

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Minneapolis, Minnesota. In the foreground, a large mosque with a prominent golden dome is visible. A multi-arched bridge spans a wide river in the middle ground. The background shows a dense urban skyline with various skyscrapers under a cloudy sky.

1 TIMOTHY

STUDY GUIDE

WEEKS 9-12

MIDTOWN FELLOWSHIP

A Midtown Fellowship 1 Timothy Bible Study Plan: Weeks 9-12

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INTRODUCTION

As a church, we want to be people marked by God's Word. For only in His Word do we find the death-defying, hope-giving good news of Jesus. In His Word, we see an invitation to a way of life that is overflowing with joy, peace, and love not only in the life to come but in the here and now.

Because of this, we want to put every effort into making us into Word-marked people. We do this by preaching the Bible on Sundays, bringing it into our lives throughout the week in our LifeGroups, and creating resources to help you abide with Jesus regularly.

One of those resources is this 1 Timothy Bible Study Reading Plan. In this e-book, you'll find the book broken down into smaller passages to help you slowly take in what we're going through on Sundays. Along with that, we'll be studying other passages in the Bible that connect with the bigger ideas in 1 Timothy throughout the week.

During this 1 Timothy series, we'll be practicing *inductive Bible study* to help us unpack and take in God's Word. You can find a guide on how to use this tool on page 2. As we practice this together, we encourage you to print out this guide to better help you mark up the passages each day with your notes and observations.

We also want this series to move us to prayer. On page 5 you'll see a Prayer Guide with different prayer prompts for each day of the week.

It's our hope and prayer that in this, God will use our time in His Word to shape us by His Spirit to make us look more like Jesus.

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

As God's people, we want to be guided by His Word and empowered by His Spirit to be a Jesus-centered family on mission. And while no one expects us to all be seminary professors or in full-time ministry, we are expected to be in God's Word regularly (Psalm 1). When we do, God uses that to slowly make us more and more like Him.

Inductive Bible study is one way we do this. Just like regular Bible reading or [lectio divina](#), it involves three main steps: read, reflect, and respond with questions to ask yourself for each step. As you work through this, you'll notice the similarities and differences between inductive Bible study and lectio divina. Whereas lectio divina relies more on reading a passage meditatively with our hearts, inductive Bible study relies more on reading a passage methodically with our minds, and as followers of Jesus, we want both. As Bible teacher Jen Wilkin puts it, "The heart cannot love what the mind does not know...If we want to feel deeply about God, we must learn to think deeply about God."

READ (COMPREHENSION) WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Studying the Bible begins by first carving out time, sitting down, and thoroughly reading the passage. While this sounds simple enough, there are often many barriers that keep us from studying the Bible - time management, lack of focus, lack of sleep, etc. So as you begin, find a quiet place (ideally not a coffee shop), that is free from distractions (ideally not in the same room as your TV or other screens), where you can be alert (ideally not in your bed), at a time when you can be alert (ideally not as you're about to fall asleep). If you're in a LifeGroup, consider holding each other accountable by scheduling a time each day where everyone in your group will study the Bible together - for example, one of our LifeGroups makes a conference call to each other every morning at 6am to pray and remind themselves to study their Bibles!

Below are some helpful steps to comprehend a passage:

- **Look at the context** - Imagine how frustrating it would be to watch a movie clip with no context whatsoever on the plot or characters - and yet we do that so often with our Bibles! So to help us unpack what a passage means we need to know some background information. (To make it even easier, The Bible Project has broken down the context for every book in the [Old Testament](#) and [New Testament](#).)
Below are some questions to ask:
 - What's the genre of this passage?
 - Who's speaking? Who's the audience?
 - What's the historical context?
 - Why was this written?
- **Print out the passage** - Have a physical copy of what you're studying so you can underline, circle, and mark up your thoughts. To do this, simply copy/paste from [BibleGateway.com](#) onto a blank document, making sure your printout is double-spaced with plenty of room in the margins for your notes. You can also purchase one of [Crossway's](#) Bible journals to write down your notes.
- **Use different translations** - Reading from different translations helps you encounter a passage afresh and can help clarify any questions you have with the text. ([BibleGateway.com](#) offers an "Add parallel" feature where you can compare up to five translations back-to-back. To start out we'd recommend comparing a passage against the ESV, NIV, CSB, and NIV translations.)¹

¹ For more on this, check out our resource ["How Bible Translations Work"](#) over at [FollowingJesusTogether.com](#)

REFLECT (INTERPRETATION)

WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Once you've comprehended a passage, it's time to do the hard work of interpretation. We don't want to import our own biases and have the passage say something it doesn't (eisegesis), rather we want to discover how the original audience of the passage would have received it (exegesis).

