

STUDY GUIDE



CHURCH NAME

MULTIPLY: A STUDY IN 2 TIMOTHY

MULTIPLY ENDURANCE

2 TIMOTHY 4:9-22

04/09/2017

MAIN POINT

As we remain faithful to the Lord, we multiply endurance to the end.

INTRODUCE

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

If you could pick a few friends to spend a day doing anything you wanted, who would you chose, and what would you do?

Why did you choose those friends? What impact have they had on your life?

The last words we have from the apostle Paul are contained in the verses we will discuss today. Paul knew he was nearing the end of his life and wrote to Timothy to come and see him, and to bring others with him. We tend to look at biblical characters like Paul and place them on a pedestal. But at the end of his life, Paul looked to others instead of himself. He wanted to see Timothy and those who had been dear to him. Paul knew that everything he had done was accomplished in the strength of the Lord and with the help of others. Just as Paul had passed the torch of ministry on to Timothy—and Paul instructed Timothy should do for other men, who gave evidence that they, too, would be faithful—these men should in turn "instruct others" who would follow them. And we who follow today are called to multiply endurance to the end.

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 4:1-5.

These verses pick up where chapter 3 leaves off, with instructions about the importance of God's Word. How does this text help us better understand the importance of teaching and studying Scripture?

To "preach" includes more than standing behind a pulpit to deliver a sermon. We all have opportunities to make known the truth of God's Word. In the remainder of verse 2, Paul pointed out how Timothy was to do this. He was to persist in it "in season and out of season." This phrase may also be translated "whether it's convenient or not." As believers, we need to speak up for the truth of God not only when the situation seems convenient or when we are "on duty," but when it is inconvenient. We must live the faith and be available as witnesses to the truth all the time.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:9-15.

Paul wrote in verse 7 of this chapter that he had finished the race. But not Demas. What kept Demas from finishing the race well?

What are some reasons Christians might be departing the church out of love for the present world? What responsibilities do we have to these people?

Nothing strikes at the heart of a person more than violated trust. Demas was one of the apostle's friends and associates. Paul mentioned him in Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24, describing him as a "fellow worker." He served faithfully with Paul, Luke, and others in God's work. Yet, at the end, he abandoned Paul and the work because he loved this world. Demas began well, but did not finish well. We must rely on the Lord's strength to finish the work He has called us to.

Who were the other people Paul mentioned in these verses? Which names are you familiar with? How had they been important to Paul in his ministry?

What did Paul ask Timothy to bring to him? Why do you think Paul have wanted these particular items?

The first request Paul made in these verses is for Timothy to come and see him. To bolster his request, he made the case to Timothy that all his dear friends, except for Luke, had either deserted him or were serving somewhere else. Paul mentioned young pastors he had mentored, like Timothy and Titus, men who labored with him like Mark and Tychius. In addition to these brothers, Paul requested a cloak, books, and the parchments. Even though Paul was in prison, he still wanted to fill his mind with God's truth. The books and parchments were likely the scrolls of Scripture.

How does continuous, daily study of the Scriptures strengthen us to do the Lord's work?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:16-22.

How did Paul handle his disappointment that no one stood by him at his first defense?

What helped Paul extend grace and forgiveness when his closest friends left him at the time he needed them the most?

Even though no one stood with Paul, he refused to hold it against them. Paul understood that Christ had forgiven him so he should forgive others. There are times in our lives where our friends will disappoint us, but God never will. Holding on to anger and bitterness puts a wedge in our relationships with God and with others. We forgive because Christ forgave us (Col. 3:13).

To what did Paul attribute his ability to remain strong under trial? What keeps us from doing the same thing?

What situations in life tend to make us think the Lord has deserted us? Why was Paul able to cling to God when every one else left him?

Paul was able to stand firm under trial and the desertion of friends because he relied on God strength instead of his own. God's power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). The power and sovereignty of God guided everything Paul

did. He understood that he was a weak man who needed God's help and strength to do anything (Phil. 4:13). Christ will never leave us or forsake us (Heb 13:5). God is not about us, but He is always with us and is always for us. We rely on God's strength because there is nothing we can do without it (Jn 15:5).

APPLY

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

Think back of our Multiply series. How does the example of multiplication and spiritual leadership in 2 Timothy encourage you to endure in your discipleship efforts? What is one step you feel compelled to take as a result of our study?

Who has God placed on your heart as a person you can "instruct" in the faith? Hold one another accountable to reach out to those individuals in the coming weeks.

PRAY

As you close, thank God for the strength that He provides. Pray that God would show you His strength in your weakness. Ask for God's providence and help in the midst of difficult situations so that you may learn to trust Him fully. Thank God for being with you always.

COMMENTARY

4:10 Paul persevered in spite of suffering (1:11-12; 2:8-13) because he had an eternal perspective (4:6-8), but Demas abandoned Paul because he loved this present world.

4:11 In spite of his earlier disapproval of Mark (Ac 15:36-40), Paul now desired Mark's presence and considered him useful... in the ministry.

4:14 The Alexander mentioned here cannot be identified with certainty. Paul mentioned an Alexander in 1Tim 1:20 as a person who had been excommunicated. He may have still been in Ephesus causing trouble. Or, since he is identified as a coppersmith, and there is evidence of a guild of coppersmiths in Troas, this may refer to a different man living in Troas. This would explain his appearance here after Paul asked Timothy to visit Troas.

4:16 In his forgiveness of others, Paul followed the teaching and model of Jesus (Lk 23:34), the practice of Stephen whom Paul saw die (Ac 7:60), and his own teaching (1Co 13:5).

4:17 Deliverance from a lion's mouth was a common biblical metaphor for rescue from great danger (Ps 22:21).

4:19 Prisca is a variant of Priscilla. This is a reference to the Priscilla and Aquila often mentioned in connection with Paul (e.g., Rm 16:3; 1Co 16:19).

4:21 This verse repeats the essence of verse 9. Travel in the Mediterranean area was usually suspended during winter because the weather resulted in dangerous conditions on land and sea. Therefore, if the trip were not completed by then, Timothy would be delayed and not be able to come "soon" (v. 9).

4:22 Paul used the phrase be with your spirit also in his closing in Gal 6:18, Php 4:23, and Phm 25. There does not appear to be any significant difference in meaning from his more common "be with you" (Rm 16:20; 1Co 16:23; 2Co 13:13; 2Th 3:18).