

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Minneapolis, Minnesota. In the foreground, a large, ornate building with a prominent golden dome is situated on a hillside. A wide river flows through the middle ground, crossed by a long, multi-arched stone bridge. The background features a dense urban skyline with various skyscrapers under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

1 TIMOTHY

STUDY GUIDE

WEEKS 5-8

MIDTOWN FELLOWSHIP

A Midtown Fellowship 1 Timothy Bible Study Plan: Weeks 5-8

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INTRODUCTION

As a church, we want to be people marked by God's Word. For only in His Word do we find the death-defying, hope-giving good news of Jesus. In His Word, we see an invitation to a way of life that is overflowing with joy, peace, and love not only in the life to come but in the here and now.

Because of this, we want to put every effort into making us into Word-marked people. We do this by preaching the Bible on Sundays, bringing it into our lives throughout the week in our LifeGroups, and creating resources to help you abide with Jesus regularly.

One of those resources is this 1 Timothy Bible Study Reading Plan. In this e-book, you'll find the book broken down into smaller passages to help you slowly take in what we're going through on Sundays. Along with that, we'll be studying other passages in the Bible that connect with the bigger ideas in 1 Timothy throughout the week.

During this 1 Timothy series, we'll be practicing *inductive Bible study* to help us unpack and take in God's Word. You can find a guide on how to use this tool on page 2. As we practice this together, we encourage you to print out this guide to better help you mark up the passages each day with your notes and observations.

We also want this series to move us to prayer. On page 5 you'll see a Prayer Guide with different prayer prompts for each day of the week.

It's our hope and prayer that in this, God will use our time in His Word to shape us by His Spirit to make us look more like Jesus.

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

As God's people, we want to be guided by His Word and empowered by His Spirit to be a Jesus-centered family on mission. And while no one expects us to all be seminary professors or in full-time ministry, we are expected to be in God's Word regularly (Psalm 1). When we do, God uses that to slowly make us more and more like Him.

Inductive Bible study is one way we do this. Just like regular Bible reading or [lectio divina](#), it involves three main steps: read, reflect, and respond with questions to ask yourself for each step. As you work through this, you'll notice the similarities and differences between inductive Bible study and lectio divina. Whereas lectio divina relies more on reading a passage meditatively with our hearts, inductive Bible study relies more on reading a passage methodically with our minds, and as followers of Jesus, we want both. As Bible teacher Jen Wilkin puts it, "The heart cannot love what the mind does not know...If we want to feel deeply about God, we must learn to think deeply about God."

READ (COMPREHENSION) WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Studying the Bible begins by first carving out time, sitting down, and thoroughly reading the passage. While this sounds simple enough, there are often many barriers that keep us from studying the Bible - time management, lack of focus, lack of sleep, etc. So as you begin, find a quiet place (ideally not a coffee shop), that is free from distractions (ideally not in the same room as your TV or other screens), where you can be alert (ideally not in your bed), at a time when you can be alert (ideally not as you're about to fall asleep). If you're in a LifeGroup, consider holding each other accountable by scheduling a time each day where everyone in your group will study the Bible together - for example, one of our LifeGroups makes a conference call to each other every morning at 6am to pray and remind themselves to study their Bibles!

Below are some helpful steps to comprehend a passage:

- **Look at the context** - Imagine how frustrating it would be to watch a movie clip with no context whatsoever on the plot or characters - and yet we do that so often with our Bibles! So to help us unpack what a passage means we need to know some background information. (To make it even easier, The Bible Project has broken down the context for every book in the [Old Testament](#) and [New Testament](#).)
Below are some questions to ask:
 - What's the genre of this passage?
 - Who's speaking? Who's the audience?
 - What's the historical context?
 - Why was this written?
- **Print out the passage** - Have a physical copy of what you're studying so you can underline, circle, and mark up your thoughts. To do this, simply copy/paste from [BibleGateway.com](#) onto a blank document, making sure your printout is double-spaced with plenty of room in the margins for your notes. You can also purchase one of [Crossway's](#) Bible journals to write down your notes.
- **Use different translations** - Reading from different translations helps you encounter a passage afresh and can help clarify any questions you have with the text. ([BibleGateway.com](#) offers an "Add parallel" feature where you can compare up to five translations back-to-back. To start out we'd recommend comparing a passage against the ESV, NIV, CSB, and NIV translations.)¹

¹ For more on this, check out our resource ["How Bible Translations Work"](#) over at [FollowingJesusTogether.com](#)

REFLECT (INTERPRETATION)

WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Once you've comprehended a passage, it's time to do the hard work of interpretation. We don't want to import our own biases and have the passage say something it doesn't (eisegesis), rather we want to discover how the original audience of the passage would have received it (exegesis).

