



HOUSE RULES

Living as God's Family

AN ELEVEN-WEEK EXPOSITORY JOURNEY THROUGH 1 TIMOTHY

-  **SOUND DOCTRINE**
Built on Scripture and grounded in God's Word.
-  **LOVE IN ACTION**
Showing Christlike love in our words and actions.
-  **GODLY LEADERSHIP**
Honoring God in spirit and in truth together.
-  **FAMILY ON MISSION**
Growing together as a spiritual household.
-  **FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT**
Standing firm in faith and living with biblical courage every day.

A DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Walking Through 1 Timothy Together

ELEVEN WEEKS · SIXTY-SIX DAYS · ONE FAMILY

"...so that you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."

1 TIMOTHY 3:14-15

WE'RE FAMILY · SOMOS FAMILIA

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HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

Six Days at the Same Table

This devotional follows the House Rules series through 1 Timothy. Each week matches one Sunday message, and each week has six short readings — one for each day between gatherings. The seventh day is Sunday, when the household comes back together and the pastor opens the same passage from the pulpit.

There are no dates in this book on purpose. Our church will preach this series across the year rather than in eleven straight weeks. When a message is preached on Sunday, work through that week's six days before the next one. If a gap of several weeks follows, the pages will still be here waiting.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND EACH DAY

READ The passage for the day. Open your Bible and read it there first — this book is a companion, not a replacement.

REFLECTION A few paragraphs to help you see what is in the text.

REFLECT One question. Answer it honestly, even if only in your head.

PRAY A short prayer to start you off. Keep going in your own words.

At the end of every week you will find At the Family Table — a memory verse and three questions written simply enough for children, and honest enough for adults. Use them over a meal, in the car, or at bedtime.

FOUR SUGGESTIONS

1. Read the passage in your Bible before you read the page. Scripture quotations here are brief on purpose.
2. Do it at the same time each day. Godliness is a practice you schedule, not a mood you wait for (4:7).
3. Do it with someone. A spouse, a roommate, a Life Group, a friend over text. This is a letter about a household.
4. If you miss a day, do not restart. Pick up where you left off. Grace is the subject of this letter.

THE QUESTION BEHIND EVERY WEEK *What does a healthy church family look like — and what threatens it?*

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

The Story Behind the Letter

1 Timothy is a letter written to a church in trouble, by a pastor who could not get back to it. Paul had left a young man named Timothy in Ephesus with a hard assignment: stop the bad teaching, get the leadership right, and remind a confused congregation what kind of house they were living in.

Ephesus was a wealthy port city, proud of the Temple of Artemis — one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, held up by 127 marble columns. Into that city Paul writes to a small congregation meeting in homes and tells them that they are the pillar that actually matters.

The letter is not a systematic theology. It is a set of house rules for a family that had forgotten whose house it was. And Paul tells us plainly why he wrote it:

“I am writing these things to you so that... you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.” 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-15

Everything in the letter is an application of that one sentence. Every question a church argues about — who leads, how we pray, what we do with money, how we treat the vulnerable, how we handle people who teach nonsense — shows up in six short chapters.

FOUR THREADS TO WATCH FOR

Sound doctrine — what is true, and what happens when the church stops guarding it.

Godliness — Paul's favorite word in this letter — truth lived out, not merely believed.

The household — the church as family, with the obligations family carries.

The trustworthy sayings — short creeds the early church repeated out loud (1:15, 3:1, 4:9).

Scripture quotations in this devotional follow the ESV and are kept brief. Read the full passage in your own Bible each day.

THE SERIES AT A GLANCE

Eleven Weeks in 1 Timothy

WEEK	TEXT	TITLE	BIG IDEA
1	1:1-11	The Goal Is Love	<i>Sound doctrine is not the finish line</i>
2	1:12-20	Grace for the Worst of Sinners	<i>No one is too far gone for the mercy of Christ</i>
3	2:1-8	A Church on Its Knees	<i>A church that believes God wants all people saved will pray for all people</i>
4	2:9-15	Order in the House	<i>The gospel gives women a dignity the ancient world denied them</i>
5	3:1-13	Leaders Worth Following	<i>God's standard for leadership is character before competence</i>
6	3:14-16	The Household of God	<i>The church is God's family, the truth's foundation, and Christ's trophy</i>
7	4:1-10	Train Yourself for Godliness	<i>Discernment keeps you from the lie; discipline forms you into the likeness of Christ. You need both</i>
8	4:11-16	Watch Your Life and Your Doctrine	<i>What you teach and how you live must match</i>
9	5:1-16	We're Family	<i>If the church is a household, then honor, provision, and care for the vulnerable are not policies</i>
10	5:17-25	Honor in the House	<i>The household honors and protects its leaders</i>
11	6:1-21	Fight the Good Fight	<i>Contentment is the antidote to a culture of more</i>

Because this series will be preached across the year rather than in consecutive weeks, no dates are printed here. Use the week that matches Sunday's message.

WEEK ONE

THE GOAL IS LOVE

1 Timothy 1:1–11

BIG IDEA

Sound doctrine is not the finish line — love is. Truth that does not produce love has been handled wrongly.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart...”

1 TIMOTHY 1:5

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

DAY 1 1 Timothy 1:1–2 · *By Command, Not by Preference*

DAY 2 1 Timothy 1:3–4 · *Some Things Have to Stop*

DAY 3 1 Timothy 1:5 · *The Aim*

DAY 4 1 Timothy 1:6–7 · *Swerving*

DAY 5 1 Timothy 1:8–11 · *Using the Law Lawfully*

DAY 6 1 Corinthians 13:1–3, with 1 Timothy 1:5 · *Right and Unloving*

Sunday belongs to the gathering. Begin Day 1 the day after the message is preached.

NOTES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

By Command, Not by Preference

READ 1 Timothy 1:1–2

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior” 1:1

Paul does not begin by telling us what he thinks. He begins by telling us who sent him. He is an apostle by command — not by ambition, not by election, not by a career path he chose for himself. Whatever he says over the next six chapters comes with that weight behind it.

Then notice the second thing he does. He calls Timothy his true child in the faith. Before a single instruction is given, before one problem in Ephesus is named, family language is already on the page. This letter will hand us a long list of things to do. It hands us a Father first.

REFLECT When Scripture tells you something you would not have chosen, what is your first instinct — to argue, or to listen?

PRAY Father, before You gave me anything to do, You made me Yours. Teach me to hear Your Word this week as a child hears a father, not as a critic hears a speech. Amen.

MY RESPONSE



Some Things Have to Stop

READ 1 Timothy 1:3–4

“charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine” 1:3

Paul left Timothy in Ephesus with one urgent assignment: make the bad teaching stop. Not manage it. Not tolerate it quietly. Stop it. Some things a healthy household simply does not allow at the table.

What made that teaching so dangerous was not that it was scandalous but that it was interesting. Myths and endless genealogies gave people something to debate forever without ever having to obey anything. Paul's test is beautifully simple: does this produce stewardship from God that is by faith, or does it just produce more speculation? Some content feeds you. Some content only gives you something to argue about.

REFLECT What are you reading, watching, or scrolling that leaves you more opinionated but not more loving?

PRAY Lord, guard my mind from what only entertains it. Give me an appetite for what actually forms me. Amen.

MY RESPONSE

The Aim

READ 1 Timothy 1:5

“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart...” 1:5

The word translated aim means the target — the thing you were shooting at the whole time. Paul is not anti-doctrine; he is telling us what doctrine is for. You can hold the truth accurately and still have missed the target entirely.

