2 TIMOTHY
A LEGACY OF FAITH
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Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, “What do I see?” This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. Here are four tasks involved in observation which should be performed in the order below:

**Observation Task 1: Mark up the passage by visually identifying the following specific elements:**

- **Underline all verbs.** A verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action is taking place (“we will reign with Him”) or that a state or condition exists (“we are faithless”). Verbs are often the most significant indicators of the author’s flow of thought.

- **Circle key words or phrases.** These are words or short phrases that are important theologically (like “word of truth” in 2:15) or thematically (they set the theme or main idea for the passage, such as “approved” and “worldly and empty chatter” in 2:15,16).

- **Highlight repeated words or phrases.** Also, include words and phrases that are closely related even if not exact duplicates (such as “suffer hardship” and “endure suffering”). You’ll also want to highlight things that are repeated from previous passages (such as “truth” repeated in 2:15,18,25; 3:7,8).

- **Box connecting words.** These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses. Here are eight types of common connecting words to look for:
  1. **Comparison:** either points out similarities between two or more related ideas or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include: and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so (e.g. “flee youthful lusts AND pursue righteousness” 2:22).
  2. **Contrast:** points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include: but, rather, yet, however (e.g. “pursue righteousness... BUT refuse... speculation” 2:22-23).
  3. **Purpose:** indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words include: that, so that, in order that (e.g., “I endure all things... SO THAT they also may obtain the salvation...” 2:10).
  4. **Result:** very similar to “purpose,” but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words include: that, so that, as a result, with the result that (e.g. “who sinned, this man or his parents, THAT he would be born blind?” Jn 9:2).
5. **CAUSE**: expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include: *because, since*, and sometimes *for* (e.g., “they will not make further progress *for* their folly will be obvious to all” 3:9).

6. **EXPLANATION**: what follows further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true, why it occurred, or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word *for* (e.g., “*for* the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine” 4:3).

7. **INFERRENCE**: provides a logical consequence, conclusion, or summary to the previous discussion. Inference words include: *therefore, for this reason* (e.g., “*for this reason* I remind you to kindle afresh...” 1:6).

8. **CONDITION**: presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or conclusion can occur. The statement may or may not reflect reality (i.e., it could be hypothetical). Key word is *if* (e.g., “*If* we died with Him, we will also live with Him” 2:11).

**Observation Task 2: List 2-3 Primary Themes You See in the Passage Each Week.**
A primary theme is the big idea, the central truth, or command that the passage focuses on, such as “humility” in 2:1-11. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

**Observation Task 3: Write Two or More Observations per Verse.**
Our observations might identify people, places, or events, point out repeated words or key terms, record important connections between words and sentences, or even point out something missing that we expected to see.

**Observation Task 4: Record Your Own Interpretive Questions.**
Here are a few examples:

**WHO** is ...
... Paul talking about?
... accomplishing the action?
... benefiting from the action?

**WHAT** is the ...
... meaning of this word?
... significance of this phrase?
... implication of this statement?
... relationship between these phrases?

**WHY** did Paul ...
... choose this word?
... include this phrase, statement, or command?
... not say __________?

**HOW** ...
... was this action accomplished?
... will this situation occur?
Our observation of a passage should stir interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study: interpretation. Fortunately, we do not have to run to a commentary or study Bible for answers (though these are helpful tools to check our conclusions). Use the following six methods, as needed, to tackle a variety of questions. Also, make sure to familiarize yourself with the three “Principles of Interpretation” that appear in the Appendix at the end of this study.

**Interpretation Method 1: Use the context.**

Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question. Try to follow the author’s flow of thought through the whole chapter. This may take you to the previous lesson, so have it handy as a review. You may need to read ahead in Philippians for clues.

**Interpretation Method 2: Study cross-references (XRefs).**

XRefs are simply other passages in any book of the Bible that are somehow related to the verses you are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as you seek to understand your passage. A few such XRefs can be found in the margins of most English Bibles, but more can be found by visiting the online reference www.biblestudytools.com. Simply type in “Philippians 1” in the box to the left of the “Search” button and then click “Search.” All of Philippians 1 will appear on the screen. Be sure that “New American Standard” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then click the box next to “Cross References” so that numbers appear throughout the passage. Clicking any of these will move your screen to the bottom of the page where you will find a series of XRefs for specific verses within the passage. This is a great tool for answering tough questions!

**Interpretation Method 3: Look up key words.**

While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek is far better and is surprisingly easy, thanks to the internet. Simply log onto www.biblestudytools.com, and as an example, type in “Philippians 2” in the box to the left of the “Search” button and then click “Search.” All of Philippians 2 will appear on the screen. Be sure that “New American Standard” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then click the box next to “Strongs Numbers” so that most of the words will be highlighted in blue. Clicking on any of these will bring up a new screen that will tell you the Greek word used here, its possible definitions, and the total number of times it is used in each book of the New Testament (NT). Click on any of the other NT books (under the title “NAS Verse Count”), and get a list of every verse in that book that uses this Greek word. What used to take hours now takes seconds!
**Interpretation Method 4: Look up background information.**

You can find helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary or by looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is *The New Bible Dictionary* by Wood & Marshall. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* by Craig Keener is another excellent example of a verse-by-verse background commentary.

**Interpretation Method 5: Tackle tough questions step-by-step.**

When trying to answer the most challenging questions, follow this four-step process:

1. **List all the options.** Always start by brainstorming every possible answer to your question.

2. **List pros and cons for each option.** See all the evidence you can find that either argues for or against a particular option. This evidence comes from your study of key words, the grammar of the sentence, the context of surrounding verses and the book as a whole, cross references to other books, and comparison with your overall understanding of Christian theology.

3. **Choose the most likely option.** Look at your evidence for each option. Typically, evidence from the immediate context is most important, followed closely by evidence from the book as a whole. Evidence from other books of the Bible, or from Christian theology as a whole, does not carry quite as much weight unless the solution contradicts a clear passage elsewhere or a major tenant of Christian doctrine. In that case, since Scripture never lies and God cannot contradict Himself, you must eliminate that option.

4. **Decide on your certainty level.** Once you have chosen the best solution, step back for a second and humbly gauge how certain you are of its accuracy (90% = I am very sure this is correct ... 60% = This solution is just a bit more likely than the others!). Finally, talk with others and check commentaries or reference books to see what solutions they have chosen and why.