Below are some helpful ways to get started:

- **Take notes** - Ask lots of questions and mark up your passage, you can either give special markings to your notes or use a color-coding system, whichever works best for you. Those questions include:
 - Certain words, phrases, ideas repeated?
 - Is there a particular attribute of God illustrated or celebrated?
 - Does the text make several points in a row? (If so, number them on your printout)
 - Are there words you don't understand? (Put a question mark on there and look up later)
 - Are there key transition words? "Therefore" "and so" (Draw arrows to them)
 - Is there a confusing idea? (Write out your questions)
- **Paraphrase the passage in your own words** - Writing down the passage in your words helps us better engage the text as we ask the Spirit to engage us.
- **Look up cross-references** - All Scripture is breathed out by God. Because of this, we use Scripture to interpret Scripture. When we encounter difficult passages, we use easier to understand passages to shed light on the harder ones (this is known as "the analogy of faith"). If there are any words that are confusing, [Blue Letter Bible](#) is a great free resource to use.
- **Consult commentaries** - Commentaries are like crutches. They can be helpful assistance, but the aim is not to grow too dependent on them. The aim is to learn how to equip yourself so you, in turn, can equip others (Eph 4:11-16). A great go-to is John Piper's [Desiring God resource page](#) where he's broken down nearly the entire Bible by book, chapter, and verse. Along with that, he has an incredibly helpful video series called "[Look in the Book](#)" where he breaks down how he studies the Bible. Also, [The ESV Study Bible](#) is also a wonderful mini-commentary to get you started.

RESPOND (APPLICATION)

WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN FOR ME NOW?

It's not enough to simply study the Bible for spiritual information. We want to study the Bible for our spiritual transformation. As James 1:22 says, we want to be doers of the word, and not hearers only. At the same time, right application is based on right interpretation. Both go hand-in-hand. If you haven't done the proper work of Bible interpretation, your application will be off too.

Those application questions include:

- **What does this passage teach me about God? How does this aspect of God's character change my view of self?**
- **What's this passage calling me to do today?**
- **What's this passage calling me to pray for today?**

Once you've written down these answers, this becomes your prayer time. Spend some time focusing on what God has brought to your attention as well as attributes of who He is and who you are in light of that. Confess and repent where you need to. Ask the Spirit to work in you to do what the passage is commanding you to do.

As you wrap up your time, pick one thing from your study today that you can "write on your heart" to reflect on (Psalm 119:11). You may want to write it down somewhere visible or memorize it. Ask God how you might encourage someone with what you learned and reach out to them right away. Reach out to your LifeGroup with what you learned about this morning. At the end of the day, write down any insights you had as you meditated on the Scripture.

It's important to remember, studying the Bible is a life-long process. But it's this very process that Jesus uses to shape us and form us into being more like Him.

For Bible study plans and more resources on being with Jesus, make sure to check out our [Abide](#) page at FollowingJesusTogether.com

PRAYER GUIDE

1 Timothy 2:1

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people”

When followers of Jesus pray for God’s kingdom to come, the Spirit answers. So as a church family, we will be praying in specific ways each day of the week, as we ask Jesus to work in and through this series:

Monday

Pray for our church to be a “pillar and buttress of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). Pray that we would defend and cling to right doctrine which would lead to right hearts that produce in us right love for God and for others.

Tuesday

Pray for needs within our church right now - those in your Lifegroup or others - who are struggling. Pray that they would draw near to God in this season.

Wednesday

Pray for our church family to fight for spiritual health and maturity. Pray that we would all “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching” (1 Tim 4:16) and “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Tim 6:12).

Thursday

Pray for the leadership in our church - for the elders/pastors, coaches, LifeGroup leaders, directors and others who serve in various ministries. Pray that they would draw near to God and that he would sustain them with wisdom and joy as they lead.

Friday

Pray for Citizens Church Charlotte. For all of the logistical details - jobs, housing, etc. For them to experience unity as a new church plant. Pray that the core team members would grow in their walks with the Lord and that people in Charlotte would come to know and love Jesus through Citizens Church.

Saturday

Pray for tomorrow’s Gathering - that whether we are together or apart, we would experience unity as a church family. Pray that we would be engaged with worship and the teaching of God’s Word. Pray that God would speak to us through conviction or encouragement.

Sunday

Pray for you and our church family to Sabbath well today. Pray that we take the time to stop our work, get physical rest, delight in God’s good gifts, and worship Jesus together.

