

**Life Group Leader Notes**  
**April 2024**  
**Paul's Charge to Timothy**

***1 Timothy 1: 18-19***

*Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.*

***2 Timothy 4: 1-11***

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.*

Paul is writing to Timothy concerning the end times. The end times began at Pentecost. We are in a serious battle. A battle that began the day we were Born Again.

***Ephesians 6: 12***

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

We wrestle against 3 enemies:

- Self: our own carnal nature. We must crucify the flesh daily. Crucify our old ways. We must be made new by His Spirit ; submit daily to God's Word.
- The World System: the world is at enmity with God.

***1 John 2: 15***

*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.*

- The Devil: the devil is real. We must recognize his tactics.

***John 10: 10***

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

***Discussion: Which enemy do you struggle with the most and Why?***

**How to fight your Enemies**

- We must praise God and use scripture to fight. Jesus healed the sick, preached the gospel and cast out demons. We have the authority by His spirit and by His word to do the same.
- We must be alert; be overcomers.

- And we must put on the Full Armor of God daily.

### ***Ephesians 6: 10-18***

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

***Discussion: Discuss the Full Armor of God. Do you put the Armor on every day?***

Paul is telling Timothy to:

- Pay attention to doctrine.

### ***1 Timothy 4: 16***

*Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

### ***2 Corinthians 11: 3***

*But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

### ***John 3: 16***

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Be an expert in the simplicity of the Gospel

- Pay attention to spiritual disciplines: Train yourself to be godly.

### ***1 Timothy 4: 8-16***

*For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

***Discussion: Do you spend more time and energy on physical training or your spiritual training? How intense is your spiritual training?***