**Interpretation Method 6: Compare multiple translations.**

This packet uses the New American Standard (NASB) translation. You can often find helpful interpretive clues by comparing this translation with other translations. The New King James Version (NKJV), like the NASB, is a fairly word-for-word translation of the Greek text. The New International Version (NIV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are excellent phrase-to-phrase translations of the Greek and thus often easier to read. Another excellent phrase-to-phrase Bible, which includes extensive translation notes, is the New English Translation (NET) available online for free at net.bible.org. You can find and compare numerous translations of any Bible passage at www.biblestudytools.com.
Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. And lest we under-estimate the value of this last step, remember that in God’s eyes it is the person who does not just know His Word, but also obeys His Word that truly loves Him (see John 14:21). So how do we apply a passage to our lives? Application involves the following two tasks:

**APPLICATION TASK 1: LIST POTENTIAL PRINCIPLES FROM YOUR PASSAGE.**

A “principle” is simply a fact or command stated or implied in a particular passage that is practically relevant to our lives. Legitimate principles are not specific to a particular person (e.g., Philippians 5:23 is just for Timothy) nor a particular time (e.g., “do not leave Jerusalem” in Acts 1:4). An example from Philippians would be, “We should rejoice when Christ is proclaimed.” It is often helpful when listing principles to consider the following questions:

- Is there something to worship or thank God for?
- Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?
- Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?
- Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?
- Is there any relationship I need to work on?

**APPLICATION TASK 2: CHOOSE ONE PRINCIPLE, AND CREATE A PLAN TO APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK.**

Once you complete your principle list, prayerfully choose the one principle you most need to work on (Do not just choose the easiest to apply!). If you felt deeply convicted about one in particular, that is probably the principle God is leading you to apply. Once you have chosen a specific principle, answer these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?
2 TIMOTHY: A LEGACY OF FAITH
Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

Surveying a book like 2 Timothy allows you to grasp the big picture, the overall storyline of the book, before getting caught up in the details. This survey then provides an incredibly helpful road map to guide your study during the coming weeks. So begin this crucial first step by taking the next fifteen minutes to read once straight through the whole book of 2 Timothy without stopping. Then answer the questions below before moving on to the next page.
How would you describe Paul and Timothy’s relationship?

What are the major themes or big ideas in this book? (Hint: look for repeated words and ideas)

Now that you have read through the entire book, what are Paul’s purposes in writing it? Be as specific as you can.
Read the book of 2 Timothy twice, each time at a single sitting. Then read the following background article on 2 Timothy.

INTRO
Sunlight gleams off the highly polished blade of the executioner’s sword. His bound victim kneels before him with head bowed. Despite being emaciated and exhausted from mistreatment, the condemned man is still fully alert, completely aware of his imminent death. Yet it is not fear that grips him, but concern; concern for a young man hundreds of miles away. Would his protégé, a young pastor whose task it would be to carry on the leadership of one of the largest churches in the empire, prove steadfast? Would he resist the cunning false teachers who were even now leading many in his church astray? Would he work diligently to raise up new leaders even when others betray him? Would he continue to proclaim the gospel even under the threat of an executioner’s sword?

AUTHORSHIP
These are the questions that motivated Paul to write a “last will and testament” to his faithful protégé. 2 Timothy is the second of the ‘Pastoral Epistles,’ which include 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. Unlike Paul’s other letters, these three were written not to churches but to individuals. Timothy and Titus were serving their churches in pastoral roles, and Paul addressed their challenges and concerns. Even though they were written for these men in particularly, they were probably read widely, as well.*

Concerning Timothy, A. Duane Litfin writes*, “Timothy was the son of a Greek father and Jewish mother (Acts 16:1). No mention is made of his father being a Christian, but his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois were both known for their sincere faith (2 Tim 1:5). They had already taught the Old Testament Scriptures to Timothy by the time Paul arrived in his hometown of Lystra during Paul’s first missionary journey (Acts 14:6; 16:1). Paul took him on as a promising protégé, becoming like a spiritual father to the young man (“my true son in the faith” in 1 Tim 1:2 and “my dear son” in 2 Tim 1:2). Timothy’s promise for the ministry was recognized early (1 Tim 1:18; 4:14). He also became Paul’s faithful partner, representative, and messenger on multiple occasions (e.g. Acts 19:22; 1 Cor 4:17). Timothy had become so dear to Paul that this last letter includes touching appeals for Timothy to join him in his final days of imprisonment (2 Tim 1:4; 4:9, 21).”*


Ephesus was a leading city of the Roman province of Asia; it boasted great prowess both economically and religiously during the Apostle Paul’s lifetime. Ephesus represented the materially “successful” religion of that era. On his departure from Ephesus, Paul left Timothy behind to provide leadership to the congregation. Then after an interval Paul wrote Timothy a letter, 1 Timothy, urging him on in that ministry, and later wrote 2 Timothy for the same purpose.

Purpose
Paul wrote this letter first and foremost to prepare Timothy to stand strong without his frequent guidance. Paul was deeply troubled by false teaching (2 Tim 2:23) and apostasy (3:1-9) which endangered the church at Ephesus. Paul urged Timothy to teach sound doctrine, promote good works, and accept one’s share of suffering for the sake of the gospel. Sound doctrine is so vital to the health of the church that it is something to be pursued, fought for, and even suffered for.
Having read the background article on the book, now skim through 2 Timothy one more time and create your own title for each of the major sections below (you can divide these into smaller sections, each with its own title, if you wish). Try not to use the titles in this packet or in your Bible. Create your own titles that capture your understanding of the main idea of each section.

**My 2 Timothy Outline ...**

1:1-7

1:8-18

2:1-7

2:8-13

2:14-26

3:1-9

3:10-17

4:1-8

4:9-22

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.
MEMORY VERSE:

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

- 2 Timothy 1:7

FAN THE FLAME

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-7

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.
Fan the Flame

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, “What do I see?” This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. We will learn a new observation skill each week to practice with the others we have already learned. This week, simply read the passage below, and then write one or two observations for each verse in the box that follows. Our observations might identify people, places, or events, point out repeated words or key terms, record important connections between words and sentences, or even point out something missing that we expected to see. The first few have been done for you.