WEEK 5

TEACHING, AUTHORITY, AND THE CHURCH

MONDAY, MAY 18 - 1 CORINTHIANS 14:26-40

In 1 Timothy 2:11-12, Paul instructs the women in the church on how they should conduct themselves within the church. His emphasis is on regarding the preaching role as being designated for men, and specifically addresses disgruntled women who were disrupting worship. Paul addresses a similar thing in today's reading, how the church can conduct itself in an orderly manner for the building up of the body.

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. ²⁷ If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. ²⁸ But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. ²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. ³⁰ If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. ³¹ For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, ³² and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. ³³ For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

As in all the churches of the saints, ³⁴ the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. ³⁵ If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

³⁶ Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? ³⁷ If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. ³⁸ If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. ³⁹ So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But all things should be done decently and in order.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

TUESDAY, MAY 19 - GALATIANS 5:16-26

In 1 Timothy 2:8-15, Paul urges the women in the church to live lives of godliness and good works. This charge is true for all of God's people, men and women alike. Today we are studying this passage to see how godliness comes from a life in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-26

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 - GENESIS 2:18-25

In 1 Timothy 2:13-14, Paul grounds his instruction on roles within the church in the creation narrative, writing that Adam was created first, and then Eve. Today's passage shows us how God created man and woman in the Garden, and it was very good.

Genesis 2:18-25

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones

and flesh of my flesh;

she shall be called Woman,

because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

THURSDAY, MAY 21 - TITUS 2:1-8

In 1 Timothy 2:8-15, we see Paul instruct both men and women in the church - pushing them towards unity within the church by using their gifts. In Titus 2, another one of the “pastoral epistles,” Paul again urges various groups within the church to use their gifts and fulfill their roles.

Titus 2:1-8

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. ⁶ Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷ Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

FRIDAY, MAY 22 - GENESIS 3:8-15

In 1 Timothy 2:15, Paul writes that women “will be saved through childbearing.” Since we know that all people are saved by the grace of God, he can’t mean that individual women will be saved if they give birth to children. This is most likely a reference to a single child being born, that is Jesus Christ, born of a woman, who has come to ransom and to save. In Genesis 3:8-14, we see immediately after Adam and Eve, the first man and woman sin against God, even in punishment, God promises a future offspring of the woman who will crush the head of the devil.

Genesis 3:8-15

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,

cursed are you above all livestock

and above all beasts of the field;

on your belly you shall go,

and dust you shall eat

all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and her offspring;

he shall bruise your head,

and you shall bruise his heel.”

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

SATURDAY, MAY 23 - 1 TIMOTHY 2:11-15

How do the various Scriptures we studied this past week bring new light to our 1 Timothy passage from last Sunday?

1 Timothy 2:11-15

Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

WEEK 6

LEADERSHIP AND THE CHURCH

MONDAY, MAY 25 - 1 PETER 5:1-5

In 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Paul gives instructions and qualifications for who should serve as elders within the church. The role of elder is a weighty position that should be held in high regard. As we see today in 1 Peter 5, those who serve as elders should do so willingly and uprightly, while those within the church should follow and submit to the elders.

1 Peter 5:1-5

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

TUESDAY, MAY 26 - ACTS 20:17-35

In 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Paul gives instructions and qualifications for who should serve as elders within the church. In today's passage, we see Paul giving specific instructions to the elders at the church at Ephesus, emphasizing their roles as "shepherds" in both caring for and protecting God's "flock."

Acts 20:17-35

Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27 - TITUS 1:5-9

In 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Paul gives instructions and qualifications for who should serve as elders within the church. In today's passage, we see Paul giving another list of qualifications that elders must adhere to. As you'll notice, the emphasis in both 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 is the same - elders should be Godly men able to care for and lead the household of God well.

Titus 1:5-9

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— 6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. 7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

THURSDAY, MAY 28 - ACTS 6:1-7

In 1 Timothy 3:8-13, Paul gives instructions and qualifications for who should serve as deacons within the church. In today's passage, we see the very beginning of the office of deacon within the church - why it was established and what function it should serve.

Acts 6:1-7

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

FRIDAY, MAY 29 - MATTHEW 20:20-28

In 1 Timothy 3:8-13, Paul gives instructions and qualifications for who should serve as deacons within the church. Deacons are to be the lead servants within the church, but the call of service is on every Christian. Note in today's passage how Jesus talks about the role of serving for those who follow him.

Matthew 20:20-28

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. ²¹ And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." ²² Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." ²³ He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." ²⁴ And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

SATURDAY, MAY 30 - 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

How do the various Scriptures we studied this past week bring new light to our 1 Timothy passage from last Sunday?