And he names where real love comes from: a pure heart, a good conscience, a sincere faith. That rules out the love that is really performance, and the love that is really conflict avoidance. This is love with clean hands and nothing to hide, growing out of faith that is not pretending. That kind of love is not produced by effort. It is produced by the gospel.

REFLECT Name one relationship where you have been right and unloving at the same time.

PRAY Jesus, You are the truth, and You are love. Do not let me use one of those to excuse a failure in the other. Amen.

MY RESPONSE



Swerving

READ 1 Timothy 1:6–7

“Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away” 1:6

A swerve is small at first. Nobody in Ephesus announced they were abandoning love from a pure heart. They just drifted a few degrees toward something that felt more impressive, and by the time anyone noticed, they were somewhere else entirely.

Paul's description of them stings: they want to be teachers, without understanding what they are saying. Their confidence has outrun their comprehension. That is not an ancient problem. It is one comment thread away on any given afternoon.

REFLECT Where are you speaking with more confidence than you actually have understanding?

PRAY Father, keep me humble enough to say 'I don't know,' and honest enough to mean it. Amen.

MY RESPONSE

Using the Law Lawfully

READ 1 Timothy 1:8–11

“the law is good, if one uses it lawfully” 1:8

Paul is not against the law. He is against the misuse of it. The law was never the cure — it was the diagnosis. It exists to show you the disease so you will go get the medicine.

So when Paul lists the sins in verses 9 and 10, resist the urge to read it as a list of other people. Read it as a mirror. Then keep reading, because the list does not end where you expect. It ends with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God. The mirror was always pointing to a Savior.

REFLECT When God's Word convicts you, do you run toward Christ or away from the mirror?

PRAY Lord, thank You that conviction is not condemnation. Show me what is true about me, and then show me Jesus. Amen.

MY RESPONSE



Right and Unloving

READ 1 Corinthians 13:1–3, with 1 Timothy 1:5

“if I have all knowledge... but have not love, I am nothing” 1 Cor 13:2

Paul said it to Corinth and he says it again to Ephesus, because the church keeps needing to hear it. You can be correct and be nothing. Knowledge is not the disqualifier — loveless knowledge is.

This is the note the whole series begins on. Everything ahead of us in 1 Timothy — prayer, worship, leadership, money, family care — is Paul spelling out what love looks like when it moves into a house together. Sound doctrine gets us pointed the right direction. Love is the direction.

REFLECT If someone described your faith to a stranger, would love be one of the first three words they used?

PRAY Father, make our church a place where truth is spoken and people are loved, and let no one have to choose between the two. Amen.

MY RESPONSE

THE GOAL IS LOVE

Use these over a meal, in the car, or at bedtime — any day this week. Read the verse together first, then take the questions in order. Let the youngest answer first.

SAY IT TOGETHER

"The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart..." **1 TIMOTHY 1:5**

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What is something true that can still be said in a mean way?
2. Who in our family is easiest to love? Who takes more work?
3. What is one thing we could do this week to love someone we usually just tolerate?

PRAY AS A FAMILY

Thank God for one thing each person names. Then pray for one person outside your home by name.

WHAT WE WANT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS WEEK

WEEK TWO

GRACE FOR THE WORST OF SINNERS

1 Timothy 1:12-20

BIG IDEA

No one is too far gone for the mercy of Christ — and the ones He rescues become the proof He offers to everyone watching.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.”

1 TIMOTHY 1:15

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

DAY 1 1 Timothy 1:12–13 · *What I Was*

DAY 2 1 Timothy 1:14 · *Grace Overflowed*

DAY 3 1 Timothy 1:15 · *The Trustworthy Saying*

DAY 4 1 Timothy 1:16 · *Exhibit A*

DAY 5 1 Timothy 1:17 · *Let the Praise Interrupt*

DAY 6 1 Timothy 1:18–20 · *Wage the Good Warfare*

Sunday belongs to the gathering. Begin Day 1 the day after the message is preached.

NOTES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

What I Was

READ 1 Timothy 1:12–13

“*formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent*” 1:13

Paul does not soften his past. He does not say he was misguided or that he meant well. He names it in three hard words and leaves them standing on the page.

Notice that he can say it without shame collapsing him, because he says it right after thanking Christ for judging him faithful. That is what mercy does. It makes it safe to tell the truth about yourself. People who have been genuinely forgiven do not need to edit their history.

REFLECT What part of your story do you still edit when you tell it?

PRAY *Lord, I do not have to hide from You. Give me the courage to tell the truth about myself, knowing what You have already done with it. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Grace Overflowed

READ 1 Timothy 1:14

“*the grace of our Lord overflowed for me*” 1:14

Overflowed. Not covered, not sufficed, not barely stretched to reach. Paul reaches for a word that means more than enough, and even that word is straining.

And grace does not arrive alone. It comes with faith and love in Christ Jesus — the very things chapter one has been telling us the church was losing. The cure for a loveless church was never a better argument. It was a bigger view of grace.

REFLECT Do you tend to think of God's grace as barely enough for you, or more than enough?

PRAY *Father, I have believed small things about Your mercy. Enlarge my understanding of what You did for me at the cross. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

The Trustworthy Saying

READ 1 Timothy 1:15

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” 1:15

This was probably something the early church said out loud together — a line short enough to memorize and true enough to build a life on. Say it out loud right now. It was written to be said.

Then look at the last clause. Paul does not say he was the worst; he says he is. Years into ministry, with letters and churches behind him, he still uses the present tense. Not because he is wallowing, but because the longer you walk with Christ the more clearly you see what He rescued you from — and the more astonishing it becomes that He did.

REFLECT Have you ever quietly moved yourself out of the category of 'sinners Christ came to save' and into 'good people God is pleased with'?

PRAY *Jesus, You came for sinners. That is the only category I have ever been in. Thank You for coming. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Exhibit A

READ 1 Timothy 1:16

“that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience”
1:16

Paul says God had a reason for saving someone with his résumé: so that he could be a pattern. If Christ was patient with the man who hunted Christians, no one after him can claim to be a special case.

Which means your testimony is not just your private good news. It is evidence. Someone in your life is doing math about whether God would take them back, and your story is one of the numbers they are working with.

REFLECT Who needs to hear your story — not the polished version, the real one?

PRAY *Lord, make my life exhibit A for Your patience. Give me one conversation this week where I tell someone what You did. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

Let the Praise Interrupt

READ 1 Timothy 1:17

“To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory”

1:17

Paul cannot even finish his own testimony. Halfway through explaining himself he stops and worships, and the doxology just breaks into the letter like someone standing up in the middle of a sentence.

That is a good diagnostic. When you rehearse what God has done for you, does it stay information, or does it turn into worship? Grace that never interrupts you with praise has probably not been fully felt yet.

REFLECT When did you last stop what you were doing simply to thank God?

PRAY *King of the ages, immortal and invisible, the only God — honor and glory to You forever. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Wage the Good Warfare

READ 1 Timothy 1:18–20

“wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience” 1:18–19

Grace received turns into a fight to be fought. Paul hands Timothy a charge, and the charge is not passive: hold on to faith, and hold on to a good conscience.

Then the warning. Some let go of that conscience, and the shipwreck followed. Faith rarely sinks in one dramatic night. It usually takes on water slowly, through small compromises nobody else saw. Remember this verse — Paul will come back to this same fight in the last chapter of the letter.

REFLECT Is there a small compromise you have made peace with that your conscience has not actually agreed to?

PRAY *Father, keep my conscience tender. I would rather feel the sting now than drift for years. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

GRACE FOR THE WORST OF SINNERS

Use these over a meal, in the car, or at bedtime — any day this week. Read the verse together first, then take the questions in order. Let the youngest answer first.