2 Timothy 1:1-7

1Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus, 2To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, 4longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. 5For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. 6For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.
**Themes**
List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.

---

**Observation Questions**
1) Underline the words or phrases in 1:1-7 that describe Paul’s relationship with Timothy.

2) What does this passage tell us about Timothy’s relationship with the Lord?

**My Observations**
List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

1-2
- Paul wrote the book of 2 Timothy
- Paul was an apostle
- Paul called Timothy his “beloved child.”

3-4

5-6

7
**Interpretation Skill: Use the Context**

Our observation of 2 Timothy each week will stir up some of the most interesting and challenging questions encountered in Bible study. Fortunately, we do not have to run to a commentary or study Bible for the answer (though these are helpful tools to check our conclusions). God desires all of us to become approved workmen, “accurately handling the Word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). To that end, **we will learn a new interpretive skill each week** to practice along with the others we have already learned. This week’s interpretive skill greatly improves our understanding of what a passage meant to its original readers—**USE THE CONTEXT**. Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question. Try to follow Paul’s flow of thought through the whole chapter. This may take you to the previous lesson, so have it handy as a review. You may also need to read ahead in 2 Timothy for clues.

**Interpretation Questions**

1) Paul introduces himself as an “apostle of Christ Jesus.” What is an apostle? What are the qualifications and responsibilities of an apostle? Use the following passages to help you with your answer: 1 Corinthians 9:1-2; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:11-13.

2) Why does Paul refer to the faith of Lois and Eunice, Timothy’s grandmother and mother (v. 5)?
3) What do you think was Timothy’s “gift of God” that Paul refers to in verse 6? Do you see any clues in the rest of the book that can help you answer that question? (See Ephesians 4:11-16 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 for lists of spiritual gifts).

4) From your study of chapter 1 so far, why do you think Paul reminds Timothy that we don’t have a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline (v. 7)?

5) How would you respond to a person who claims to be a modern-day apostle?
Reflection Questions
1) Who has influenced your own spiritual growth and development?

2) Whose spiritual growth and development are you influencing right now?

3) Have you discovered the spiritual gift(s) that God has given you? If so, how are you using gifts to serve the body of Christ?

Plan of Action
1) After praying to God for conviction and insight, what concrete changes do you feel you should make this week to live a life of hope and joy regardless of circumstances? What exactly will you do differently this week than last week—get specific and be realistic!

2) Who will hold you accountable next week to see if you’ve followed through?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the truths you have learned, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.
Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

Observation Skill: Asking Interpretive Questions

Like last week, read the passage below and write down your observations in the box on the following page. This week, we will begin to write our own questions as well. Try to write out eight questions next to the relevant verses on the following page. This is probably the simplest skill of all. Just record the questions that naturally come to mind as you try to understand and apply the passage! If you need help getting started, you can use these examples:

WHO is ...  
... Paul talking about?  
... accomplishing the action?  
... benefiting from the action?

WHAT is the ...  
... meaning of this word?  
... significance of this phrase?  
... implication of this statement?  
... relationship between these phrases?

WHY did Paul...  
... choose this word?  
... include this phrase, statement, or command?  
... not say__________ ?

HOW ...  
... was this action accomplished?  
... will this situation occur?

**Memory Verse:**

*Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.*

- 2 Timothy 1:8
2 TIMOTHY 1:8-18

8Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. 12For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

13Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 14Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

15You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. 16The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains; 17but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me— 18the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day—and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus.
**Themes**
List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage. __________________________________________________________________________

**Observation Questions**
1) What truths about the gospel do we learn from this section? List them below:

2) Underline Paul’s commands to Timothy in these verses.

**My Observations**
*List at least one observation per verse in the space below.*

8-9

10-12

13-14

15-18
INTERPRETATION SKILL: CROSS REFERENCES

Last week we learned to use the context to help us answer our interpretive questions. This week we will add our second interpretive skill — STUDY CROSS REFERENCES (XRefs). XRefs are simply other passages in any book of the Bible that are somehow related to the verses you are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as you seek to understand your passage. A few such XRefs can be found in the margins of most English Bibles, but more can be found by logging again onto www.biblestudytools.com. Simply type in "Philippians 1" in the box to the left of the "Search" button and then click "Search." All of Philippians 1 will appear on the screen. Be sure that "New American Standard" is your selected Bible in the drop down box and then click the box next to "Cross References" so that numbers appear throughout the passage. Clicking any of these will move your screen to the bottom of the page where you will find a series of XRefs for specific verses within the passage. This is a great tool for answering tough questions!

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

1) Answer any two of your own interpretive questions:

2) How does this passage relate to the previous passage? In other words, how does Paul relate verse 8 to what came before?

3) For what purpose are Christians “saved and called” (v. 9)? (See Romans 8:28-30; Eph 2:1-10)
4) What does Paul command Timothy to do in verses 8-12? Verse 13-14?

5) How do verses 15-18 contribute to Paul’s point in this passage?

6) Why does Paul strongly urge Timothy to “retain the standard of sound words” (v. 13)? Why might Timothy have been afraid or reluctant to do so?

**My Summary Title**

*Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week’s passage.*
As in the previous lesson, complete the reflection questions. Then, **step back and look at the passage as a whole and list potential principles**. A “principle” is simply a fact or command stated or implied in a particular passage that is practically relevant to our lives. Legitimate principles are not specific to a particular person (e.g. 1 Timothy 5:23 is just for Timothy) nor a particular time (e.g. “do not leave Jerusalem” in Acts 1:4). An example from Philippians would be, “We should rejoice when Christ is proclaimed.” A couple of examples are provided for you on the next page.

**Reflection Questions**

1) Are you ever tempted to modify or minimize the teaching of Scripture due to social pressure?

2) What have you learned from this passage about the value of suffering for the gospel?
**List Principles**
List at least five principles from 2 Timothy 1:8-18. Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. *Do not be ashamed of the gospel.*

2. *Be willing to suffer for the gospel.*

3. 

4. 

5. 

