

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of March 15, 2020

Not Fear But Power- 2 Timothy 1:6-12

Pastor Temple combined online service 10:30am

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met or about applying last week's message on *Tri-City Blues* (Luke 10:1-17)?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

Opener Questions: Have you ever observed phobias in other people? Which ones?

How can you tell when having a particular fear is unwarranted and limiting or is justified and serves a helpful purpose?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, 2 Timothy 1:6-12. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- How might fear have been at work in Timothy's life (vs 6-8)?
- Does fear inhibit the exercising of all the spiritual gifts? How so?
- We are not given a spirit of fear (deilia) but of power, love and self-control (vs 7). How do each of these three things help us battle against the negative effects of fear in our lives?
- How is Paul's understanding of the gospel described in verses 9-10?

- How may this understanding bring hope and encouragement in times of physical dangers and fear?
- What spiritual gifts were present in Paul's ministry and how was suffering a part of the ministry (vs 8, 11-12)?
- How did Paul's looking to the future give courage and meaning to his present struggles (vs 12)?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Has anyone in the group memorized all six verses of Psalm 23? Would they or another volunteer recite or read it aloud?
- What portions of the Psalm are most helpful to you in dealing with the fears of life?
- How does the rod and the staff of the shepherd bring comfort to His sheep?
- How does one gain the assurance of being counted within the fold of God in Christ?
- Would you be willing to memorize these 6 verses this week to always have available to you such divinely inspired words of reassurance and guidance?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional reading above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- What was your experience like in worshipping as a church in separate isolated places this week?
- How does reflecting upon your worship experience give you a deeper sense of appreciation for Christians around the world who cannot worship publicly for fear of persecution?
- How does thinking about the day of the Lord and the return of Christ impact your thoughts about your present circumstances (vs 12)?
- What would it look like for you to kindle the gift of god in you this week?
- What does it mean to live a holy life in this current situation of a new virus spreading in the U.S. (vs 9)?
- Who needs checking on this week?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- How does fear sometimes inhibit our witness?
- What does it look like to "not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord"?
- A volunteer may lead the group in prayer about the concerns shared earlier in the meeting.