1 Timothy 3:1-13

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

⁸ Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

WEEK 7

SOME WILL FALL AWAY

MONDAY, JUNE 1- REVELATION 2:1-7

In 1 Timothy 4:1-5, Paul warns the church at Ephesus that some will depart from the faith and be persuaded by false teaching and doctrine and lies from the culture. In today's passage we read a letter from the apostle John again to this church in Ephesus, this time rebuking them for abandoning their "first love" - Jesus Christ.

Revelation 2:1-7

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: "The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

² I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

TUESDAY, JUNE 2 - HEBREWS 10:19-25

In 1 Timothy 4:1-5, Paul warns the church at Ephesus that some will depart from the faith and be persuaded by false teaching and doctrine and lies from the culture. In today's passage, we read that God is faithful to keep us and hold us, and we are to continue meeting together and encouraging one another in our walks with Jesus.

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

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REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3 - 1 CORINTHIANS 10:6-14

In 1 Timothy 4:1-5, Paul warns the church at Ephesus that some will depart from the faith and be persuaded by false teaching and doctrine and lies from the culture. In today's passage, we read that God is faithful to help us fight against temptation and lies that would keep us from following Him.

1 Corinthians 10:6-14

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. ¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

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REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 - 2 PETER 3:14-18

In 1 Timothy 4:1-5, Paul warns the church at Ephesus that some will depart from the faith and be persuaded by false teaching and doctrine and lies from the culture. In today's passage, we read Peter encouraging the church that even though some will twist Scripture and use it for their own purposes, we as the people of God are to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus instead.

2 Peter 3:14-18

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

FRIDAY, JUNE 5 - COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

In 1 Timothy 4:4, Paul writes that “everything created by God is good.” We know God created all things and they were very good, but sin has entered the world and now taints all that was originally good. Even still, as we see in today’s passage, God is the creator and ruler over all of it.

Colossians 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

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SATURDAY, JUNE 6 - 1 TIMOTHY 4:1-5

How do the various Scriptures we studied this past week bring new light to our 1 Timothy passage from last Sunday?

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³ who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

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WEEK 8

GUARD YOUR LIFE AND DOCTRINE

MONDAY, JUNE 8 - 1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-27

In 1 Timothy 4:7, Paul encourages Timothy to train himself for godliness. Training is just one metaphor used throughout the Scripture for how we should approach the effort called for in the Christian life. In today's passage, we read another metaphor - that as followers of Jesus we should run to obtain a prize - using all of our effort and energy that God gives to us.

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

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TUESDAY, JUNE 9 - EPHESIANS 6:4 & PROVERBS 22:6

In 1 Timothy 4:7, Paul encourages Timothy to train himself for godliness. In today's passages, we read that part of our calling as parents is to help train up our children towards God. While we all must train ourselves for godliness, we must also learn to train the next generation and teach them how to train themselves as they grow older.

Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10 - 2 TIMOTHY 2:3-7, 14-15, 22-26

In 1 Timothy 4:6-16, we read Paul encouraging Timothy to press on in both right living and right teaching. In today's passage, we see Paul revisiting his charge to Timothy to defend against false teachers, while also encouraging him to flee "youthful passions" and instead be a good servant and soldier for the Lord.

2 Timothy 2:3-7, 14-15, 22-26

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵ An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷ Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

¹⁴ Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

²² So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³ Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

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THURSDAY, JUNE 11 - 1 PETER 1:3-9

In 1 Timothy 4:10, Paul encourages Timothy that they can strive ahead in their teaching and in their holy living by setting their hope on God. In other words, hope in God fuels our ability to live for Him no matter what comes our way.. In today's passage, we read what our blessed hope entails - the beautiful reality that we have an inheritance with Jesus that cannot be taken from us.

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

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FRIDAY, JUNE 12 - TITUS 2:11-14

In 1 Timothy 4:16, Paul encourages us to keep a close watch on what we teach and what we do - our lives and our doctrine. In Titus 2, we read about the grace of God, which helps us keep an eye on ourselves while growing more and more into people God calls us to be.

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

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SATURDAY, JUNE 13 - 1 TIMOTHY 4:6-16

How do the various Scriptures we studied this past week bring new light to our 1 Timothy passage from last Sunday?

1 Timothy 4:6-16

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. ⁷ Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. ¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶ Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

An aerial photograph of Charlotte, North Carolina, showing the city skyline with various skyscrapers in the background. In the foreground, a large multi-arched bridge spans across the Columbia River. The scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the city and the river.

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