**Plan of Action**
Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

- **What exactly** will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

  Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

*End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.*
2 TIMOTHY: A LEGACY OF FAITH
MEMORY VERSE:

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- 2 Timothy 2:2

A LEGACY OF FAITHFULNESS

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.
A primary theme is the big idea, the central truth, or command that the passage focuses on, such as “suffering for the gospel” and “God’s grace and mercy” in 1:8-18. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.
LESSON THREE: A LEGACY OF FAITHFULNESS

**THEMES**
List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.  

**Observation Questions**
1) What are the four commands in this passage?

2) Using three different colors, underline the descriptions of the soldier, athlete, and farmer.

**My Observations**
List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

1-2

3-4

5-6

7
INTERPRETATION SKILL: LOOK UP KEY WORDS

As you answer the questions below, continue using your first two interpretive skills (use the context and cross references), and add this third one — **LOOK UP KEY WORDS**. While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek is far better and is surprisingly easy, thanks to the internet. Simply log onto www.biblestudytools.com, and as an example, type in “2 Timothy” in the box to the left of the “Search” button and then click “Search.” All of 2 Timothy will appear on the screen. Be sure that “New American Standard” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then click the box next to “Strongs Numbers” so that most of the words will be highlighted in blue. Clicking on any of these will bring up a new screen that will tell you the Greek word used here, its possible definitions, and the total number of times it is used in each book of the New Testament (NT). Click on any of the other NT books (under the title “NAS Verse Count”), and get a list of every verse in that book that uses this Greek word. What used to take hours now takes seconds!

**INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS**

1) Why does Paul include verse 1 before verse 2? In other words, why is it significant that we know and apply verse 1 before we move on to verses 2-3? (see also 2 Cor 3:5-6)

2) Using the process described in the directions above, look up the word “entrust” in verse 2. Of the definitions listed, which one best fits here?
3) What principles for “spiritual multiplication” (often called “discipleship”) can you derive from 2 Tim 2:1-6?

4) Describe the illustrations used by Paul in verses 4-6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is required of them?</th>
<th>What does their faithfulness earn?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soldier (v4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athlete (v5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer (v6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**My Summary Title:**

*Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week’s passage.*
As in the previous lesson, complete the reflection questions and then list a few principles you learned from the passage.

Reflection Questions

1) What would it look like practically in your own life to “entrust” to others what you have learned about God and His Word?

2) How can your vocation (student, businessperson, parent, etc.) be used as a platform for spiritual multiplication?
LIST PRINCIPLES
List at least five principles from 2 Timothy 2:1-7. Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

PLAN OF ACTION
Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.
MEMORY VERSE:

For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

- 2 Timothy 2:10

A REASON TO ENDURE

2 TIMOTHY 2:8 - 13

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.
A REASON TO ENDURE

Observation Skill: Underline All Verbs

As in previous weeks, read the passage below, and write down your observations, questions, and themes on the following page. This week, we will begin to UNDERLINE ALL OF THE VERBS. Quick review: A verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action takes place (“we will reign with Him”) or that a state or condition exists (“we are faithless”). Verbs are often the most significant indicators of the author’s flow of thought.

2 TIMOTHY 2:8-13

8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, 9 for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. 10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

11 It is a trustworthy statement:

For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; 12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him;

If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.
THEMES
List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage. ____________________________

______________________________

OBSERVATION QUESTION
1) List your observations about Jesus Christ from this section. (In other words, what do you learn about Jesus from these verses?)

2) What words are repeated more than once in this passage? List them below.

MY OBSERVATIONS
List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

8-10


11

12

13
**INTERPRETATION SKILL: COMPARE MULTIPLE TRANSLATIONS**

This week’s interpretive skill is **COMPARE MULTIPLE TRANSLATIONS**. This packet uses the New American Standard (**NASB**) translation. As you tackle the questions below, look up the passage in other translations and compare to the NASB to look for helpful clues or clearer wording. The New King James Version (**NKJV**), like the NASB, is a fairly word-for-word translation of the Greek text and, therefore, quite accurate for Bible study. The New International Version (**NIV**) and the New Revised Standard Version (**NRSV**) are excellent phrase-to-phrase translations of the Greek and are thus often easier to read. Another excellent phrase-to-phrase Bible, which includes extensive translation notes, is the New English Translation (**NET**) available online for free at www.bible.org. You can find and compare numerous English translations of any Bible passage at www.biblestudytools.net.

**INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS**

1) Create and answer any two of your own interpretive questions:

2) Why is Paul willing to endure such severe hardship (2:8-10)?

3) On the surface, the second half of verse 12 seems to contradict verse 13. How do you reconcile these verses together, based on your study of this passage?
4) The 4-line poetic “saying” Paul quotes in verses 11-13 is challenging to interpret! To gain a clearer understanding of it, answer the following questions in order:

a. Why does Paul include this saying? In other words, how does it relate to his discussion of suffering and endurance in this section?

b. Fill out the chart below about the pairs of words in these verses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Died/live</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Romans 6:1-10)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endure/reign</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cf. 4:7-8; Rev 2:26-27)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deny/Deny</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cf. Mt 26:33-35; Lk 12:8-9; 1 Tim 5:8)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faithless/Faithful</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. What does each pair mean (in your own words) and what is the purpose of each pair (e.g. comfort, warning, information, etc.)?

**MY SUMMARY TITLE:**

Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week’s passage.
As in the previous lesson, complete the reflection questions and then list a few principles you learned from the passage. This week adds a third application step – choose one principle and create a plan to apply it to your life this week. Once you have completed your principle list, prayerfully choose the one principle you most need to work on (do not just choose the easiest to apply). If you felt deeply convicted about one in particular, that is probably the one God is leading you to apply! Once you have chosen a specific principle, follow the directions on the next page to develop a realistic and specific plan to apply it to your life.

**Reflection Questions**

1) Have fear, embarrassment, or busyness ever kept you from sharing the Gospel? Explain.

2) What practical steps can you take this week to overcome your fear and begin faithfully sharing the Gospel?
List Principles
List at least five principles from 2 Timothy 2:8-13. A principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. __________________________________________

2. __________________________________________

3. __________________________________________

4. __________________________________________

5. __________________________________________

Plan of Action
Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.
MEMORY VERSE:

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

- 2 Timothy 2:15

USE WORDS WISELY

2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.
Observation Skill: Circle Key Words or Phrases

Read the passage below, write down your observations, questions, and themes, and underline all verbs. This week we will begin to CIRCLE ALL OF THE KEY WORDS OR PHRASES. These are words or short phrases that are important theologically (like “word of truth” in 2:15) or thematically set the theme or main idea for the passage (like “approved” and “worldly and empty chatter” in 2:15,16).

