

## FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS

### DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

During the current war in Ukraine, a pastor was asked what is sustaining him during this time. He said "Emmanuel, God is with us."

How is this truth illustrated by Paul's comments in 4:9-18 or in Jesus' statement in John 16:32?

### GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

What steps will you take this week to build your spiritual friendships?

### SERIES SYNTHESIS:

How do you intend to guard the Gospel that has been entrusted to you?

What will you pass along - to whom, in what manner?

What will you apply from this long study of 2 Timothy?

### MEMORY VERSE:

*Now to him who is able  
to do far more abundantly  
than all that we ask or think,  
according to the power at work  
within us,*

Ephesians 3:20, ESV



### DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

Make a list of those you would consider close spiritual friends. Pray through the list this week that God would strengthen them.

### 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:  
[woodlandschurch.org/podcasts](http://woodlandschurch.org/podcasts)

## Leader Resource Guide

Date: April 3, 2022

*A Final Confidence in the Midst of Trial*



## SERMON NOTES

2 Timothy 4:9-22

Paul's **FAILURE**

Paul's **CONFIDENCE**

- A Clear **PURPOSE**

- Clarity **OF GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN**

- Close **FRIENDS**

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

Consider watching [the overview video of 2 Timothy](#) from Bible Project. As you listened to the recap of the whole book of 2 Timothy, which ideas and passages keep rolling around in your head? How will you continue to wrestle with these concepts?

How do you intend to guard the Gospel that has been entrusted to you? What will you pass along - to whom, in what manner?

## CHRIST CENTERED DISCUSSION:

1. Read through the passage together (2 Timothy 4:9-22). What does this passage reveal about Paul's circumstances when he wrote this letter? Get the feel for this passage. Paul was cold, lonely, needing his books (why?), resting in Jesus, and reflective.
2. **Let's get clarity on God's eternal plan and Paul's understanding of his purpose in it. Read 2 Timothy 4:17-18. What is God's eternal plan? What did Paul do to fulfill his purpose in it? How did he "summon the strength" to do it?**  
There's a lot here. Paul had to do a lot: summon the strength to give up control of the ministry, to trust someone who's betrayed him, to stand before a crowd alone without human support, ... what else? Don't get bogged down in what he had to do, but how he did it. See again 2 Timothy 2:22-25 and 3:10-11.
3. What do you find in Paul's sense of hope (in spite of his suffering) that particularly inspires you? Where do you see that in the passage? Do you have a sense of your own purpose in God's eternal plan?  
Take time here to review particularly striking points from previous sermons within this series and the Ambassador series. We've spent time defining the gospel, discerning, living and sharing the truth, embracing the Word and engaging the culture, etc. ... We are all ambassadors of Christ. We each have a unique and necessary story and role to play in God's eternal plan

4. Paul not only received help from his Lord, but also from several companions. How might Timothy, Luke, Mark have encouraged Paul in this last season of his life? Who are special people in your life who have a similar ministry to you? Who are you encouraging?
5. 2 Timothy 4:11 is an example of the power of the gospel in reconciling believers to each other. For the backstory of Paul's estrangement from and reconciliation with Mark, review Acts 12:25; 13:13; 15:38-39; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24; 1 Peter 5:13. Relate this to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 18:21-35; 6:12, 14, 15.  
Who is someone you need to forgive? Who might you need to ask for forgiveness? How can your life group help you?  
By the way, do you know that Mark is the author of the Gospel of Mark?
6. **What is your reaction to the statistic Pastor Dave shared that "44% of U.S Christians say they do not have a relationship where they share accountability, support and spiritual growth" in their life? Is this true of you? Take a few moments to write down the names of your current, close Christian friends?**  
Do you have current believing friends that you could discuss spiritual things with, even if you don't right now.  
**Write down names of others who could benefit from your encouragement and/or others from whom you could benefit. What steps can you take to build these spiritual friendships?**  
Think as an Ambassador here. Realize that spiritual friendships take an investment of time and attention. Keep in mind your availability and capacity. Be intentional about who you will pursue and how.