

"Listening to the Coach: Endurance & hard work" — Studies in 2 Timothy — Sunday, Sept 25th, 2011

Being Faithful in Tough Times - 2 Timothy 2:1-13

1. We have been given a message and a mission 2:2 A. The message - *The things you have heard me say ...* B. The mission - *Entrust to reliable men ... who will teach others.*
2. We can expect to face resistance 2:3 "*Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*" A. The Soldier B. The Athlete C. The Farmer
3. We need to think seriously about such matters. 2:7 "*Reflect on what I am saying, and the Lord will give you understanding.*"
4. We have the resources available to carry out the mission 2:1 "*Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*" *Keep on being inwardly empowered by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*



"Team Talk"



LIFE GROUPS: CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITIES OF CONNECTING, LEARNING, SERVING

TUNING IN: (approx. 10 min)

Each Life Group gathering we want to set our hearts and minds on Christ and His active presence and leadership in our midst.

This week tune in to His presence by trying the following idea:

- Those of you who are all reading from the same translation, read in unison: Psalm 139.
- End the reading by having someone pray, thanking God for His presence in your midst and inviting Him to shape your thoughts and conversations.
- (optional) Talk about it: How was this worship time received by you; what are some thoughts and feelings of the group?

CONNECTING: (approx. 10 min.)

Each Life Group gathering we want to create intentional space to get to know one another better.

- What was something this week that gave you joy; What was something that made you mad?

SERVING: (approx. 15 min.)

Each Life Group gathering we want to remind ourselves that it's not all about us and our group, but that we are part of a bigger "us" and a bigger picture.

- Talk about any opportunities you had this week to impact the people around you for Christ. How were you the "church" where you live, work and play?

LEARNING: (approx. 45 min.)

Each Life Group gathering is an environment for us to be impacted and transformed by Gods Word.

- Read: 2 Timothy 2:1-13
- Discuss question 1, sharing your thoughts from the passage or from the Sunday sermon.
- You may want to select only 3 or 4 other questions to discuss.
- SO WHAT? Spend a few quiet moments asking God to speak to you about any changes in thought, attitude or action that you need to make.
- NEXT STEPS: Any change or transformation requires some form of action from you and encouragement from others. Share your "next step" with the group and allow them to check in on you.

SENDING OUT: (approx. 20 min.)

After each Life Group gathering you are headed back into the world to impact those around you for Christ.

- Break into gender groups and share about any struggles or hardships that you are currently enduring. Pray for each other!

Tip: make sure you leave enough time for unrushed prayer.



Pressing



Questions for discussion with Life Groups, family, friends, or for personal reflection.

Sunday Review: Reflecting on this week's message from the Word....

- What verse or verses in this passage challenged you the most, and why?
- Share some situations in which you personally experienced what it means to be "strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus?"
- Could you explain the essence of the Gospel to someone else if you had the opportunity to do so? What would hinder you from doing so?
- Discuss Paul's summary of the Gospel he preached in 1 Cor. 15:3-5 and think through the implications of each phrase. (See this article by Dr. Don Carson if you want to study this subject in a deeper manner. http://www.thespurgeonfellowship.org/Downloads/feature_Sp08.pdf)
- Can you identify some instances in which you had to "endure hardship" because you were living for Jesus?
- What did you learn from such "tough times?"
- In what ways are the characteristics of the soldier, the athlete and the hard-working farmer expressed in your life as a follower of Christ.
- What changes are you willing to make in order to be a "good soldier of Jesus Christ?"
- What encouragements and warnings are given in the "faithful saying" of 2:11-13?



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