2 Timothy 2:14–26

14 Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”

20 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. 22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24 The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.


**THEMES**
List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.  

**Observation Questions**
1) Underline in these verses the productive and destructive ways that we can use our words.

**MY OBSERVATIONS**
*List at least one observation per verse in the space below.*
INTERPRETATION SKILL: LOOK UP BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This week’s interpretive skill greatly improves our understanding of what a passage meant to its original readers—LOOK UP BACKGROUND INFORMATION. You can find helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary or by looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is The New Bible Dictionary by Wood & Marshall. The IVP Bible Background Commentary by Craig Keener is another excellent example of a verse-by-verse background commentary.

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

1) Answer any two of your own interpretive questions:

2) What does it mean to accurately handle the word of truth? (see 2 Tim 2:18, 23-25, 3:15-17)

3) Why does Paul so strongly condemn the teaching of Hymenaeus and Philetus? Why is their teaching about the resurrection so dangerous (see 1 Cor 15:12-19)? (Also, look back at the interpretive skill section about looking up background information, so you can get a better idea of what is going on).

2 TIMOTHY: A LEGACY OF FAITH
4) What is the meaning of the figurative language in verses 20-21? Describe the characteristics of honorable and dishonorable vessels.

5) Based on this passage, is it possible for a Christian to be a dishonorable vessel? If so, how?

6) Look back at the descriptions you underlined in the observation section.
   a. Is Paul talking about the form or content of our speech, or both?
   b. What are the results of using our words well? What are the consequences of using our words destructively?

**My Summary Title:**
Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week’s passage.
This week’s application section involves the same three steps as last week’s, which we will continue to use throughout our study: reflect on your own life, list principles, and choose one to apply this week. It is often helpful when working through the second and third steps to consider the following list of questions:

- Is there something to worship or thank God for?
- Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?
- Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?
- Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?
- Is there any relationship I need to work on?

**Reflection Question**

1) Paul tells us not only to flee from sin, but also to pursue righteousness (v. 22). Practically speaking, how can you pursue righteousness this week with your words, your actions, and your attitudes?
**List Principles**

List at least five principles from 2 Timothy 2:14-26. A principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

**Plan of Action**

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What **exactly** will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

*End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.*
MEMORY VERSE:

The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth...

- 2 Timothy 2:24-25

PREPARE FOR OPPOSITION

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

OBSERVATION SKILL: BOX CONNECTING WORDS (PART ONE)

As in previous weeks, read the passage below and write down your observations, questions, and themes on the following page. Also, circle all key words and highlight all repeated words or phrases. This week, we will begin to BOX CONNECTING WORDS. These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses. We will learn four types of connecting words this week:

COMPARISON: either points out similarities between two or more related ideas or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include: and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so (e.g., "like a child serving his father" in 2:22).

CONTRAST: points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include: but, rather, yet, however (e.g., “Not that I have already obtained it ... but I press on” in 3:13).

PURPOSE: indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words include: that, so that, in order that (e.g., “I press on so that I may lay hold” in 3:12).

RESULT: very similar to “purpose,” but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words include: that, so that, as a result, with the result that (e.g., “my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment ... has become well known” in 3:12-13).
1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. 6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.

9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes’s and Jambres’s folly was also.
**Observation Questions**

1) List and categorize the characteristics of the people that Paul describes in verses 2 through 5. See if you can fit them into 3-4 major categories.

**My Observations**

*List at least one observation per verse in the space below.*

1

2-5

6-7

8-9
INTERPRET |
what does it mean?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: TOUGH QUESTIONS
PART 1 - LIST OPTIONS, PROS & CONS

How do we answer difficult interpretive questions when more than one option seems possible? This requires two skills, the first of which is ... LIST ALL THE OPTIONS WITH PROS AND CONS. Always start by brainstorming, listing every possible answer to your question. Be open-minded and creative, and do not rush this process. You will often find that your third option proves better than your first. Once you have created a list of possible options, list both pros and cons for each one. You are looking for all the evidence you can find that either argues for or against a particular option. This evidence comes from your study of key words, the grammar of the sentence, the context of surrounding verses and the book as a whole, cross references to other books, and comparison with your overall understanding of Christian theology. Once you have thought about it for a while individually, feel free to talk with others and to check commentaries or references to see if you have missed any options (However, do not just assume that their favorite option is necessarily correct!).

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

1) Answer two of your own interpretive questions:

2) When are the “last days” Paul describes? Look at the following passages to help you answer this question: Isaiah 2:2; Acts 2:17; Hebrews 1:2; 2 Peter 3:3; 1 Timothy 4:1; James 5:3.

Note: Not all of these references to the “last days” refer to the same time period. Look at the range of meaning in these cross-references and determine what you think Paul is referring to here.
3) Who are the dangerous men in this passage? Are they the same opponents mentioned in chapter 2? Are the opponents believers or unbelievers?

4) The women who are vulnerable to being captivated by these wicked men are described in verses 6-7. From this description, what makes a person, male or female, susceptible to false teachers?

5) Who are Jannes and Jambres, and why Paul choose to mention them in this passage? (cf. Exodus 7:8-13)

MY SUMMARY TITLE:
Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week's passage.
This week’s application section involves the same three steps as last week’s, which we will continue to use throughout our study: reflect on your own life, list principles, and choose one to apply this week. It is often helpful when working through the second and third steps to consider the following list of questions:

- Is there something to worship or thank God for?
- Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?
- Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?
- Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?
- Is there any relationship I need to work on?

**Reflection Questions**

1) Can you think of any modern examples of false spiritual teaching that might pose a danger to the church? How can you guard yourself against such teaching?

2) What can you do to help those who are influenced by false teaching in a way that is kind yet also faithful to God’s Word?
List Principles
List at least five principles from 2 Timothy 3:1-9. Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

Plan of Action
Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.
MEMORY VERSE:

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

- 2 Timothy 3:16

SUFFICIENT AND TRUE

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

OBSERVATION SKILL: BOX CONNECTING WORDS (PART TWO)

Read the passage below, record your observations, questions, and themes on the following page. Also, circle all key words and highlight all repeated words or phrases and continue to BOX CONNECTING WORDS. Here are four types to box this week:

CAUSE: expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include: because, since, and sometimes for (e.g., “I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus ... because he was longing for you all” in 2:25-26).