SAY IT TOGETHER

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.” 1
TIMOTHY 1:15

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does the word mercy mean?
2. Is there anyone God could not forgive? Why does Paul's story answer that?
3. Who is one person our family can pray for by name who feels far from God?

PRAY AS A FAMILY

Thank God for one thing each person names. Then pray for one person outside your home by name.

WHAT WE WANT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS WEEK

WEEK THREE

A CHURCH ON ITS KNEES

1 Timothy 2:1–8

BIG IDEA

A church that believes God wants all people saved will pray for all people — including the ones it would rather not pray for.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

“There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

1 TIMOTHY 2:5

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- DAY 1 1 Timothy 2:1–2 · *First of All*
- DAY 2 1 Timothy 2:3–4 · *What God Wants*
- DAY 3 1 Timothy 2:5–6 · *One Mediator*
- DAY 4 1 Timothy 2:7 · *All People Means All*
- DAY 5 1 Timothy 2:8 · *Holy Hands*
- DAY 6 1 Timothy 2:1–8 · *A Church on Its Knees*

Sunday belongs to the gathering. Begin Day 1 the day after the message is preached.

NOTES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

First of All

READ 1 Timothy 2:1–2

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications... be made for all people” 2:1

Paul has just finished naming a mess in Ephesus. His first instruction for fixing it is not a new policy. It is prayer — and prayer for everyone.

Then he presses in where it hurts: for kings and all who are in high positions. The emperor when Paul wrote this was Nero. Paul is telling a persecuted church to pray for the man who would eventually execute him. Our prayer list is supposed to be bigger than our voting record.

REFLECT Write down the name of one person in authority you disagree with. Pray for them by name today.

PRAY *Lord, I bring You someone I would rather complain about. Give them wisdom. Change their heart, and mine. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



What God Wants

READ 1 Timothy 2:3–4

“who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” 2:4

Here is the reason behind the command. We pray for all people because God desires all people. Our prayers are meant to run in the same direction as His heart.

It is worth asking honestly whether they do. It is easy to want God to save people who are already like us. It is harder to want Him to save the person whose politics, past, or personality we find unbearable — and that is exactly the person this verse has in mind.

REFLECT Whose salvation would genuinely surprise you? Start praying for them.

PRAY *Father, align my desires with Yours. Let me want what You want, especially for people I struggle to like. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

One Mediator

READ 1 Timothy 2:5–6

“one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” 2:5

Mediator is a courtroom word. It means the one who stands between two parties and makes peace possible. A bridge only works if it touches both sides — and only One is fully God and fully man.

Verse 6 tells you what it cost Him to stand there. He gave Himself as a ransom. He did not merely arrange the peace; He paid for it out of His own life.

REFLECT Do you live like someone who has direct access to God, or like someone still trying to earn a hearing?

PRAY *Jesus, You are my only mediator, and You are enough. Thank You that I come to the Father through You and never alone. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



All People Means All

READ 1 Timothy 2:7

“I was appointed a preacher and an apostle... a teacher of the Gentiles” 2:7

Paul is not making an abstract theological claim. He is the evidence. The former Pharisee who once drew the line hard between insiders and outsiders was sent to the outsiders.

If God wanted a mission limited to people who already belonged, He picked a strange man to lead it. Paul's assignment is proof that 'all people' was never a figure of speech.

REFLECT Who are the people your heart has quietly categorized as not our kind?

PRAY *Lord, tear down the lines I have drawn that You never drew. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

Holy Hands

READ 1 Timothy 2:8

“*lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling*” 2:8

Paul cares about how we pray, not just that we do. Hands lifted in worship should not still be clenched from the last argument.

This is one of the most practical verses in the letter. It means an unresolved conflict is a prayer problem. You cannot ask God to bless a person on Sunday while refusing to speak to them on Monday and expect the two to have nothing to do with each other.

REFLECT Is there a conversation you have been avoiding that is quietly affecting your prayer life?

PRAY *Father, search my heart for anger I have gotten comfortable with. Give me the humility to go first. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



A Church on Its Knees

READ 1 Timothy 2:1–8

“*This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior*” 2:3

Read the whole passage again and watch the logic: pray for everyone, because God wants everyone, because there is one Mediator for everyone, and one apostle sent to prove it.

A church becomes what it prays. If our prayers are only ever about our own comfort, we will become a small people. If we pray the way Paul asks here, we will slowly become a church that actually believes God can save anyone.

REFLECT Keep praying for the two names you wrote down this week — the person in authority, and the person far from God. Carry them through the whole series.

PRAY *Lord, make us a church on its knees, praying past our preferences to Your heart. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

A CHURCH ON ITS KNEES

Use these over a meal, in the car, or at bedtime — any day this week. Read the verse together first, then take the questions in order. Let the youngest answer first.

SAY IT TOGETHER

"There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." **1 TIMOTHY 2:5**

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What is a mediator? Can you think of a time someone helped two people make up?
2. Why is Jesus the only one who can do that between us and God?
3. Who is a leader our family can pray for together this week?

PRAY AS A FAMILY

Thank God for one thing each person names. Then pray for one person outside your home by name.

WHAT WE WANT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS WEEK

WEEK FOUR

ORDER IN THE HOUSE

1 Timothy 2:9–15

BIG IDEA

The gospel gives women a dignity the ancient world denied them — and calls the whole church to order its worship for the sake of that gospel.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

“...with what is proper for women who profess godliness — with good works.”

1 TIMOTHY 2:10

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- DAY 1 1 Timothy 2:9–10 · *Adornment That Argues*
- DAY 2 1 Timothy 2:10 with 1 Peter 3:3–4 · *Known by Good Works*
- DAY 3 1 Timothy 2:11 · *She Is in the Room*
- DAY 4 1 Timothy 2:12–14 · *The Verses We Disagree About*
- DAY 5 1 Timothy 2:15 · *The Hardest Sentence*
- DAY 6 Ephesians 4:1–6 · *Disagreeing as Family*

Sunday belongs to the gathering. Begin Day 1 the day after the message is preached.

NOTES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

Adornment That Argues

READ 1 Timothy 2:9–10

“not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire” 2:9

Ephesus was a city built around a goddess and organized around status display. What you wore announced your rank before you said a word. In that setting, Paul's instruction is not fussiness about fashion — it is a statement about where worth comes from.

And do not miss who this is aimed at. The specifics name women, but the principle indicts everyone who has ever used appearance to establish rank in a room. Verse 10 gives the alternative: let your reputation be built by good works.

REFLECT What do you use to signal your value to other people — clothes, car, job title, children's achievements?

PRAY *Father, I want to be known for what I do for others, not for what I display. Reorder my sense of worth. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Known by Good Works

READ 1 Timothy 2:10 with 1 Peter 3:3–4

“the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit” 1 Peter 3:4

Peter makes the same move Paul makes: shift the attention from the outside to the inside, and call the inside imperishable. Everything you can put on will eventually go out of style, wear out, or stop fitting. Character does not.

This is not a call to be invisible. It is a call to be substantial. The most memorable people in any church are rarely the best dressed — they are the ones who show up, serve, and never mention it.

REFLECT Name someone whose quiet faithfulness has shaped you. Tell them this week.

PRAY *Lord, build in me the kind of beauty that lasts and does not need an audience. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

She Is in the Room

READ 1 Timothy 2:11

“Let a woman learn” 2:11

Before we get to the sentence people argue about, notice the one that comes first — and notice what Paul assumes. She is in the room. She is being taught. In a world where formal instruction was mostly reserved for men, that assumption was not small.

The gospel does not park women in the back and hand them a summary later. It sits them down with everyone else and teaches them the Word of God. Whatever else this passage means, it starts by putting a Bible in a woman's hands.

