**Community Group Discussion Guide
2 Timothy 3:10-17**

*Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17*

*Set the Context…*

**Context**: Timothy was called to lead and correct the Church of Ephesus as they had begun to spiritually drift due to false teachers rising up within. At this point of Paul’s letter, specifically in the beginning verses of chapter 3, Paul warns Timothy of the godlessness and debauchery that will take place in “the last days.” Paul shares details of what life will look like among the spiritually lost and why it is of absolute importance for God’s people, the Church, to remain rooted in Christ and live out the faith. As Paul concludes sharing this warning, he pivots by exhorting Timothy to remember his calling and rest in the instruction given to him. He contrasts the example of Timothy’s life and suffering for the truth with the life of greed and self-centeredness of the false teachers. As we approach v.10-17, we see that Paul reminds Timothy that the call on every Christian is not passive, but to arms—to fight the good fight and live on mission.

**Commentary:** In v.10, Paul contrasts how the spiritually lost world lives to how Christians are to live. Paul encourages Timothy by sharing that he is not walking blindly into this leadership role but is equipped with the Holy Spirit and has seen firsthand how to live, as seen through Paul’s example. Paul emphasizes the impact of discipleship by outlining how and in what ways Timothy has served alongside him. “***You however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings***…” (2 Tim. 3:10). Paul makes note in v.11 that the Christian life—the call to be a disciple of Jesus who makes disciples—is not easy or passive, but is proactive and will entail hardships, persecution, and picking up one’s cross daily. Paul continues on in v.12-15, making clear the point that “***all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted***.” This is in direct contrast with what the false teachers seem to pursue in the previous passage. Again, Paul emphasizes that Christians are NOT called to live their best life now, but instead to proactively point others towards Jesus no matter the cost. Paul acknowledges that the persecution a Christian will endure on earth is not only to be expected, but also worth it because of the majesty, glory, and power Christ Jesus, who saved us and called us to this mission. Paul then concludes this passage in v.16-17 by illuminating the glory of Scriptures as God breathed, “***profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work***.” These closing verses remind Timothy (and us) that we can/should trust the Bible because it was inspired by God to reveal His perfect ways and equip us for the mission we are called to (Matt. 28:18-20).

*Share main truths of the passage along with verses that teach them* and discuss how to apply to our daily lives …

**Key Points**:

* Christianity follows the example of biblical discipleship (v.10-11)
* Christianity requires picking up your cross daily (v.12-14)
* God’s Word equips Christians for missional living and endurance (v.15-17)

**Discussion and Application Questions:**

2 Timothy 3:10-11

1. What in your life—people, objects, goals—have the greatest influence and impact on you (good or bad)?
2. Are you aware of these influences, and do they help you grow more like Christ or less?
3. Do you have a person in your life who is discipling you and helping you grow into the man/woman God has called you to be? If not, why?
4. Share with your group experiences you’ve had or seen which helped you understand and grow in Christlikeness.
5. When you are facing trials and tribulations, do you look to Christ for your hope and reflect on what he’s done or dwell on the what-ifs and uncertainties?
6. Similarly, are you intentional to tell others about areas where God provided, took care of, or taught you something that grew you? Based on Paul’s example, why might this be good to implement in your life?

2 Timothy 3:12-14

1. Are you aware that “*all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*” (v.12)? How do we prepare our minds for this?
2. How can you be proactive to grow in your faith and live on mission fighting the good fight?
3. When you share the Gospel with others, do you present the full Gospel—"follow Jesus and die to self”—"or do you present a soft, feel-good gospel?” What might tempt someone to do the second?
4. Why is the distinction of a feel-good gospel vs. the die-to-self and follow Jesus Gospel important? What impacts would/does this have?
5. Do you acknowledge that the call on every Christian is to be Christ’s hands and feet?
6. With the above in mind, how ought this reality impact the way we live our lives, pray, make decisions, and share the Gospel with others?

 2 Timothy 3:15-17

1. Do you trust that the Word of God provides everything you need to pursue a holy, Christ-like life?
2. Are you intentional to go to the Bible when you need direction and/or are helping others make decisions? How could you change to do so more?
3. Do you acknowledge, accept, and believe v.16 that “***ALL*** *Scripture is God-breathed and perfect…*”?
4. If ‘yes’ to the question above, how important is it that Christians invest time in the Word learning and applying it to their (your) life?
5. Do you trust and rejoice in knowing that God provided His Word as the means by which Christians can know His character and be “*equipped for every good work*”?
6. How does God’s word help someone endure persecution for missional living?

*Share a key take away or challenge for the week…*

*Pray together in light of 2 Timothy 3:10-17…*

**Prayer Guide:**

Pray for our church that we would embrace the call to be disciples who make disciples, intently growing in the Word and a desire to proclaim and multiply for the glory of God!

Pray for our city that they would see how Christians live and react in the midst of persecution and, as a result, would repent of their sin and place total trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Pray for our world that they would be impacted by the conduct, faith, patience, love, and steadfastness of Christians who truly live out what they say they believe, as represented in God’s Word.