



SDG Discussion Guide

2 Timothy 1:6-14

August 19, 2018

For starters:

Think of a person in your life who expects good or even great things from you? How do you feel about that person's expectations? Are they realistic?

Think of a time when an older-person-than-you entrusted some important matter with you. How did this create growth or maturity in your life?

Interaction with the text: The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.

As you can, read aloud the passages in your group; read them aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the Message after first reading from the NIV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. How do you react to the reality that you will one day be someone's ancestor? What might that change about the way you interact with and behave around those to whom you are closest? Be practical and specific.
2. What would enhance your own trustworthiness among those you influence (children, students, co-workers or employees, and friends)?
3. Do your own Christian leaders expect too much or little of you? What effect does that have on your own Spiritual leadership?
4. Paul was concerned about the strength of Timothy's faith and apparently took notice when he felt Timothy wasn't burning as strongly as he could. Are we ever concerned about the strength of other people's faith (especially those who are a part of our church or small group)? If not, why not? If so, do we encourage in a loving way those we feel could be burning stronger, and if so, how? Whose responsibility is it to encourage others in their faith and service?
5. Have you found practical ways to "fan the flame" of the Spirit? Put another way, what kinds of activities/practices/habits/contexts most quickly stir up your affection and boldness for God? Describe how that dynamic works (e.g., why is it that worship seems to "fan the flame" for you?).
6. What steps could you take this week to "fan the flame" with increased consistency or intensity or both?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Thank God for those who have most influenced your faith. Pray for consistency in "fanning the flame" of the Spirit in your own life. Pray for greater godly influence in your legacy, which you are leaving with others.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998) among other sources.