Below are some helpful ways to get started:

- **Take notes** - Ask lots of questions and mark up your passage, you can either give special markings to your notes or use a color-coding system, whichever works best for you. Those questions include:
 - Certain words, phrases, ideas repeated?
 - Is there a particular attribute of God illustrated or celebrated?
 - Does the text make several points in a row? (If so, number them on your printout)
 - Are there words you don't understand? (Put a question mark on there and look up later)
 - Are there key transition words? "Therefore" "and so" (Draw arrows to them)
 - Is there a confusing idea? (Write out your questions)
- **Paraphrase the passage in your own words** - Writing down the passage in your words helps us better engage the text as we ask the Spirit to engage us.
- **Look up cross-references** - All Scripture is breathed out by God. Because of this, we use Scripture to interpret Scripture. When we encounter difficult passages, we use easier to understand passages to shed light on the harder ones (this is known as "the analogy of faith"). If there are any words that are confusing, [Blue Letter Bible](#) is a great free resource to use.
- **Consult commentaries** - Commentaries are like crutches. They can be helpful assistance, but the aim is not to grow too dependent on them. The aim is to learn how to equip yourself so you, in turn, can equip others (Eph 4:11-16). A great go-to is John Piper's [Desiring God resource page](#) where he's broken down nearly the entire Bible by book, chapter, and verse. Along with that, he has an incredibly helpful video series called "[Look in the Book](#)" where he breaks down how he studies the Bible. Also, [The ESV Study Bible](#) is also a wonderful mini-commentary to get you started.

RESPOND (APPLICATION)

WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN FOR ME NOW?

It's not enough to simply study the Bible for spiritual information. We want to study the Bible for our spiritual transformation. As James 1:22 says, we want to be doers of the word, and not hearers only. At the same time, right application is based on right interpretation. Both go hand-in-hand. If you haven't done the proper work of Bible interpretation, your application will be off too.

Those application questions include:

- **What does this passage teach me about God? How does this aspect of God's character change my view of self?**
- **What's this passage calling me to do today?**
- **What's this passage calling me to pray for today?**

Once you've written down these answers, this becomes your prayer time. Spend some time focusing on what God has brought to your attention as well as attributes of who He is and who you are in light of that. Confess and repent where you need to. Ask the Spirit to work in you to do what the passage is commanding you to do.

As you wrap up your time, pick one thing from your study today that you can "write on your heart" to reflect on (Psalm 119:11). You may want to write it down somewhere visible or memorize it. Ask God how you might encourage someone with what you learned and reach out to them right away. Reach out to your LifeGroup with what you learned about this morning. At the end of the day, write down any insights you had as you meditated on the Scripture.

It's important to remember, studying the Bible is a life-long process. But it's this very process that Jesus uses to shape us and form us into being more like Him.

For Bible study plans and more resources on being with Jesus, make sure to check out our [Abide](#) page at FollowingJesusTogether.com

PRAYER GUIDE

1 Timothy 2:1

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people”

When followers of Jesus pray for God’s kingdom to come, the Spirit answers. So as a church family, we will be praying in specific ways each day of the week, as we ask Jesus to work in and through this series:

Monday

Pray for our church to be a “pillar and buttress of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). Pray that we would defend and cling to right doctrine which would lead to right hearts that produce in us right love for God and for others.

Tuesday

Pray for needs within our church right now - those in your Lifegroup or others - who are struggling. Pray that they would draw near to God in this season.

Wednesday

Pray for our church family to fight for spiritual health and maturity. Pray that we would all “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching” (1 Tim 4:16) and “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Tim 6:12).

Thursday

Pray for the leadership in our church - for the elders/pastors, coaches, LifeGroup leaders, directors and others who serve in various ministries. Pray that they would draw near to God and that he would sustain them with wisdom and joy as they lead.

Friday

Pray for Citizens Church Charlotte. For all of the logistical details - jobs, housing, etc. For them to experience unity as a new church plant. Pray that the core team members would grow in their walks with the Lord and that people in Charlotte would come to know and love Jesus through Citizens Church.

Saturday

Pray for tomorrow’s Gathering - that whether we are together or apart, we would experience unity as a church family. Pray that we would be engaged with worship and the teaching of God’s Word. Pray that God would speak to us through conviction or encouragement.

Sunday

Pray for you and our church family to Sabbath well today. Pray that we take the time to stop our work, get physical rest, delight in God’s good gifts, and worship Jesus together.

WEEK 9

CARE FOR THE WIDOWS

MONDAY, JUNE 15 - EPHESIANS 2:13-22

In 1 Timothy 5:1, Paul encourages Timothy to encourage various people within the church as fathers, mothers, sisters, and brothers - a clear example of the New Testament teachings that we, as Christians, are a part of the family of God. In today's passage, we read that Christ's sacrifice has united us together as a family.