REFLECT Are you actively learning Scripture, or mostly absorbing it secondhand?

PRAY *Father, thank You that Your Word is for me. Give me an appetite to learn it for myself. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



The Verses We Disagree About

READ 1 Timothy 2:12–14

“I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man” 2:12

This is the most debated paragraph in the letter, and faithful Christians who love Scripture and submit to its authority read it differently. Some understand Paul to be giving a permanent order for the church, grounded in the creation account he cites. Others understand him to be addressing a specific crisis in Ephesus, where false teaching had taken root and untrained teachers were spreading it.

Your pastor will lay out these readings and where our church stands. Between now and then, do the harder work: read the verses slowly, notice what Paul actually says and what he grounds it in, and pray for a teachable heart. Bring your questions to the message rather than to an argument.

REFLECT Can you state the position you disagree with in a way that someone who holds it would recognize as fair?

PRAY *Lord, give me a soft heart and a sharp mind. Keep me from certainty that has not done its homework. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

The Hardest Sentence

READ 1 Timothy 2:15

“*she will be saved through childbearing*” 2:15

Nobody reads this verse quickly. Christians have understood it at least three ways: that God preserves women through the danger of childbirth; that it points to the birth of Christ, the child through whom salvation came; or that it speaks of women being kept safe in the ordinary faithful calling of motherhood rather than being drawn into the false teaching.

Whatever reading you land on, anchor it to 1:15 — Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. No one in this letter is saved by anything other than that. Let the clear verse hold the difficult one.

REFLECT When you hit a passage you cannot resolve, do you let it unsettle your confidence in the gospel — or do you let the gospel steady you while you keep working?

PRAY *Jesus, I do not understand everything in Your Word. I understand that You came to save sinners. I will stand there. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Disagreeing as Family

READ Ephesians 4:1–6

“*eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*” Eph 4:3

Paul wrote Ephesians to the same city. He knew this church would have to work things out, and he told them how: humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another.

This week gave us practice at something we will need for the rest of our lives — holding a conviction and a charitable disagreement at the same time. If we can do that with 1 Timothy 2, we can do it at Thanksgiving dinner, in a Life Group, and in a hundred conversations this passage will never come up in.

REFLECT Who do you disagree with that you need to actively bless this week?

PRAY *Father, make us one without making us dishonest. Teach us to hold truth and each other at the same time. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

ORDER IN THE HOUSE

Use these over a meal, in the car, or at bedtime — any day this week. Read the verse together first, then take the questions in order. Let the youngest answer first.

SAY IT TOGETHER

“...with what is proper for women who profess godliness — with good works.” 1
TIMOTHY 2:10

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What are some ways people try to look important?
2. What is a good work our family could do this week that nobody would notice?
3. How do we treat someone in our family when we disagree with them?

PRAY AS A FAMILY

Thank God for one thing each person names. Then pray for one person outside your home by name.

WHAT WE WANT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS WEEK

WEEK FIVE

LEADERS WORTH FOLLOWING

1 Timothy 3:1–13

BIG IDEA

God's standard for leadership is character before competence — and almost everything on the list is something every believer should want.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"Therefore an overseer must be above reproach."

1 TIMOTHY 3:2

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

DAY 1 1 Timothy 3:1 · *A Noble Desire*

DAY 2 1 Timothy 3:2–3 · *Above Reproach*

DAY 3 1 Timothy 3:4–5 · *Start at Home*

DAY 4 1 Timothy 3:6–7 · *Not a New Convert*

DAY 5 1 Timothy 3:8–13 · *Tested, Then Trusted*

DAY 6 1 Timothy 3:1–13 with 3:16 · *Leaders Will Fail; Christ Will Not*

Sunday belongs to the gathering. Begin Day 1 the day after the message is preached.

NOTES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

A Noble Desire

READ 1 Timothy 3:1

“If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task” 3:1

Paul does not scold the person who wants to lead. He calls the desire noble. Wanting to serve God's people is not an ambition to apologize for.

But look at the last word: task. Not position, not platform, not title. Work. In God's house, leadership is a job description before it is an honor, and anyone who wants the honor without the labor has misread the sentence.

REFLECT Is there a way to serve this church that you have been quietly interested in but never mentioned to anyone?

PRAY *Lord, if there is work here for me, give me the courage to raise my hand and the humility to do it well. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Above Reproach

READ 1 Timothy 3:2-3

“sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach” 3:2

Read the list slowly. Almost every item describes character, not skill. Only one — able to teach — is about ability. The rest is about who a man is at home, with money, with a drink, with a stranger, and when someone provokes him.

Above reproach does not mean sinless. It means there is no glaring gap between his public life and his private one that would give an outsider a reason to dismiss the gospel.

REFLECT Read verses 2 and 3 again and mark the one item that convicts you most. Not for a leader you know — for you.

PRAY *Father, close the distance between who I am in public and who I am at home. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

Start at Home

READ 1 Timothy 3:4–5

“if someone does not know how to manage his own household...” 3 : 5

Paul draws a straight line from a man's house to God's house. How he leads at home is not a private matter; it is the audition.

This is not a demand for perfect children or a flawless marriage. It is a question about faithfulness in the room where nobody is watching and nobody is impressed. The people who live with you know things about your leadership that a congregation never will.

REFLECT What would the people who live with you say about the way you lead them?

PRAY *Lord, let me be the same person in my kitchen that I am in the sanctuary. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Not a New Convert

READ 1 Timothy 3:6–7

“He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit” 3 : 6

Paul is protecting the young believer, not insulting him. Fast promotion is one of the surest ways to ruin a sincere person. Pride grows quickest in soil that has not had time to settle.

Then verse 7 looks outside the building: he must be well thought of by outsiders. The neighbors, the coworkers, the people at the shop — their opinion counts. A reputation that only exists inside the church is not a reputation.

REFLECT If your coworkers or neighbors described you, would anything they said embarrass your church?

PRAY *Father, guard me from wanting influence faster than I can carry it. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

Tested, Then Trusted

READ 1 Timothy 3:8–13

“let them also be tested first; then let them serve” 3:10

Deacons are servants, and Paul's standard for them is the same currency: dignity, honesty, self-control, and a clear conscience holding a clear faith.

Tested first, then trusted. That order protects everyone — the church from a mistake, and the servant from a weight he was not ready to carry. Notice also verse 13: faithful service does not make you small. It gains you a good standing and great confidence in the faith.

One note on verse 11. When Paul turns to “the women,” he is most likely describing women who serve as deacons, not deacons’ wives — and the rest of Scripture and history back that up. Paul calls Phoebe a deacon of the church at Cenchreae (Romans 16:1). By the Council of Chalcedon in AD 451 the church had formal rules for ordaining deaconesses. Women serving in this office is not a modern innovation. It is what the church has done from the beginning.

REFLECT Where have you been faithful in something small for long enough that God may be preparing you for more?

PRAY Lord, make me trustworthy in the unnoticed thing. Amen.

MY RESPONSE



Leaders Will Fail; Christ Will Not

READ 1 Timothy 3:1–13 with 3:16

“He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit” 3:16

Every leader on this list will eventually disappoint someone. Some will disappoint badly. That is why the passage does not end with the qualifications — it ends a few verses later with a hymn about Christ.

The church does not rest on the men who serve it. It rests on the One who was manifested in the flesh and taken up in glory. Honor your leaders. Pray for them constantly. But do not build your faith on them, for their sake and for yours.

REFLECT Pray by name today for the elders, deacons, and ministry leaders of Sinai Church.

PRAY Father, hold up the people who lead us. Guard their homes, their integrity, and their joy. And keep our confidence in Jesus. Amen.

