

## STUDY GUIDE



### CHURCH NAME

MULTIPLY: A STUDY IN 2 TIMOTHY

MULTIPLY THE WORD

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-17

04/02/2017

### MAIN POINT

Spiritual leadership starts with multiplying the Word, which involves imparting truth and transmitting truth to others.

### INTRODUCE

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Has anyone ever tried to scam you? A phone solicitor perhaps? A fake email? Have you or anyone you know ever fallen for a scam?**

**How do con artists and scammers trick people? What do they do to “make their sell”?**

Most of us have experienced someone trying to scam us. Maybe you have gotten an email from an African nation saying that someone has millions of dollars and just needs someone to hold it for them in their bank for a while, and for helping you will receive millions as well! Or perhaps someone tried to high-pressure sell you on the phone, making you feel like a fool if you missed such a great deal. Scam artists don't want you to think. They want you to hurry and make a decision. They lay out the bait and then pretend that if you don't act now, then you will miss it forever. They appeal to our greed and our sense that we are somehow special. They flatter, they cajole, and then they rob us blind. False teachers are the same. They scam us with teaching that appeals to our flesh and our pride by transmitting a truth contrary to the gospel. As we multiply, we must remember that the succession of ministry has an emphasis not so much on the people themselves, but more so on the succession of true doctrine.

### READ AND REFLECT

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9.**

**When are “the last days”? Are we living in them now? Was Paul's original audience?**

**What do you think it means to hold “to the form of godliness but (deny) its power”? How do false teachers “worm their way into households”? How will their lack of understanding become evident to all?**

The writer of Hebrews taught us that “In these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son” (Heb. 1:2). Also, in the Book of Acts, Peter quoted from a prophecy in Joel saying, “And it will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all humanity” (Acts 2:17). Clearly, in some sense, both Peter and Paul felt that the coming of the Messiah signaled that

we are living in the last days. Because of this, we need to be aware that false teachers will arise among us. False teachers, like all con-artists, are only interested in worldly rewards. They twist the Scriptures to make money for themselves, to justify sexual misconduct, and to cover all forms of sin that they want to do. Interestingly enough, they are “always learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.” They are only learning ways to justify themselves and to fool others, never to discover the truth.

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-13.**

**How can someone else’s example help us to live a more godly life and avoid false teaching?**

**Why do you think that Paul mentions persecution in the context of following good teaching?**

**How can false teachers come to believe their own lies? How easy is it to deceive yourself?**

We ought to note the fact that Paul talks about following his personal example in the middle of talking about false teaching. False teaching leads very quickly to ungodly living. Paul, through his conduct, demonstrated how right teaching should be lived, and any lifestyle that did not match faith, patience, love, and endurance should be rejected. Paul mentions that he was persecuted because of good teaching because often we think when things go bad we must be doing something wrong. Paul says that sometimes when we suffer it is because we are doing something right! In our day, many false teachers will tell us that if we have enough faith we will get more money, be healthier, and have better lives. Paul’s life demonstrates that this is not true. Suffering was a part of the Lord’s life, Paul’s life, and sometimes we will suffer for righteousness as well.

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17.**

**What Scriptures did Timothy know from childhood? How did that help him to have wisdom for salvation?**

**What does it mean that all Scripture is inspired by God? What do you think is the difference between rebuking and correcting?**

**How does the Bible equip us for every good work?**

The Bible is a perfect teacher and a trustworthy guide. The problem isn’t in the Bible, it is in us as readers. This is why Paul reminds Timothy of the model for behavior that Paul gave him, and he reminds him that he knows “those who taught you” as well. Studying the Scriptures well also means having godly examples around us who can teach us and help us to understand what we are studying.

The Scriptures do not only teach us, they rebuke us and correct us. If we want to be followers of Jesus, we must prepare to be challenged, convicted, and changed.

## **APPLY**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**Have you ever fooled yourself before? Take time to pray that God will make you aware of any sin you may be overlooking. Use Psalm 139:23-24 to guide you.**

**Because the Scripture is essential for our own growth and our ability to multiply, we should be dedicating ourselves to its study every day. Share some methods that are working or have worked in the past for regular Bible study. Encourage each person in your group to try something this week.**

**Do you have anyone in your life who models godly living? If not, ask that the Lord would send you a friend to help you. If so, why not take time this week to take them to lunch and tell them how much they have encouraged you?**

## **PRAY**

Pray that the Lord will protect us from teaching that would lead us astray. Ask the Lord to convict us of any sin that may have wormed its way into our hearts. Ask the Father to help us be the kind of example for others that Paul was for Timothy. Finally, pray that God will help us make friendships in the church that will help us to lead holy lives.

## **COMMENTARY**

### **2 TIMOTHY 3:1-17**

3:1. The words last days are more than a prediction. They are also an assessment of what was happening in Paul's time (1Tim 4:1).

3:5. These false teachers had the external trappings of godliness but not the real essence.

3:6. Because of their guilt from their past, these women burdened down with sins were particularly susceptible to the asceticism and legalism of these false teachers.

3:8. Jannes and Jambres were the names given in early Jewish nonbiblical writings to the Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses (Ex 7:8-13). Though the names do not appear in the Hebrew Bible, they would have been familiar to Timothy from Jewish writings about Moses.

3:10. The words but you set verses 1-9 in contrast with verses 10-17. The false teachers lived and taught one way, but Paul provided a totally different model for Timothy.

3:11. Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra were the cities that Paul visited on his first missionary journey. Thus, when looking for examples of his sufferings Paul referred to his earliest mission work. Some have questioned why he would refer so far back, especially since this would have been before Timothy joined Paul. But Lystra was Timothy's hometown, so he was probably aware of what had happened to Paul there. In effect Paul is saying: "Timothy, you have known from your earliest awareness of me that suffering is a part of the gospel work."

3:14. The phrase those who taught you probably refers to Timothy's mother and grandmother (1:5), especially since verse 15 mentions the teaching he received in childhood.

3:15. The phrase give you wisdom for salvation means that Scripture could lead Timothy to the "knowledge of the truth" (2:25; 1Tim 2:4). Scripture has the power to bring people to faith.

3:16-17. Inspired means "breathed out by God." Because Scripture comes from God Himself, it is profitable in many ways, ultimately leading us to righteousness, maturity, and service. All Scripture refers to the Old Testament, but by implication to the writings of the New Testament as well (1Tim 5:18; 2Pe 3:15-16).