Ephesians 2:13-22

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

TUESDAY, JUNE 16 - GALATIANS 3:23-29

In 1 Timothy 5:1, Paul encourages Timothy to encourage various people within the church as fathers, mothers, sisters, and brothers - a clear example of the New Testament teachings that we, as Christians, are a part of the family of God. In today's passage, we read that in Christ, our primary identity is no longer our background, ethnicity, heritage, or status, but we are all now "one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 - LUKE 10:25-37

In 1 Timothy 5:3-16, Paul gives guidelines for how the church should care for widows. He gives some pretty clear and specific instructions, but all of it is with the goal that the church would actually be able and freed up to care for those in need. This is a hallmark of the Christian faith - the people of God care for those in need. In today's passage, we read a parable from Jesus showing how His followers care for others, even those we are different from or that may be our enemies.

Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?"²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back."³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

THURSDAY, JUNE 18 - EPHESIANS 4:25-32

In 1 Timothy 5:13, Paul says one of the reasons that younger widows should not be enrolled in this church's benevolence program is that they will learn to be idlers, gossips, and busybodies. This way of life is against the design of God, who as we see in today's passage, desires unity and right talk for His people.

Ephesians 4:25-32

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 - GALATIANS 6:1-10

In 1 Timothy 5:1-16, Paul is urging Timothy to pastor the church at Ephesus towards caring for one another in the proper way. This is what we do as the church. We take care of one another, support one another and provide when others are in need. In today's passage we see Paul urging the Galatians to care for one another, both physically and spiritually.

Galatians 6:1-10

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵ For each will have to bear his own load.

⁶ Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 - 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-16

How do the various Scriptures we studied this past week bring new light to our 1 Timothy passage from last Sunday?

1 Timothy 5:1-16

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

³ Honor widows who are truly widows. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. ⁵ She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, ⁶ but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. ⁷ Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. ⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

⁹ Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, ¹⁰ and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. ¹¹ But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry ¹² and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. ¹³ Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. ¹⁴ So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. ¹⁵ For some have already strayed after Satan. ¹⁶ If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

WEEK 10

GODLY ELDERS AND SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

MONDAY, JUNE 22 - HEBREWS 13:7-8, 17

In 1 Timothy 5:17, Paul says that elders who rule well should “be considered worthy of double honor.” Authority, and especially spiritual authority is not a bad thing. When done right and the person “rules well,” then it is for the good of those under their leadership. In today’s passage, we read more about how we as church members should approach those who serve as elders and leaders within the church.

Hebrews 13:7-8, 17

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

TUESDAY, JUNE 23 - 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-14

In 1 Timothy 5:17, Paul says that elders who rule well should “be considered worthy of double honor.” Authority, and especially spiritual authority is not a bad thing. When done right and the person “rules well,” then it is for the good of those under their leadership. In today’s passage, we read more about how we as church members should approach those who serve as elders and leaders within the church. Part of our job is to support the work they do by also admonishing, encouraging, and helping others within the church.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-14

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24 - MATTHEW 18:15-20

In 1 Timothy 5:20, Paul says to rebuke publicly those who persist in sin. There are clear guidelines in the New Testament for how the church should approach Christians who are unrepentant. These are not designed to shame or harm the person who is in unrepentant sin, but rather that it would lead them to Godly sorrow and Godly repentance and restoration within the church. We see clear guidelines for this process in today's passage.

Matthew 18:15-20

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

THURSDAY, JUNE 25 - COLOSSIANS 3:1-11

In 1 Timothy 5:22, Paul urges the church to keep themselves pure. In today's passage, we read more about the purity that should be a marker of the people of God.

Colossians 3:1-11

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 - PSALM 32:1-5

In 1 Timothy 5:24, Paul says that the sins of some are obvious and apparent, while others follow behind them. In this, we are reminded that though we think our sin may be hidden, nothing is hidden before the Lord. In today's passage, we see David the Psalmist bringing his sins before the Lord instead of hiding them, and there finding hope, healing, and forgiveness.

Psalm 32:1-5

*Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.*

*² Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

*³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.*

*⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah*

*⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;*

*I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

SATURDAY, JUNE 27 - 1 TIMOTHY 5:17-6:2

How do the various Scriptures we studied this past week bring new light to our 1 Timothy passage from last Sunday?

1 Timothy 5:17-6:2

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." ¹⁹ Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁰ As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. ²¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. ²² Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. ²³ (No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.) ²⁴ The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. ²⁵ So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

¹ Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. ² Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved.

