
Small Group Discussion Guide — August 24, 2025

- Series: The Long Game
 - Sermon: “Build On a Foundation”
 - Scripture: 2 Timothy 1-14 (NLT)
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Did you have any moments this week when you had a sense of God’s glory? How did that moment affect your spirit?

CONNECT

1. What stood out for you from this week’s service, and why?
2. Have you ever participated in any kind of race? What was that like? What did you enjoy most or least about it?

ENGAGE

Take a few minutes to read 2 Timothy 1 together. You can assign two or three readers to split up the passage, or have one person read the whole chapter. Imagine you are Timothy, listening to this personal letter from your mentor Paul.

1. How would you describe Paul’s personal regard for Timothy, based on this letter (verses 3-5)? What specifically does Paul say that makes you think that? What affect might that have on Timothy and his commitment to following and serving the Lord?
2. How does Paul speak into Timothy’s identity? What specific encouragement does he give him for everyday living?
3. In your own words, what is Paul telling Timothy in verses 13 and 14?

APPLY

1. One way Christianity is different from other religions in that it is primarily *relational*, from the way Jesus came into the world as a human and the way He taught His disciples and encouraged us to do life with other believers. Why do you think this is an important distinction? Why can’t we just believe in God and try to do good during our time on earth, keeping our faith private?
2. Barnabas mentored Paul, and then Paul mentored Timothy. The vision of the Church is similar to a “teaching hospital” — a body of mature believers who are pouring into younger believers, so they can carry the gospel to the next generation. Where do you see yourself in this metaphor — as the mentor or the mentee? What are some areas in which you can grow in this season, with an eye

on the “long game” of spreading the message of Christ’s love and redemption for the world?

3. When running a relay race, the handoff of the baton can make or break the whole race. Depending on where you are in your “leg of the race,” what are some practical ways you can identify to successfully “hand off” or receive the baton of ministry or leadership? Who is your relay partner? If you don’t have someone in mind, pray that God would lead you to a mentor or a mentee, that you can run alongside to encourage and help deepen each other’s faith.

PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, thank you that you have placed us in community with other believers, to help each other along in our faith and to carry out Your mission to share the Good News of Christ’s salvation. Holy Spirit, fan into flame the gifts you have given each of us. May we live with the long game in mind, in humble willingness to encourage and disciple those you bring into our lives. Please show us the people in our lives who we can learn from, and also those we can help bring along, as we run the good race together. We want coming generations to know of your love and redemption. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Acts 13:36 remind us David served God’s purpose in his generation. How would you describe God’s purpose for your generation? What small but meaningful part might God be calling you to play in it?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 6: 4-7

Acts 13:36

Psalms 71: 18

QUOTES

“If your vision is for a year plant wheat, if it’s for 10 years plant trees, if it’s for eternity – plant people.”

“Be humble. A lot was accomplished before you got here.”

“The greatest use of your life is to spend it on something that will outlast it.”

Rick Warren