MY RESPONSE

LEADERS WORTH FOLLOWING

Use these over a meal, in the car, or at bedtime — any day this week. Read the verse together first, then take the questions in order. Let the youngest answer first.

SAY IT TOGETHER

"Therefore an overseer must be above reproach." **1 TIMOTHY 3:2**

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What makes someone worth following?
2. Why do you think God cares more about a leader's character than their talent?
3. Which of our church's leaders can we pray for and thank this week?

PRAY AS A FAMILY

Thank God for one thing each person names. Then pray for one person outside your home by name.

WHAT WE WANT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS WEEK

WEEK SIX

THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

1 Timothy 3:14-16

BIG IDEA

The church is God's family, the truth's foundation, and Christ's trophy — this is why everything else in the letter matters.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"...how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God."

1 TIMOTHY 3:15

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

DAY 1 1 Timothy 3:14-15a · *House Rules*

DAY 2 1 Timothy 3:15 · *The Living God*

DAY 3 1 Timothy 3:15b · *A Pillar and Buttress*

DAY 4 1 Timothy 3:16 · *Manifested in the Flesh*

DAY 5 1 Timothy 3:16 · *Proclaimed and Taken Up*

DAY 6 1 Timothy 3:14-16 · *We're Family*

Sunday belongs to the gathering. Begin Day 1 the day after the message is preached.

NOTES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

House Rules

READ 1 Timothy 3:14–15a

“so that you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God”

3:15

This is the sentence the entire letter hangs on. Paul says out loud why he is writing: so the church will know how to live in the Father's house. Every instruction before and after this verse is an application of it.

It also tells you what the church is. Not a building. Not an audience. A household — a family with a Father, and therefore with a way of doing things. Rules in a house are not restrictions on the family. They are the shape of belonging to it.

REFLECT Do you approach church as a consumer choosing a service, or as a family member coming home?

PRAY *Father, thank You that I am not a customer here. I am Yours. Teach me to live like it. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



The Living God

READ 1 Timothy 3:15

“the church of the living God” 3:15

Ephesus was full of gods. They had temples, festivals, priests, and impressive stonework — and not one of them was alive. Paul's phrase is a quiet demolition of all of it.

The church belongs to the God who is actually there. That is what makes an ordinary Sunday extraordinary. We are not maintaining a tradition or honoring a memory. We are the household of a God who speaks, acts, hears, and shows up.

REFLECT What do you expect when you walk into a worship service? Does your expectation match who you say is there?

PRAY *Living God, forgive me for going through motions with You. Meet us when we gather. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

A Pillar and Buttress

READ 1 Timothy 3:15b

“a pillar and buttress of the truth” 3:15

The Temple of Artemis stood in Ephesus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, held up by 127 marble columns. Paul writes to a small congregation meeting in houses and tells them: you are the pillar that matters.

Note carefully what a pillar does. It does not create what it holds. The church did not invent the truth and cannot improve it. Our job is to hold it up high enough and steady enough that the city can see it.

REFLECT In your workplace, neighborhood, or family, what truth are you holding up right now — and is anyone able to see it?

PRAY Lord, make our church a steady pillar in this city. Keep us from dropping what You handed us. Amen.

MY RESPONSE



Manifested in the Flesh

READ 1 Timothy 3:16

“Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness” 3:16

Six lines, almost certainly an early hymn — something the church sang before anyone wrote it down. Read the first three today: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels.

Manifested in the flesh. God did not send a message about Himself; He came in a body. Vindicated by the Spirit — the resurrection settled forever whether His claims were true. This is the mystery the pillar holds up.

REFLECT Read the whole of verse 16 out loud. Slowly. It was written to be spoken.

PRAY Jesus, You came in flesh and You were raised. I confess it with the church across every century. Amen.

MY RESPONSE

Proclaimed and Taken Up

READ 1 Timothy 3:16

“proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory”

3:16

The second half of the hymn moves outward and upward. The message goes to the nations, it is actually believed by real people in a real world, and the One at the center of it is seated in glory.

That middle line is worth pausing on: believed on in the world. That includes you. When you trusted Christ, you became a line in the church's oldest song.

REFLECT Who told you about Jesus? Thank God for them by name today.

PRAY *Father, thank You that the message reached me. Use me to carry it to someone else. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



We're Family

READ 1 Timothy 3:14–16

“the household of God” 3:15

This is the hinge of the whole series. Everything we have read so far and everything ahead — prayer, leadership, discipline, care for widows, money — is Paul answering one question: how does a family live when the Father is God?

Somos familia. It is not a slogan we picked because it sounds warm. It is what verse 15 says we are. Which means the people sitting near you on Sunday are not an audience you attend with. They are relatives.

REFLECT Name one person at Sinai you know only by face. Learn their name this week.

PRAY *Father, You gave me a family here. Help me act like it — even when it costs me something. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

Use these over a meal, in the car, or at bedtime — any day this week. Read the verse together first, then take the questions in order. Let the youngest answer first.

SAY IT TOGETHER

“...how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God.” **1 TIMOTHY 3:15**

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What is one rule in our house, and why do we have it?
2. How is the church like a family?
3. Who is someone at church we could invite over or sit with this month?

PRAY AS A FAMILY

Thank God for one thing each person names. Then pray for one person outside your home by name.

WHAT WE WANT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS WEEK

WEEK SEVEN

TRAIN YOURSELF FOR GODLINESS

1 Timothy 4:1-10

BIG IDEA

Discernment keeps you from the lie; discipline forms you into the likeness of Christ. You need both.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"Train yourself for godliness."

1 TIMOTHY 4:7

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- DAY 1 1 Timothy 4:1-2 · *Deception Wears a Costume*
- DAY 2 1 Timothy 4:3-5 · *Extra Holiness Is Not Holiness*
- DAY 3 1 Timothy 4:6 · *Fed on the Word*
- DAY 4 1 Timothy 4:7 · *Train Yourself*
- DAY 5 1 Timothy 4:8 · *Value in Every Direction*
- DAY 6 1 Timothy 4:9-10 · *Why We Toil*

Sunday belongs to the gathering. Begin Day 1 the day after the message is preached.

NOTES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

Deception Wears a Costume

READ 1 Timothy 4:1–2

“some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits”

4 : 1

Nobody departs from the faith by deciding to depart from the faith. Paul says they devote themselves to something — the drift is always toward something that looked worth having.

And the teachers pushing it have consciences that are seared. That is a burn image: scar tissue where feeling used to be. Repeated compromise does not just break rules; over time it dulls the nerve that would have told you something was wrong.

REFLECT Is there anything you used to feel convicted about that no longer bothers you at all? Ask why.

PRAY *Holy Spirit, keep my conscience alive. I would rather be uncomfortable than numb. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Extra Holiness Is Not Holiness

READ 1 Timothy 4:3–5

“everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected”

4 : 4

The error in Ephesus did not arrive looking evil. It arrived looking more spiritual than everyone else — forbidding marriage, banning foods, adding rules God never gave.

Paul's answer is startlingly simple: God made it, so receive it with thanksgiving. Real godliness is not measured by how much you refuse. Legalism can imitate holiness closely enough to fool a whole church, but it produces pride rather than gratitude, and gratitude is the tell.

REFLECT Have you ever mistaken your personal preferences or restrictions for spiritual maturity?

PRAY *Father, thank You for good gifts. Free me from rules You never made and give me a grateful heart. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

Fed on the Word

READ 1 Timothy 4:6

“*trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine*” 4:6

A good servant of Christ is a well-fed one. Paul's picture is nourishment — the truth is not just information you agree with, it is food you live on.

