



SDG Discussion Guide

Acts 16:1-5; 1 Tim 1:3-11;
2 Tim 3:10-17

August 12, 2018

For starters:

What “breakup” was hardest for you and why: Moving? Losing your first girl/boyfriend? Empty nest? Closing shop? Job?

What was the best idea or plan you ever came up with? How did it turn out?

Growing up, what kind of work did your different family members do?

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. If you can, 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 Tim 1:3-11

1. Do you relate more to Paul or Timothy in this passage? Why?
2. What were the problems plaguing the church in Ephesus (vv 3-4)? What is at the root of these problems?
3. How do you think Timothy felt being left in charge of a situation like this? What does Paul want Timothy to do?
4. What three blessings (v 2), personal qualities (v 5), and theological resources (vv 8, 11) will be needed for this task?
5. Of the qualities listed in verse 5, which one would you most like to cultivate in your life? What difficult task would that help you face?

2 Tim 3:10-17

6. Why does Paul recall for Timothy the tough times in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra? What places bring back similar memories for you?
7. Is persecution necessarily a result of Godliness? Why or why not?
8. What does Paul state about the origin and purpose of Scripture?
9. Who in your life would think of you as their “son or daughter in the faith” as Paul addresses Timothy? Similarly, who might you think of as your “son or daughter in the faith”?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw near to you anew. Pause, wait, and expect his presence. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in these passages. Ask him to continue to show you where his grace is demonstrated in your life. Ask him to turn the hearts of the older to the younger, and the hearts of the younger to the older -- to ‘enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kindly affectioned one to another -- through Jesus Christ our Lord.’ Amen--

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