EXPLANATION: what follows further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true, why it occurred, or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word for (e.g., “For our citizenship is in heaven” in 2:20).

INFERENCE: provides a logical consequence, conclusion, or summary to the previous discussion. Inference words include: therefore, for this reason (e.g., “Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly” in 2:28).

CONDITION: presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or conclusion can occur. The statement may or may not reflect reality (i.e., it could be hypothetical). Key word is if (e.g., “if in anything you have a different attitude” in 3:15).
2 Timothy 3:10-17

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! 12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
**THEMES**
List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.


**Observation Question**
1) List and categorize the characteristics of Paul’s teaching and life from verses 10-11. (Note the contrast between this list and the one you made in last week’s lesson).

**My Observations**
*List at least one observation per verse in the space below.*

10-11


12-13


14-15


16-17
Interpretation Skill: Tough Questions

Part 2 - Choose the most likely option and decide on certainty

The second skill needed to answer difficult interpretive questions is CHOOSE THE MOST LIKELY OPTION AND DECIDE ON CERTAINTY. Look back at all of your evidence for each option. Typically, evidence from the immediate context is most important, followed closely by evidence from the book as a whole. Evidence from other books, or from Christian theology as a whole, does not carry quite as much weight, unless the solution you are looking at contradicts a clear passage elsewhere or a major tenant of Christian doctrine. In that case, since Scripture never lies and God cannot contradict Himself, you know that option is invalid. Once you have chosen the best solution, step back for a second and humbly gauge how certain you are of its accuracy (90% = I am very sure this is correct ... 60% = This solution is just a bit more likely than the others!). Finally, talk with others and check commentaries or reference books to see what solutions they have chosen and why.

Interpretation Questions

1) Answer any two of your own interpretive questions:

2) How does this passage relate to the previous one? Trace Paul’s flow of thought through chapter 3.

3) What did the persecution Paul mentions in verse 12 look like for first century Christians? (see 2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Hebrews 10:32-34)
4) Why does Paul remind Timothy of his spiritual heritage again (vv 14-15)?

5) Look at Paul’s discussion of Scripture in verses 15-17:
   a. Define “inspiration” (see also 2 Peter 1:20-21).
   b. What are some of the practical implications of the doctrine of inspiration?
   c. What does Paul have in mind when he says “all Scripture”? Does this include his own writings? (see 2 Peter 3:15-16)
   d. Describe what it looks like practically for a person to be “complete, equipped for every good work.”

**My Summary Title:**

*Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week’s passage.*
This week’s application section involves the same three steps as last week’s, which we will continue to use throughout our study: reflect on your own life, list principles, and choose one to apply this week. It is often helpful when working through the second and third steps to consider the following list of questions:

- Is there something to worship or thank God for?
- Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?
- Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?
- Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?
- Is there any relationship I need to work on?

**Reflection Questions**

1) Does Paul’s promise in verse 12 apply to your own life? If so, what might this persecution look like for you?

2) If you are a parent, how can you instill in your children a reverence for God’s Word? If you are not a parent, how can you instill that reverence into other Christians you know?
**List Principles**

List at least five principles from 2 Timothy 3:10-17. Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. ____________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________

4. ____________________________________________

5. ____________________________________________

**Plan of Action**

Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

- **What exactly** will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

- Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

*End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.*
MEMORY VERSE:

*Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*

- 2 Timothy 4:2

FINISH THE RACE

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

*Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.*
1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.
Themes
List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage. 

Observation Questions
1) Circle all of the commands in this passage.

2) From verses 6-8, what motivates Paul’s ministry toward the church and toward Timothy?

My Observations
List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

1-2

3-4

5-6

7-8
INTERPRETATION SKILL: PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION

PRINCIPLE #1 - DISCERN THE AUTHOR’S INTENDED MEANING

For the next few weeks, we will learn three fundamental PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION that help us to use our interpretive skills accurately. Principle #1 - Your goal is to discern the author’s intended meaning to the original audience.

Unfortunately, most people begin their Bible study by asking, “What does this passage mean to me?” While there may be multiple possible applications to my life, there is only one meaning, the author’s intended meaning; and we must first seek this out. This involves three important steps:

1. Always **start your study with prayer**, asking the same God who composed Scripture through these ancient authors to give you insight to understand His intended meaning.

2. Be very careful to **avoid reading your 21st century circumstances and theological issues** into the text as they will skew your understanding.

3. Work diligently to see the text **from the point of view of the original readers**. To do this: (a) dig into the historical and cultural background using Bible dictionaries and commentaries, and (b) spend a few moments thinking about the original audience’s religious understanding by asking, “What books of the Bible did they have access to? What did they know about God? about Jesus? about salvation? etc.”

**INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS**

1) Answer any two of your own interpretive questions:

2) Why does Paul refer to the future judgment and eternal kingdom in verse 1? How do those concepts relate to the commands he is about to give to Timothy?
3) Define each of the following terms from verse 2:

- Preach

- Reprove

- Rebuke

- Exhort

4) What is the “crown of righteousness” in verse 8 (1 Peter 5:4; James 1:12)?

5) Will all Christians “keep the faith”? What are the consequences for falling short of verse 7? (see 1 Corinthians 3:1-15; 9:24-27; 2 Tim 2:5-6)

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**MY SUMMARY TITLE:**

*Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week’s passage.*
This week’s application section involves the same three steps as last week’s, which we will continue to use throughout our study: reflect on your own life, list principles, and choose one to apply this week. It is often helpful when working through the second and third steps to consider the following list of questions:

- Is there something to worship or thank God for?
- Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?
- Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?
- Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?
- Is there any relationship I need to work on?

Reflection Questions

1) How does the reality of future judgment and possible reward affect your priorities today?

2) How does the world try to shape our values so that they are aligned with our own desires instead of with God’s Word?

