

## 2 Timothy

### Lesson 2 Leader Notes – 2 Timothy 2:14-25

#### To Begin ...

1. What are one or two prized possessions in your house (you can't name people). Why are these items important to you?

Hey Life Group Leaders! Welcome to **Week 3** 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 one takeaway 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. What are some effective ways to prevent foolish talk and divisive arguments (**2 Timothy 2:14, 16, 23-24**)?

**2 Timothy 2:14** reads, *“Keep reminding God’s people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.”*

**2 Timothy 2:16** reads, *“Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.”*

**2 Timothy 2:23-24** reads, *“Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.”*

Some answers to this question may include that according to these verses, Paul states that quarreling about words brings no value and only ruins those who listen. Godless chatter becomes more and more ungodly ... one would assume bringing ruin as well. Again, quarrels and arguments are stupid and foolish!! Paul doubled up on this strong language. He clearly does not take this kind of talk lightly because he has seen the damage that it causes. False teachers loved to cause strife and divisions by their meaningless quibbling over unimportant details. To handle the word of truth correctly, we must study what the word of God says so we can understand what it means.

3. How might spiritual laziness and half-heartedness about the gospel cause one to mishandle or distort God's Word?

Some answers to this question may include that laziness or half-heartedness would cause misunderstanding of Jesus' teachings and Paul's instructions on how to follow those teachings. These false teachings take words out of context and fill in with opinions or maybe even political agenda. These may seem like small ways of mishandling Scripture, but they really cause a great deal of discord. False teachers still spout lies. Some distort the truth, some dilute it, and some simply delete it by saying that God's truth no longer applies. But no matter how many people follow the liars, the solid foundation of God's truth never changes, is never shaken, and will never fade. When we follow God's truth, he will never forsake us.

4. Read **2 Timothy 2:14-16, 22-26**. How does Paul describe false teachers? What things does Paul instruct Timothy to do?

**2 Timothy 2:14** reads, *"Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly."*

**2 Timothy 2:22-26** reads, *"Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."*

Some answers to this question may include that false teachers spout lies, distort and dilute the truth, even deleting it by saying God's truth does not apply. As a

teacher, Timothy helped those who were confused about the truth. Paul's advice to Timothy, and to all who teach God's truth, is to be kind and gentle, patiently and courteously explaining the truth. Good teaching never promotes quarrels or foolish arguments. Whether you are teaching, leading a Life Group, or preaching, remember to listen to people's questions and treat them respectfully, while avoiding foolish debates. If you do this, those who oppose you will be more willing to hear what you have to say and perhaps turn from their error. God will examine the kind of workers we have been for him and we should build our lives on his word, and build his word into our lives. We cannot shape the doctrines of Scripture to match our opinions. If we do, we are putting ourselves above God. Instead, our beliefs should be consistent with God's word. Paul urged Timothy to be the kind of person that Christ could use for his noblest purposes. Don't settle for less than God's highest and best. Allow God to use you as an instrument of his will.

5. **Revelation 2:1-7** indicates that false teaching infiltrated the church in Ephesus about 25-30 years after Paul wrote 2 Timothy. According to **Revelation 2:1-7**, how did false teaching negatively impact the church in Ephesus?

**Revelation 2:1-7** reads, *"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.*

*Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

*Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."*

Some answers to this question may include that they had forsaken the gospel and fallen away from the teachings they first learned and took to heart. Although they did not tolerate wicked people, their fire had gone out. They had lost sight of the seriousness of sin, and began to lose the thrill of forgiveness. For Jesus to "remove your lampstand" would mean that the church would cease to be an effective church. He warned them that their lights would go out ... and that Jesus himself would actually extinguish any light that did not fulfill its purpose unless the church repented of its sins.

6. How do we "cleanse ourselves" so we might be holy and useful for the Lord's good work (**2 Timothy 2:21**)?

**2 Timothy 2:21** reads, *"Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work."*

Some answers may include that Paul urged Timothy to be the kind of person Christ could use for his noblest purposes. Don't settle for less than God's highest and best. Allow God to use you as an instrument of his will. Take aim at the best possible ideal, Jesus, and make every effort to align yourself to his will. Anything less is misguided attempts at the less than ideal. Even if you come up short in your aim to follow Jesus, it's still better than aiming somewhere else.

7. In **2 Timothy 2:14-26**, we notice a paradox — God grows our faith while holding us responsible for developing our faith. How do you explain this paradox? How can both be true at the same time?

**2 Timothy 2:14-26** reads, *“Keep reminding God’s people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”*

*In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”*

Some answers may include that we must take an active role in our spiritual maturity. We must take up our cross and follow him (**Luke 9:23-26**); we must work out our salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**); offer yourself completely to God and do not conform to the world but be transformed in heart and mind (**Romans 12:1-2**). Basically, we must put ourselves in a position so that the Holy Spirit will work on our hearts and minds, transforming us from the inside out into the human beings we were created to be and live the life that Jesus intended us to live. We are responsible for our faith, but we must recognize that we are powerless to actually transform ourselves. This is a perfect example of God’s work in a willing person who puts aside selfish gain to seek the Lord and his righteousness first, and then all else will be given to that person (**Matthew 6:33**).

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 2:14-26** twice a day in a different Bible version. You can also listen to **2 Timothy 2:14-26** in different Bible versions on the *YouVersion* Bible app.
2. Memorize **2 Timothy 2:22** and/or **2 Timothy 2:25-26**.
3. Read **Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Corinthians 11:12-15; 2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-22; and 1 John 4:1-3**. Make a list of how these passages describe false teachers, what false teachers do, and what will happen to false teachers.
4. After reading the verses associated with each of the three aspects of **2 Timothy 2:19** listed below, write down what you believe the verse means.
  - Firm foundation- read **1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Timothy 3:15**
  - The Lord knows those who are his - read **Numbers 16 (especially verse 5)** and **Jude 11**
  - Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness - read **Numbers 16:26-32** and **Isaiah 52:11**