You are being fed by something every single day. The question is only what. Podcasts, feeds, group chats, headlines. If Scripture is a garnish on a diet of everything else, do not be surprised when you find yourself thinking like everything else.

REFLECT Count honestly: how many minutes yesterday went to Scripture, and how many to your phone?

PRAY *Lord, give me hunger for Your Word — real hunger, not obligation. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Train Yourself

READ 1 Timothy 4:7

“*Train yourself for godliness.*” 4:7

The word Paul chooses is *gymnazo* — the root of *gymnasium*. It is the least mystical word available. Sweat, reps, repetition, showing up when you do not feel like it.

Nobody drifts into a championship, and nobody drifts into Christlikeness. Godliness is not a mood that descends on you; it is a practice you schedule. Grace is not opposed to effort. It is opposed to earning.

REFLECT Name one spiritual discipline, one day, and one time this week. Write it down. Then keep it.

PRAY *Father, I am not waiting to feel like it. Give me the will to begin and the grit to continue. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

Value in Every Direction

READ 1 Timothy 4:8

“*godliness is of value in every way*” 4:8

Paul does not mock physical training; he says it has some value. He simply refuses to let it outrank the other kind. Bodily training pays off in one direction for a limited number of years. Godliness pays in every direction, in this life and the next.

Most of us would never skip a workout, a shift, or a deadline for six weeks running. We will skip prayer for six weeks and barely notice. That gap is the whole point of the verse.

REFLECT What do you make time for without fail? What does that reveal about what you actually value?

PRAY Lord, reorder my calendar around what lasts. Amen.

MY RESPONSE



Why We Toil

READ 1 Timothy 4:9–10

“*we have our hope set on the living God*” 4:10

After all that talk of training, Paul plants the flag: our hope is set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people. We do not train in order to be saved. We train because we are.

That is the difference between discipline and desperation. The exhausted person is trying to earn something. The disciplined person is becoming what they already are. Same effort, opposite engine.

REFLECT Are you working for God's approval, or from it?

PRAY Jesus, You saved me before I did one thing for You. Let everything I do this week come out of that, not toward it. Amen.

MY RESPONSE

TRAIN YOURSELF FOR GODLINESS

Use these over a meal, in the car, or at bedtime — any day this week. Read the verse together first, then take the questions in order. Let the youngest answer first.

SAY IT TOGETHER

“Train yourself for godliness.” **1 TIMOTHY 4:7**

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What is something you have gotten better at by practicing?
2. What does it look like to practice being like Jesus?
3. What is one thing our family could practice together every day this week?

PRAY AS A FAMILY

Thank God for one thing each person names. Then pray for one person outside your home by name.

WHAT WE WANT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS WEEK

WEEK EIGHT

WATCH YOUR LIFE AND YOUR DOCTRINE

1 Timothy 4:11-16

BIG IDEA

What you teach and how you live must match — and God uses both to save the people listening to you.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching.”

1 TIMOTHY 4:16

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

DAY 1 1 Timothy 4:11-12a · *Don't Wait to Be Taken Seriously*

DAY 2 1 Timothy 4:12b · *Five Arenas*

DAY 3 1 Timothy 4:13 · *The Public Reading*

DAY 4 1 Timothy 4:14 · *Do Not Neglect the Gift*

DAY 5 1 Timothy 4:15 · *Visible Progress*

DAY 6 1 Timothy 4:16 · *Keep a Close Watch*

Sunday belongs to the gathering. Begin Day 1 the day after the message is preached.

NOTES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

Don't Wait to Be Taken Seriously

READ 1 Timothy 4:11–12a

“Let no one despise you for your youth” 4:12

Timothy was young and probably second-guessed in a room full of older men. Paul's counsel is not what we would expect. He does not tell Timothy to demand respect or to wait quietly until he is older.

He tells him to command and teach these things — and then to live in a way that makes the objection collapse. Respect is not something you announce. It is something your life makes obvious.

REFLECT Where have you been waiting for permission or seniority before you serve?

PRAY Lord, give me the courage to step forward and the character to be worth following. Amen.

MY RESPONSE



Five Arenas

READ 1 Timothy 4:12b

“set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” 4:12

Five arenas, all visible. Speech: what you say and how you say it. Conduct: what you do when it costs you. Love: whether people feel it or only hear it. Faith: whether you trust God when the outcome is uncertain. Purity: what you do with your eyes, your phone, and your private hours.

This is a mirror, not a résumé. Go through them one at a time and let the room get quiet.

REFLECT Which of the five is your strongest? Which one is the one you skipped past quickly?

PRAY Father, search these five rooms in me. Start with the one I do not want to open. Amen.

MY RESPONSE

The Public Reading

READ 1 Timothy 4:13

“devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching”

4:13

Long before most Christians owned a Bible, the church heard it read aloud. Paul tells Timothy to give himself to it — the reading first, then the explaining and the urging.

There is something worth recovering here. Scripture read out loud in a room full of people does something a private screen cannot do. Try it this week with your family, out loud, standing up.

REFLECT When did you last hear Scripture read aloud outside of a Sunday service?

PRAY Lord, let Your Word be heard in our home, not just referenced. Amen.

MY RESPONSE



Do Not Neglect the Gift

READ 1 Timothy 4:14

“Do not neglect the gift you have” 4:14

Notice what Paul does not say. He does not tell Timothy to go get a gift, earn one, or manufacture one. It was given. The grace came first; the responsibility follows.

Neglect is a passive word. Nobody has to actively destroy a gift to lose the use of it. You just have to not use it, week after week, until you forget you had it.

REFLECT What has God given you that you are currently not using?

PRAY Father, I do not want to bury what You handed me. Show me where to put it to work. Amen.

MY RESPONSE

Visible Progress

READ 1 Timothy 4:15

“so that all may see your progress” 4:15

Practice these things. Immerse yourself in them. Paul expects growth to be noticeable — not perfection, but movement someone else can see.

That is a freeing standard and a demanding one at the same time. You are not asked to arrive. You are asked to be visibly further along than you were last year. Which raises the question.

REFLECT Would someone who knew you a year ago be able to point to specific growth?

PRAY *Lord, I do not need to be finished. I need to be moving. Keep me from standing still. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Keep a Close Watch

READ 1 Timothy 4:16

“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching.” 4:16

Both. Not one. A man can guard his doctrine perfectly and lose his soul in private. A man can be warm and sincere and lead people into error with a smile. Paul refuses to let us pick a lane. And this is not aimed only at pastors. Every parent, coach, older sibling, and group leader is teaching somebody something. Somebody is watching your life and drawing conclusions about your Jesus.

REFLECT Who is watching you? What are they learning about God from what they see?

PRAY *Father, let my life and my words say the same thing about You. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

WATCH YOUR LIFE AND YOUR DOCTRINE

Use these over a meal, in the car, or at bedtime — any day this week. Read the verse together first, then take the questions in order. Let the youngest answer first.

SAY IT TOGETHER

“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching.” **1 TIMOTHY 4:16**

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Who looks up to you? Who do you look up to?
2. Why does it matter that what we say and what we do match?
3. What is one way our family could be a good example to our neighbors?

PRAY AS A FAMILY

Thank God for one thing each person names. Then pray for one person outside your home by name.

WHAT WE WANT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS WEEK

WEEK NINE

WE'RE FAMILY

1 Timothy 5:1–16

BIG IDEA

If the church is a household, then honor, provision, and care for the vulnerable are not policies — they are family obligations.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

“...encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters.”