Teach and urge these things.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

WEEK 11

WARNINGS TO THE RICH

MONDAY, JUNE 29 - PHILIPPIANS 4:10-20

In 1 Timothy 6:6, Paul writes that “godliness with contentment is great gain.” Part of our journey towards Jesus is learning to be content with the lives He has given us. In today’s passage, we read more about Paul’s journey to contentment as an example for us to follow.

Philippians 4:10-20

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

¹⁴ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶ Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

TUESDAY, JUNE 30 - LUKE 18:18-30

In 1 Timothy 6:9-10, Paul says that the love and pursuit of riches can pull us away from the faith. In today's passage, we read an interaction Jesus had with a rich man, who loved his wealth more than God and could not follow Jesus because of that.

Luke 18:18-30

And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.²⁰ You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'²¹ And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth."²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."²³ But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.²⁴ Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."²⁶ Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?"²⁷ But he said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."²⁸ And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you."²⁹ And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God,³⁰ who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

What does the text say?

REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 - MATTHEW 6:19-24

In 1 Timothy 6:9-10, Paul says that the love and pursuit of riches can pull us away from the faith. In today's passage, we read Jesus' teaching that you cannot serve both God and money.

Matthew 6:19-24

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴ No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

THURSDAY, JULY 2 - 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

In 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Paul urges the rich away from their greed and selfishness, and instead to be rich in good deeds. Being rich in good deeds, he says, means being marked by generosity towards others. In today's passage, we read more about how the grace of God frees us up to be generous with all that he has given us.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

FRIDAY, JULY 3 - LUKE 11:5-13

In 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Paul urges the rich away from their greed and selfishness, and instead to be rich in good deeds. Being rich in good deeds, he says, means being marked by generosity towards others. We can be generous as the people of God because God has been so generous to us. In today's passage, we read about our good and loving Heavenly Father, who loves giving good gifts to His children.

Luke 11:5-13

And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

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SATURDAY, JULY 4 - 1 TIMOTHY 6:3-10, 17-19

How do the various Scriptures we studied this past week bring new light to our 1 Timothy passage from last Sunday?

1 Timothy 6:3-10, 17-19

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, ⁴ he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. ⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

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WEEK 12

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

MONDAY, JULY 6 - GALATIANS 5:16-26

In 1 Timothy 6:11, Paul tells Timothy to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness. Today we revisit Galatians 5, where Paul tells the Galatians what should mark their lives as they learn to walk in step with the Holy Spirit each and every day.

Galatians 5:16-26

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

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TUESDAY, JULY 7 - EPHESIANS 6:10-18

In 1 Timothy 6:12, Paul tells Timothy to fight the good fight of faith. The Christian life is a battle where we fight not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of darkness with the weapons of the Spirit. In today's passage from Ephesians, we learn what weapons and defenses we have for our battle.

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 - 1 PETER 5:6-10

In 1 Timothy 6:12, Paul tells Timothy to fight the good fight of faith. In today's passage, the apostle Peter warns the church that the devil seeks to devour them, but to stand firm and trust that God will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us.

1 Peter 5:6-10

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

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THURSDAY, JULY 9 - HEBREWS 4:14-16

In 1 Timothy 6:16, Paul writes that God “dwells in unapproachable light.” The holiness of God is so overwhelming that He is unapproachable by us as sinners. And yet, because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, as we see in today’s passage, we can now approach the throne of grace with confidence, trusting and boasting in Jesus alone.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

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FRIDAY, JULY 10 - 1 TIMOTHY 1:3-7

In 1 Timothy 6:20-21, Paul ends the letter where he began, urging Timothy to guard the truth and fight against false teaching.

1 Timothy 1:3-7

As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. ⁵ The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

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SATURDAY, JULY 11 - 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-16, 20-21

How do the various Scriptures we studied this past week bring new light to our 1 Timothy passage from last Sunday?

1 Timothy 6:11-16, 20-21

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

²⁰ O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” ²¹ for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.

Grace be with you.

INDUCTIVE STUDY - steps can be found on p. 2

READ - COMPREHENSION

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REFLECT - INTERPRETATION

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RESPOND - APPLICATION

What does the text mean for me now?

An aerial photograph of Charlotte, North Carolina, showing the city skyline with various skyscrapers in the background. In the foreground, a large multi-arched bridge spans across the Columbia River. The sky is filled with scattered white clouds. The text 'CHARLOTTE' and 'COLUMBIA' is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font on the right side of the image.

CHARLOTTE
COLUMBIA

An aerial photograph of Jerusalem, showing the Dome of the Rock in the foreground. The building has a large, golden dome and is surrounded by trees and other structures. In the background, the city walls and other buildings are visible. The text 'JERUSALEM' is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

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