

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

Where in your life are you struggling to live with an endurance perspective?

Are you ready to give up? Or don't care any longer if you "finish" well? How can I/we re-energize you in this area of life?

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

How does living with an eternal perspective encourage you to endure hardship?

RESOURCES:

Each week we publish a podcast called Cabin Conversations where a few folks from Woodlands staff discuss and reflect on the weekend's sermon. New episodes are released each week on Wednesday.

Check them out:
woodlandchurch.org/podcasts

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

This week, as you put on your shoes each day, pray for a spiritual brother or sister to have faithful + God-honoring endurance through the end of this school year in their various roles and responsibilities.

MEMORY VERSE:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2, ESV



Leader Resource Guide

Date: March 20, 2022

Faithful. part 1



SERMON NOTES

2 Timothy 4:1-8

1. Live with an **ETERNAL** perspective.
2. Live with an **ENDURANCE** perspective.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Who is someone you admire who has fought the good fight and finished well?

What is an accomplishment in your life that has required endurance?

CHRIST CENTERED DISCUSSION:

1. Define faithfulness. What does it mean to live a faithful life? To what (whom) should we be faithful (See 2 Timothy 4:2 + 7, 1 Timothy 6:11-12)? We will spend two weeks considering Paul's charge to Timothy to be faithful. Record some ideas now and look for another question next week to refine your thoughts on being faithful, part 2.
2. Agree or disagree: Someone's last words should be given special attention. Consider Jesus' last words before he ascends in Acts 1:6-8 and their impact. How do these words connect to Paul's last words in 2 Timothy 4?
3. In 2 Timothy 4:1, what are the 3 truths given regarding Jesus? How would these 3 truths have impacted Timothy regarding not only his ministry, but also his daily personal living? As you consider them, how do they impact you in light of personal, national, and world events today?
The three truths are: (1) He is present, (2) He is judge of the living and the dead, (3) He will appear to reign in his consummated kingdom. You might read the words "preach" and "teach" and think this passage is speaking only to those with official teaching roles. However, as an ambassador, you are a "bringer of truth" to your daily life situations, your family, your work place and other spheres of influence. So, how do these truths affect your daily life?

4. How would you describe what it means to have an eternal perspective? What does it mean to have an earthly perspective? Who or what is at the focal point of each of those outlooks? Take a moment to consider your own life - how might an earthly perspective be affecting your relationships with others, your willingness to engage with not yet believers, your willingness to take risks for the sake of the gospel?
5. In our culture, we are constantly fed earthly perspectives on nearly all areas of life. What may be some practical ways to remind ourselves of God's eternal plan and our role within His Story?
6. What is there in Paul's faithful example that motivates and encourages Timothy? How does Paul's example of endurance impact you? Where do you see Paul's eternal perspective supporting his endurance in 2 Timothy 4:1-18?
For a summary of hardships that Paul encountered, see 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. If someone has a reference Bible with them, dig into a few of these stories Paul references. What fueled Paul's faithful endurance in this (See Philippians 4:12-13)?
7. What barriers to faithful living as an ambassador and passing the baton do you encounter? How does Paul's example and charge encourage you to prayerfully and practically deal with removing those barriers?