3) How can you proactively align your values with Scripture?
List Principles
List at least five principles from 2 Timothy 4:1-8. Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

Plan of Action
Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.
Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORY VERSE:

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- 2 Timothy 4:18
9 Make every effort to come to me soon; 10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service. 12 But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. 13 When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. 15 Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.

16 At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion’s mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus. 21 Make every effort to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, also Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brethren.

22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
THEMES
List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.

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OBSERVATION QUESTION
1) Circle all the names in the passage. If Paul speaks of the person positively, circle the name in blue. If he speaks of the person negatively, circle the name in red.

MY OBSERVATIONS
List at least one observation per verse in the space below.

9-12

13-15

16-18

19-22
Interpretation Skill: Principles of Interpretation

Principle #3 - Let Scripture Interpret Scripture

This week we will learn our last of three Principles of Interpretation. Principle #3 - Let Scripture interpret Scripture. Since God is unchangingly truthful and always consistent (John 17:17; Hebrews 3:6; James 1:17), we can, and should, expect the same of His Word. This has two practical applications:

1. **Check your conclusions.** Always compare your conclusions with the teachings of Scripture as a whole. If you find your interpretation of a passage contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture elsewhere, you probably need to revise your conclusions.

2. **Allow clear passages to illuminate ambiguous passages.** Whenever you encounter a passage that is confusing or open to multiple possible interpretations, use clearer passages of Scripture to guide you to the correct interpretation.

One last caution: remember that God revealed Scripture progressively, not all at once. Therefore, we should not be surprised by differences between how people related to and understood God at different times in the history of Scripture. For example, while Abraham needed only believe that God was faithful in order to be justified (Genesis 15:6), in the New Testament era, we must believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus to be saved (1 Corinthians 15:1-7).

Interpretation Questions

1) Answer two of your own interpretive questions:

2) How does this passage fit into the book of 2 Timothy? In other words, why did Paul include these last 14 verses?
3) Why does Paul mention good and bad examples by name?

4) How does the warning about Alexander the coppersmith fit with the theme of the book?

5) Here at the end of the book, Paul reiterates God’s deliverance (v 17; see 2 Tim 3:11). However, from 4:6, we know that Paul realized that his death was imminent. Is this a contradiction? Why or why not?

6) What dangers does God promise to deliver Christians from? Look up these cross references to start your list (John 5:24; 10:27-29; Rom 5:9; 7:21-25; 8:29-30, 38-39; Phil 3:20-21). Add any others you can think of from Scripture.

**My Summary Title:**

Use your own words to create a title that communicates the main idea of this week’s passage.
This week’s application section involves the same three steps as last week’s, which we will continue to use throughout our study: reflect on your own life, list principles, and choose one to apply this week. It is often helpful when working through the second and third steps to consider the following list of questions:

- Is there something to worship or thank God for?
- Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?
- Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?
- Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?
- Is there any relationship I need to work on?

**Reflection Questions**

1) Have you ever felt abandoned by friends or family? How can understanding Paul’s experience help you respond well to those feelings?

2) How would you encourage somebody who feels threatened by various dangers (job loss, persecution, family tension, health challenges)? What does the book of 2 Timothy offer in the way of encouragement in the midst of fear?
List Principles
List at least five principles from 2 Timothy 4:9-22. Remember, a principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life.

1. _______________________________________

2. _______________________________________

3. _______________________________________

4. _______________________________________

5. _______________________________________

Plan of Action
Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:

   What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.

   Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.
PUT IT BACK TOGETHER

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

MEMORIZE

Review your memory verses for each of the previous lessons.

- 1:7  •  2:10  •  3:16
- 1:8  •  2:15  •  4:2
- 2:2  •  2:24-25  •  4:18

Before we get to the synthesis, one word of encouragement ... please realize how much you have grown as a student of God’s Word through your study of 2 Timothy! Each week, you’ve learned how to better observe, interpret, and apply the stories of Scripture. Those same three steps will serve you well as you continue to study God’s story throughout the Bible. Continue to practice and refine these skills so that you become, “a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Now that you have studied the book of 2 Timothy in detail, answer the following questions:

1) What challenges faced young Timothy as he prepared to lead the church in Ephesus?

2) What solutions did Paul present to handle Timothy’s challenges?
During the past nine lessons, we have observed, interpreted, and applied the entire book of 2 Timothy. That is no small task! Now it is time to draw our detailed study to a useful conclusion, a process known as synthesis. Our goal is to create an overall summary of the book of 2 Timothy that we can quickly review any time in the future to remind us of the flow and content of the book.

**Outline the Book**

The first step of this synthesis is to **CREATE YOUR OWN OUTLINE OF THE BOOK**. Review the work you completed each week, especially the summary titles you created for each passage in the “My Summary Titles” section. Then, create your own brief outline on the next page. Feel free to use any outlining style, but here is an example of how you might start.

1) *Greeting* (1:1-2)

2) *Thankfulness for Timothy* (1:3-7)

3) *Exhortation to Ministry* (1:8-18).
   a. Be courageous (8-12).
   b. Be faithful (13-18).
MY 2 TIMOTHY OUTLINE
The second step of this synthesis is to **RECORD WHAT YOU LEARNED OR WERE REMINDED OF**. This is more personal than your outline. Create a list of the theological truths and life lessons you have either learned for the first time or been reminded of from your study of 2 Timothy.

As an example of a theological truth, you might write:

> I was taught that all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Jesus.

An example of a life lesson would be:

> This book reminded me that the church’s goal is to present every man complete in Christ through a process that comes with great cost & struggle.

List at least ten theological truths and ten life lessons on this page that you learned from your study of 2 Timothy, and record the verses where each is addressed.

**Theological Truths I’ve Learned**

**Life Lessons I’ve Learned**
The final step of this synthesis is to PRAYERFULLY CHOOSE TWO APPLICATIONS TO PRACTICE. These can be applications that you developed and began to practice during previous lessons, or you can create entirely new applications. Whatever your choice, two things must be true about them:

1. Both applications should touch on areas of your life where you are currently in need of growth. Do not choose “be kind to others“ if this is already something you do very well.

2. Both should be specific with a clear plan for growth and the name of someone who will hold you accountable. “Study the Word more” is not sufficiently detailed. Instead, develop a specific plan such “I will read through Romans this next month and write down my observations, interpretive questions, and applications in a journal. Steve will hold me accountable weekly.”

