



SDG Discussion Guide

2 Timothy 1:15-18; 2:1-13

August 26, 2018

For starters:

What physical traits have you inherited from your father's side of the family? Your mother's?

Of your friends and acquaintances from school, who are still your friends today and why do you think?

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. Where have you known the refreshment like Onesiphorus gave to Paul?
2. How is Timothy to ensure that the message of Christ will live on (2:2)? Given Paul's outlook that his days are numbered, why was this point particularly crucial to him?
3. What do the examples of the soldier, athlete and farmer (2:3-7) teach about the Christian life? How would these illustrations encourage Timothy to steadfastly endure his own suffering?
4. In spite of his suffering what keeps Paul from giving up (2:8-10)? What has kept you going in times of pain and suffering?
5. What encourages or refreshes you most about the "trustworthy saying" (2:11-13)?
6. What was a key factor or event in your life, perhaps a trial or crisis, that led to a more sincere or genuine faith? How did that experience "open your eyes"?
7. What role does courage, perseverance or endurance play in your life right now?
8. Where could you especially use the refreshment like Onesiphorus gave to Paul?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Continue to thank God for those who have refreshed you and been loyal to you in your faith. Pray that you may be a Onesiphorus to someone in your life. Pray this, knowing, that God may be putting on the heart of another to be a Onesiphorus to you. How might your outlook for tomorrow and this week be shaped if you held the promise that someone would be seeking you out for the sole purpose of bringing you care, hospitality and refreshment?

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