1 TIMOTHY 5:1–2

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

DAY 1 1 Timothy 5:1–2 · *Correct Like Family*

DAY 2 1 Timothy 5:3–4 · *Start with Your Own*

DAY 3 1 Timothy 5:5–7 · *Truly Alone*

DAY 4 1 Timothy 5:8 · *The Sharpest Sentence*

DAY 5 1 Timothy 5:9–10 · *A Life of Good Works*

DAY 6 1 Timothy 5:11–16 · *So the Church Can Help*

Sunday belongs to the gathering. Begin Day 1 the day after the message is preached.

NOTES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

Correct Like Family

READ 1 Timothy 5:1–2

“Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father” 5:1

Paul does not tell Timothy to avoid hard conversations. He tells him how to have them. Fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters — every category is a family word, and every family word changes the tone of the correction.

This is the practical test of whether we actually believe the church is a household. Anyone can call people family when things are pleasant. The way you speak to someone when you have to confront them is where the belief shows up or does not.

REFLECT Think of the last time you corrected someone at church, at work, or online. Did it sound like family?

PRAY *Father, when I have to say something hard, let it come out sounding like love. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Start with Your Own

READ 1 Timothy 5:3–4

“let them first learn to show godliness to their own household” 5:4

Before the church steps in, the family steps up. Paul says caring for aging parents and grandparents is not merely decent — it is godliness, and it is pleasing in the sight of God.

He also calls it making some return. There is a debt in every family. Someone fed you, stayed up with you, worked shifts you never saw. Paying that back is not sentiment. It is worship.

REFLECT Who in your family raised you or carried you, and when did you last actively care for them?

PRAY *Lord, thank You for the people who carried me. Show me how to return it while I still can. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

Truly Alone

READ 1 Timothy 5:5–7

“*She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God*” 5:5

Paul is not being bureaucratic. He is distinguishing between the widow who has family and the one who has nobody — because the church's limited resources should reach the woman with no one else.

Left all alone. Sit with that phrase for a minute. There are people in every congregation whose hardest hour of the week is not Sunday morning but Tuesday evening, when the house is quiet and no one calls.

REFLECT Who in our church is likely to spend this week alone? What would it cost you to change that?

PRAY *Father, open my eyes to the people I keep not seeing. Give me one name today. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



The Sharpest Sentence

READ 1 Timothy 5:8

“*he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever*” 5:8

This is the hardest sentence in the letter, and it is not aimed at strangers. It is aimed at people who provide for everyone except their own relatives. Paul says the neglect is not a lapse in kindness; it is a contradiction of the faith itself.

Providing is more than money, though it is not less. It is presence, time, phone calls, showing up. A man can pay for a nursing home and still be absent from it.

REFLECT Is there anyone in your family you have been financially or emotionally absent from? What is one step this week?

PRAY *Lord, do not let me be generous everywhere except home. Convict me where I need it. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

A Life of Good Works

READ 1 Timothy 5:9–10

“having a reputation for good works... devoted herself to every good work”

5:10

Look at what the church honored in an older woman: she raised children, she showed hospitality, she washed feet, she helped the afflicted. Not one item on that list would have made a newspaper.

This is what a lifetime of ordinary faithfulness looks like when someone finally writes it down. Most of the people who shaped your faith will never be famous. They just kept doing small things for decades.

REFLECT Name an older believer whose quiet decades have blessed you. Call or write them this week.

PRAY *Father, thank You for the faithful ones nobody applauded. Make me one of them. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



So the Church Can Help

READ 1 Timothy 5:11–16

“let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows”

5:16

The passage ends with the reason behind all the criteria. When families carry what they can carry, the church has capacity for the people who have no one. Order is not the opposite of compassion; it is what makes compassion sustainable.

Remember whose logic this is. Jesus, dying, made sure His mother would be cared for by a disciple. The family instinct of chapter 5 was His before it was Paul's — and it cost Him His last strength to arrange it.

REFLECT What is one practical way you could take something off the church's plate so it can reach someone else?

PRAY *Lord Jesus, You cared for Your mother from a cross. Teach us to care like that. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

WE'RE FAMILY

Use these over a meal, in the car, or at bedtime — any day this week. Read the verse together first, then take the questions in order. Let the youngest answer first.

SAY IT TOGETHER

"...encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters." **1 TIMOTHY 5:1-2**

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Who in our family or church might be lonely right now?
2. What is something we could do for an older person this week?
3. Why does God care so much about how we treat people who cannot pay us back?

PRAY AS A FAMILY

Thank God for one thing each person names. Then pray for one person outside your home by name.

WHAT WE WANT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS WEEK

WEEK TEN

HONOR IN THE HOUSE

1 Timothy 5:17-25

BIG IDEA

The household honors and protects its leaders — with respect, accountability, and no partiality.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor.”

1 TIMOTHY 5:17

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- DAY 1 1 Timothy 5:17-18 · *Double Honor*
- DAY 2 1 Timothy 5:19 · *Refusing Cheap Accusations*
- DAY 3 1 Timothy 5:20-21 · *Without Partiality*
- DAY 4 1 Timothy 5:22 · *Do Not Be Hasty*
- DAY 5 1 Timothy 5:23 · *A Word About Wine*
- DAY 6 1 Timothy 5:24-25 · *Nothing Stays Hidden*

Sunday belongs to the gathering. Begin Day 1 the day after the message is preached.

NOTES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

Double Honor

READ 1 Timothy 5:17–18

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor” 5:17

Honor here is not celebrity. Paul is not asking anyone to idolize a leader. He is asking the household to recognize genuine labor — and, judging by the quotation about not muzzling the ox, to actually pay for it.

It is easy to be a critic of church leadership and hard to be a thanker. Both take about the same number of words.

REFLECT Send one specific note of thanks to a pastor, elder, or ministry leader today. Name something concrete they did.

PRAY *Father, thank You for people who labor in preaching and teaching. Let our church be generous with honor. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Refusing Cheap Accusations

READ 1 Timothy 5:19

“Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses” 5:19

Leaders make easy targets. One offended person with a story can do enormous damage, and Paul builds a wall against it: a serious accusation requires serious evidence.

This is not a shield for the guilty — the very next verses deal with proven sin. It is a refusal to let gossip do the work of justice. A household that repeats every rumor it hears is not protecting anyone.

REFLECT Have you passed along something about a leader — or anyone — that you could not have verified?

PRAY *Lord, guard my mouth. Make me the person a rumor stops with. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

Without Partiality

READ 1 Timothy 5:20–21

“keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality” 5:21

Honor never means covering up. When sin is proven, Paul says to deal with it openly, so that the whole household takes it seriously.

Then the strongest language in the chapter: do nothing from partiality. Not for the popular one, the generous one, the family friend, or the one whose departure would be inconvenient. Favoritism is how good churches slowly become unsafe ones.

REFLECT Is there anyone in your life you hold to a lower standard because you like them?

PRAY *Father, make us a church where truth and respect live together, and where no one is above the truth. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Do Not Be Hasty

READ 1 Timothy 5:22

“Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands” 5:22

Paul told Timothy earlier not to promote a new convert. Here is the same wisdom from the other side: slow down. Filling a role quickly with the wrong person costs far more than leaving it empty a little longer.

Keep yourself pure, he adds. The one doing the choosing has to be clean too. You cannot build a healthy house with careless hands.

REFLECT Where in your life are you rushing a decision that would be better made slowly?

PRAY *Lord, give me patience where I want speed, especially with people. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

A Word About Wine

READ 1 Timothy 5:23

“use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments”

5:23

This verse feels like it wandered in from another letter, and in a way it did. In the middle of instructions about elders and accountability, Paul stops to say: take care of your body, son. You are not well.

There is real pastoral tenderness in that. The man giving Timothy the weight of a church also notices his stomach. God's concern for you is not limited to your usefulness.