**APPLICATION #1**

- Principle from 2 Timothy:

- Verses where it’s discussed:

- Plan of Action: I will ...

**APPLICATION #2**

- Principle from 2 Timothy:

- Verses where it’s discussed:

- Plan of Action: I will ...
End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.
APPENDIX

PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION

Principle #1: Your goal is to discern the author’s intended meaning to the original audience.
Unfortunately, most people begin their Bible study by asking, “What does this passage mean to me?” While there
may be multiple possible applications to my life, there is only one meaning—the author’s intended meaning; and
we must first seek this out. This involves three important steps.

1. Always start your study with prayer, asking the same God who composed Scripture through these ancient
authors to give you insight to understand His intended meaning.

2. Be very careful to avoid reading your 21st century circumstances and theological issues into the text
as they will skew your understanding.

3. Work diligently to see the text from the point of view of the original readers. To do this: [a] dig into the
historical and cultural background using Bible dictionaries and commentaries, and [b] spend a few moments
thinking about the original audience’s religious understanding by asking, “What books of the Bible did they
have access to? What did they know about God? About Jesus? About salvation? Etc.”

Principle #2 - Assume a “normal” use of language. The Bible was given to us because God desired to
communicate with us, not to hide Himself from us. Therefore, we should not be looking for “hidden” meanings
as we study. Instead, we should use the “normal” techniques we would use to understand any piece of literature:

1. Study the grammar. Yes, most of us hated grammar in junior high, but it really is helpful for understanding
Scripture! Pay attention to nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions. Think through any figures of speech.
Observe how phrases and clauses are connected into sentences and how sentences are linked together into
paragraphs.

2. Remember that chapter divisions came later. When Paul wrote Corinthians or Luke wrote the book of Acts,
they wrote single, unified stories without verse or chapter divisions. These books were meant to be read just
like you would read a letter or a novel. Always keep the overall story in mind as you study each passage.

Principle #3 - Let Scripture interpret Scripture. Since God is unchangingly truthful and always consistent
(John 17:17; Hebrews 3:6; James 1:17), we can, and should, expect the same of His Word. This has two practical
applications:

1. Check your conclusions. Always compare your conclusions with the teachings of Scripture as a whole. If you
find that your interpretation of a passage contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture elsewhere, you probably
need to revise your conclusions.

2. Allow clear passages to illuminate ambiguous passages. Whenever you encounter a passage that is confusing
or open to multiple possible interpretations, use clearer passages of Scripture to guide you to the correct
interpretation.

One last caution - remember that God revealed Scripture progressively, not all at once. Therefore, we should not
be surprised by differences between how people related to and understood God at different times in the history of
Scripture. For example, while Abraham needed only believe that God was faithful in order to be justified (Genesis
15:6), in the NT era, we must believe in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection to be saved (1 Corinthians 15:1-7).
BONUS SKILL: CREATING LISTS

This skill involves identifying a key word, subject, person, place, or event in the passage and then listing every fact given about that word. For example, if you made a list on “God” from 2 Timothy 1, it might look like this:

God...

1. Made Paul an apostle by His will (v1).
2. Gives grace, mercy and peace (v2).
3. Is the Father (v2).
4. Is thanked and served (v3).
5. Gives gifts (v6).
6. Doesn’t give spirit of timidity (v7).
7. Gives spirit of power, love, and sound mind (v7).
8. Gives power for suffering (v9).
9. Saved us (v9).
10. Called us (v9).

As you read this list, what jumps out at you? Perhaps you see that “God gives” is mentioned five times in this list. What a gracious and loving God we serve! You have discovered one of the characteristics of God: His generous grace toward men. By creating these lists, you will begin to see patterns of truth that you will want to study further. For example, this list about God may lead you to do a word study on give or find all the other references in Paul’s epistles to God’s giving nature. Furthermore, this list can now be used for meditation, to praise and worship God, to encourage others, and to proclaim the character of God to the lost.

One word of caution about lists, however. Just because you are able to create a list centered on a key word, such as “God” in 2 Timothy 1, does not mean that Paul’s main point in the passage is to talk about that key word. Paul’s emphasis in 2 Timothy 1, in fact, is not to discuss attributes about God; it is to encourage Timothy to press on in the ministry of the gospel. Make sure that before you create any lists, you complete the initial processes of observation: list themes, mark up the text, and record your most significant observations. However, after these initial tasks, creating lists is a great way to deepen your study of a passage!
Discipleship Resources

One of the predominant themes throughout the book of 1 Corinthians is Paul’s desire to present every man complete in Christ. It is important that we know the truth of the Bible and that our lives more and more begin to reflect Jesus Christ. Spiritual growth clearly involves study of God’s word, but it also involves transformation of our character and life. This process is often called “discipleship” and refers to an intentional relationship between a mature believer and a younger believer, where the former trains the latter towards the goal of spiritual maturity. Paul’s discipleship of Timothy (and Titus as well) is one of the greatest examples we have of this process in all of Scripture. And like Paul, we too can make a lasting impact for God’s kingdom by spiritually reproducing ourselves in the lives of others.

Going through this Bible study was one of the best steps you could take to prepare you to disciple someone else because now you know how to explain and defend key biblical truths like the gospel, spiritual leadership, grace, and salvation. Just as important, you have now learned and practiced the basic method of Bible study - survey, observe, interpret, apply, synthesize. These are key steps towards spiritual maturity that you can now pass on to others! Where can you go from here to learn more about spiritual multiplication? Here are a few helpful resources:

**The Master Plan of Evangelism** by Robert Coleman
This is a highly motivational analysis of Jesus’ own principles of evangelism and discipleship.

**The Lost Art of Disciple Making** by Leroy Eims
This very practical resource will give you a detailed structure to follow and great content to cover as you begin to disciple a new believer.

**A Survey of Bible Doctrine** by Charles Ryrie
This is not a book about discipleship. It is, instead, an easy-to-read, relatively short systematic theology primer that you can walk a new believer through to ground them in the faith.

**Essentials of the Faith** by Grace Bible Church, College Station, TX
This small group Bible study packet walks a new believer through the fundamental truths and practices of the Christian faith in ten self-paced lessons.
FIND MORE RESOURCES AT GRACE-BIBLE.ORG