



ORDINARY.



Good Shepherd
Sermon-Based Study Guide

Paul & Timothy | August 31, 2025

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I. Introduction to this Study

In the final week of our series, *Ordinary*, we are diving into Paul's second letter to Timothy. This is one of Paul's last letters he writes and he is writing an exhortation to Timothy about his current life situation.

Timothy was the son of a Jewish mother and a Greek father. He was raised in the faith by his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois. Timothy was a co-worker with Paul on his second missionary journey. He joined Paul and Silas after Paul and Barnabas had split after their first missionary journey together due to the discrepancy over Mark. Although Timothy was his coworker, Paul refers to Timothy as his "beloved child" (2 Tim. 1:2). At this time, Timothy is a young leader responding to false teachers in the church at Ephesus.

II. Connecting with One Another

- **Reflect:** Take a moment to reflect on a "turbulent" season in your life. Maybe it was a season in your youth and young adulthood. The season of early marriage or marriage difficulties? The seasons of dryness or lack of emotion / passion in faith? The seasons of wrestling with God? The season of being an empty nester? The seasons of uncertainty?
- **Think:** Who was someone that was impactful in that particular season of your life? How were they present with you?
- **Share:** Discuss with each other about that season and share how that person walked with you in that season.

**If you struggle to think of someone, talk about a person you would have liked to have been there. What would you hope for or desire in a person during that season?*

III. Study the Text – 2 Timothy 3:10-17

- Before jumping into our specified passage this week, spend some time alone this week and read through the entire letter of 2 Timothy in one sitting (yes, one sitting). Pay attention to the flow of the letter and the topics in each section and how they lead up to what Paul says in the end of chapter 3. Also, reflect on the final chapter of the letter and how it closes our specified passage.
- If you had to break up the passage into 3 or 4 sections, what verses would they include? What is Paul's focus in each section?



- In the ESV, verse 14 states, “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, **knowing from whom you learned it.**” In light of the topic of persecution, what is the significance of this last part? How are you personally convicted by Paul drawing Timothy’s attention to look to the people who taught him the Scriptures?
- How do verses 16-17 give us insight into the Christian life? What should be our approach in our solitude time with God? What do these verses reveal about our constant growth in our life of faith?

IV. Digging Deeper

In the beginning of our scripture reading, we immediately see Paul referencing back to his first missionary journey and his experiences in those different cities.

- In verses 10 - 13, Paul is referring back to part of his first missionary journey (Acts 13:13–14:23). Read through these persecutions Paul experienced in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra.
 - What is Paul’s response after almost being stoned to death in Lystra?
 - What does his response in Lystra say about his personal transformation in Christ, his motivation, and his personal convictions?
 - How does Paul’s example of faith lay the foundation for his mentorship with Timothy?

As we read into chapter 4, we see that Paul is fighting persecution. At this time, Paul is writing to Timothy from prison.

- What does this say about mentorship?
- Why do we wrestle with the idea that we need to “master” something in order to mentor someone else?
- Like Paul, how can we mentor from a place of weakness, rather than a place of “mastery.”

V. Prayer

Spend time personally and within your group praying about:

- *Ask the Lord, “How has my own personal transformation in You, Lord, affected my actions? How do my actions this week reflect my heart? Am I living out of my convictions or lack thereof?”*
- *Talk with God: “Father, where am I weak? Is there an opportunity to walk with someone else in my weakness?”*
- *Rest: Spend 10 minutes just being in the presence of your Heavenly Father. What is it like to simply be in His presence? Not fixing, Not doing, Not reading, Not talking... just being. Be open to whatever you experience with God and know there is no wrong experience.*

