

DISCUSSION NOTES

NOVEMBER 10, 2019

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

GETTING STARTED

1. Is there a pastor who has made a positive difference in your life? What specifically impacted you?

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

2. Read 1 Timothy 4:1-16, and make 5-7 observations about the verses. What is the big idea? What problems are addressed? What stands out to you? What is difficult? What is helpful?
3. Verses 1-5 deal with those who abandon the faith. Consider the following and find support in the text for your answer:
 - Is their action accidental or intentional?
 - Who is at work to draw people away from the faith?
 - What strategies are applied to draw people away?
 - What are the consequences?
4. Verse 5 refers to being "a good servant of Christ Jesus." Read Colossians 1:13-20, which describes Jesus as the head of the church. What has Jesus accomplished that gives him the right to call the shots in our lives? Why should we consider it a great honor to be a servant of Jesus?
5. In verses 7-8, Paul compares physical training with training for godliness. How are these similar? How are they different? Which deserves more of our attention?
6. In verses 11-16, there are ten commands given for pastors in a few short verses. Can you identify and list the ten things they are commanded to do?
7. In verses 10 and 16, what motivations are given for persevering in ministry and service?

LIVING IT OUT

8. How do you personally form your view of the church and the role of the pastor? Is it formed more by our culture or by the Bible? What is one area where this study has helped you think more biblically?
9. Paul says that a pastor is supposed to "set the believers an example" (verse 12). With that in mind, consider the following applications for your own life:

What would it mean for you to train for godliness?

What role does Scripture, doctrine, and the teaching of the church play in shaping your life?

Paul says, "do not neglect the gift of God you've been given." How committed are you to using the gift(s) God has given you for the good of the local church? Are you neglecting to use your gift(s) in the church?

This week, what would it look like for you to set your hope set on the living God?

10. How should this study motivate you to encourage and to pray for your pastors and leaders?