmer? What can you do to grow in that specific area?

2 Timothy 2:3-7 reads, *“Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.”*

This is another question that everyone in your group should be able to answer because it is asking for your honest opinions of yourself. It may help to recall some of what was said in the video, as this question was asked of the group and several responses were shared. There is no right or wrong answer here. Remember please, no snap judgments or quick fixes. And as always, be encouraging and show grace as your group members are working through their salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**).

6. Read **2 Timothy 2:8-10**. Holocaust survivor and psychiatrist Viktor Frankl writes, “In some ways suffering ceases to be suffering at the moment it

finds a meaning, such as the meaning of a sacrifice.” How does this quote correlate with **verses 8-10**? How has suffering served a greater purpose in your life?

2 Timothy 2:8-10 reads, *“Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God’s word is not chained. 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.”*

Some answers may include that knowing that the end justifies the means, especially in this particular case, makes the task of suffering a little easier. Most anyone who has fairly earned and won a major award, medal, trophy, championship title would say that their suffering through training and a disciplined lifestyle would say that it was worth the trouble to reach the top. Although the suffering that many Christians throughout history have endured is not met with cheers and adoration from millions of adoring fans, we have a loving God of the universe who wants a relationship with us here and now, and he desires to spend eternity with us at his side. That is far greater than any earthly praise.

7. **2 Timothy 2:11-13** is one of Paul’s trustworthy sayings. What patterns do you notice in these verses? How do these verses relate to what Paul wrote in **verses 1-10**? How might these verses encourage you during challenging seasons of life?

2 Timothy 2:11-13 reads, *“Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.”*

Some answers may include that the pattern suggests that it is our choice to win with Christ or to die alone. He remains faithful even if we are not. If we obey and endure, we live and reign with him! Only if we reject him, does he release us to

our own will and outcome. This little hymn is a summation of the first 10 verses of chapter 2. Paul found comfort in these concepts even when he was in chains, in a dark and wretched prison waiting to be executed. Paul knew that he had trained and ran his race well. He was obedient to his commander. He had worked hard and patiently waited for the harvest. Paul's circumstances seem far worse than any that we have faced and he was able to find comfort and peace. What do you think about that?

Remember to ask for prayer requests and close your group in prayer. Encourage one another to take steps, regardless of how small, toward Jesus and his kingdom.

Personal Reflection & Deeper Study for this Week:

1. Each day this week, read 2 Timothy 2:1-13 twice a day in a different Bible version. You can also listen to 2 Timothy 2:1-13 in different Bible versions on the *YouVersion* Bible app.
2. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:3 and/or 2 Timothy 2:11-13.
3. Read Paul's trustworthy sayings – 1 Timothy 1:15; 3:1; 4:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:11-13; and Titus 3:8 ... Now, process the following questions and write out your answers:
 - Which of these sayings is your favorite? Why?
 - In what ways are these sayings alike?
 - How are these sayings different?
 - What is the context for each of these sayings?
 - What was Paul writing about before and after the trustworthy saying?

4. This week, spend a lot of time reflecting on who you are spiritually leading or who you need to be spiritually mentoring. Ask yourself questions like:

- What have I taught them so far?
- Currently, what are they struggling with?
- What do I need to teach them (or what example do I need to set for them) so they can face that particular struggle?
- How can I best encourage them?
- How can I be generous towards them?