REFLECT Are you caring for the body God gave you — sleep, food, movement, rest — or spending it as if it were free?

PRAY *Father, thank You that You see me, not just my output. Teach me to steward my body. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Nothing Stays Hidden

READ 1 Timothy 5:24–25

“even good works... will not remain hidden” 5:25

Paul closes with a promise that cuts two ways. Some sins are obvious immediately; others surface later, but they surface. And good works are the same — some are seen now, and the rest cannot stay hidden forever.

That is a warning if you are hiding something. It is enormous comfort if you have been faithful in a place where nobody noticed. God is not going to overlook it.

REFLECT Is there something hidden you should bring into the light now, on your own terms, before time does it for you?

PRAY *Lord, I would rather be known by You than admired by anyone. Bring what needs to come out into the light. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

HONOR IN THE HOUSE

Use these over a meal, in the car, or at bedtime — any day this week. Read the verse together first, then take the questions in order. Let the youngest answer first.

SAY IT TOGETHER

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor.” 1
TIMOTHY 5:17

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What is the difference between honoring someone and excusing them?
2. Why is it wrong to repeat a story you are not sure is true?
3. Who is a leader we should thank this week, and how?

PRAY AS A FAMILY

Thank God for one thing each person names. Then pray for one person outside your home by name.

WHAT WE WANT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS WEEK

WEEK ELEVEN

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

1 Timothy 6:1-21

BIG IDEA

Contentment is the antidote to a culture of more — and the fight of faith is won by taking hold of the life that is truly life.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.”

1 TIMOTHY 6:12

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- DAY 1 1 Timothy 6:1-2 · *Faithful Where You Are*
- DAY 2 1 Timothy 6:3-5 · *Godliness Is Not a Business*
- DAY 3 1 Timothy 6:6-10 · *Great Gain*
- DAY 4 1 Timothy 6:11-12 · *Flee, Pursue, Fight, Take Hold*
- DAY 5 1 Timothy 6:13-16 · *The Good Confession*
- DAY 6 1 Timothy 6:17-21 · *Guard the Deposit*

Sunday belongs to the gathering. Begin Day 1 the day after the message is preached.

NOTES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

Faithful Where You Are

READ 1 Timothy 6:1–2

“so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled” 6:1

Paul is writing to believers living inside Roman slavery — a brutal system he had no power to abolish and never endorses. He is discipling people trapped in it, telling them how to live so that the gospel is not slandered because of them. The trajectory of that same gospel is on full display in the letter to Philemon, where Paul asks a master to receive his slave as a brother.

The principle survives the setting. Many of us work under people we did not choose and cannot change. How we work there says something about our God to everyone watching.

REFLECT What does your work ethic communicate about Christ to people who will never hear you talk about Him?

PRAY Father, let my name on a schedule mean something good about Your name. Amen.

MY RESPONSE



Godliness Is Not a Business

READ 1 Timothy 6:3–5

“imagining that godliness is a means of gain” 6:5

Some in Ephesus had figured out that religion could be profitable, and Paul is scathing about it. He says they have an unhealthy craving for controversy — literally, they are sick with it. Arguing had become their appetite.

The tell is always the fruit. Envy, dissension, slander, constant friction. Teaching that leaves a trail of wreckage behind it is not sound, however impressive it sounds.

REFLECT Do the voices you follow leave you more like Christ, or just more agitated?

PRAY Lord, cure me of any appetite for controversy. Give me a taste for peace. Amen.

MY RESPONSE

Great Gain

READ 1 Timothy 6:6–10

“*godliness with contentment is great gain*” 6:6

We brought nothing into the world and can take nothing out. Everything in between is on loan. Contentment is not pretending you have everything you want; it is wanting what you already have.

Note what Paul actually says in verse 10. Not money — the love of money. The danger is not in the wallet but in the wanting, and Paul says some have wandered away from the faith chasing it and pierced themselves with many pangs. Not been pierced. Pierced themselves.

REFLECT Finish the sentence honestly: ‘I would finally feel secure if I had _____.’ Now ask what that reveals.

PRAY *Father, be my portion. Teach me to want what I already have in You. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Flee, Pursue, Fight, Take Hold

READ 1 Timothy 6:11–12

“*Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life*” 6:12

Four verbs, all active. Flee these things — sometimes maturity looks like running. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight. Take hold.

The Christian life is not a drift and it is not a truce. Paul told Timothy back in 1:18 to wage the good warfare, and here at the end he is still saying it. Same fight, five chapters later. Some battles are not won once.

REFLECT What is the one thing you most need to flee right now? What do you need to pursue in its place?

PRAY *Lord, give me the sense to run and the courage to fight, and let me know which is which. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

The Good Confession

READ 1 Timothy 6:13–16

“Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession” 6:13

Paul anchors Timothy's charge to a moment in a Roman courtroom. Jesus stood before Pilate with His life on the line and did not flinch.

That is where our confidence comes from. Our fight is not to prove ourselves. It is to hold on to the One who already held His ground for us — the blessed and only Sovereign, dwelling in unapproachable light, to whom be honor and eternal dominion.

REFLECT Where are you tempted to soften what you believe because of who is listening?

PRAY *Jesus, You did not flinch. Give me a fraction of that steadiness this week. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE



Guard the Deposit

READ 1 Timothy 6:17–21

“to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share” 6:18

Paul's word to the rich is not shame — it is redirection. Do not set your hope on something as uncertain as money; set it on God. Then be generous, and store up a foundation for the future by giving things away.

The letter closes where it began: guard the deposit entrusted to you. Eleven weeks ago Paul charged Timothy to hold on to faith and a good conscience, and here at the end he says it one more time. We have been handed something. Our job is not to improve it. Our job is to hold it, live it, and pass it on.

REFLECT Do one specific, planned act of generosity this week. Decide the amount or the act today, before the feeling passes.

PRAY *Father, thank You for what You entrusted to us. Make us a household that holds the truth, loves people, and gives generously. Grace be with us. Amen.*

MY RESPONSE

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Use these over a meal, in the car, or at bedtime — any day this week. Read the verse together first, then take the questions in order. Let the youngest answer first.

SAY IT TOGETHER

“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.” **1 TIMOTHY 6:12**

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What is something you really wanted, got, and then stopped caring about?
2. What does it mean to be content?
3. What is one thing our family can give away this week?

PRAY AS A FAMILY

Thank God for one thing each person names. Then pray for one person outside your home by name.

WHAT WE WANT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS WEEK

THE WHOLE LETTER, ELEVEN VERSES

Memory Verses

If you keep nothing else from this series, keep these. One verse per week, eleven verses across the year.

WEEK 1 · 1 TIMOTHY 1:5

| *"The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart..."*

WEEK 2 · 1 TIMOTHY 1:15

| *"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."*

WEEK 3 · 1 TIMOTHY 2:5

| *"There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*

WEEK 4 · 1 TIMOTHY 2:10

| *"...with what is proper for women who profess godliness — with good works."*

WEEK 5 · 1 TIMOTHY 3:2

| *"Therefore an overseer must be above reproach."*

WEEK 6 · 1 TIMOTHY 3:15

| *"...how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God."*

WEEK 7 · 1 TIMOTHY 4:7

| *"Train yourself for godliness."*

WEEK 8 · 1 TIMOTHY 4:16

| *"Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching."*

WEEK 9 · 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-2

| *"...encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters."*

WEEK 10 · 1 TIMOTHY 5:17

| *"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor."*

WEEK 11 · 1 TIMOTHY 6:12

| *"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called."*

WE'RE FAMILY · SOMOS FAMILIA *"Grace be with you." 1 Timothy 6:21*
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