

my life

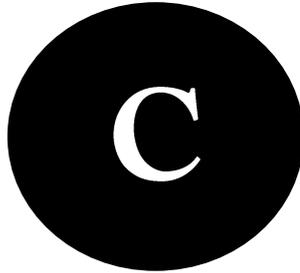
POURED OUT
2 Timothy

Homegroup Discussion Guide



My Life ... Poured Out (2 Timothy)

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Thanks for Being Part of a Homegroup

At Central, we believe that disciples grow in circles, not rows. By that we mean that we grow most as believers when we sit together around God's word, discussing the real issues of life as a follower of Jesus.

Central homegroups are part of the DNA of our church. Sunday services are important, but in homegroups there is greater opportunity for learning together, serving together, caring together, praying together and doing life together. God's people are not saved into isolation, but into a community and the best expression of that community is in homegroups.

Making the Most of Your Homegroup Time

Anything worth doing is worth doing well. That's why we ask that you treat your homegroup as an important part of the rhythm of your weekly life. There are a few things you can do so that you get the most benefit out of the group and so that you are a benefit and a blessing to the group.

- Be There:** Your presence encourages others. It means you are not only committed to the group, but to the other members of the group. Being inconsistent sends a negative message to everyone else.

- Prayer:** Pray for the people in your group, especially your group leader.

- Prepare:** Read any parts of the Bible that your leader suggests, do any homework that comes out of the study. It will not be onerous and you will benefit from it.

- Care:** Be willing to give of yourself to the others in your group. The Bible says, "Love one another for love is from God and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7).

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Why Do the Same Study?

At Central Church all homegroups study the same passage or topic that was preached at the Sunday church service. What are the advantages of doing studies this way?

- Unity:** Doing the same study means all across the church we are learning the same things at the same time. It can provide topics of conversation across the whole church.
- Growth:** People learn better when they hear things more than once. People learn better when they hear things more than once. Marketing people know this. That is why you see the same commercials on TV over and over again. But it is true. Most people will only remember one or two points from a Sunday sermon (and they are usually the stories that are told as illustrations). People learn best when given the opportunity to talk over the subject matter. By hearing the sermon on Sunday and then being involved in a homegroup discussion during the week, you will find the message of God's Word is sown more deeply into your heart and mind.
- Relevance:** By preparing our own studies, we can be specific about issues that impact all of us in our time and place. Most group study materials are from America or were written 10 or 20 years ago and speak to issues of another place or time. You will find that the studies we prepare will be practical and relevant in Ipswich, today.

1

Don't Be Ashamed

2 Timothy 1:1-18

For Starters

What wise parting words you have received? When were these words offered? (eg. prior to leaving home, graduation, getting married, last visit with someone before they died).

In 2 Timothy, we find Paul's final words of wisdom and love to Timothy, his "beloved child" in the faith. Paul, imprisoned in Rome, pens this incredibly personal letter. He offers thankfulness, encouragement, comfort and exhortation to help Timothy stand firm in the faith.

From the Word

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-18

1. Paul's relationship with Timothy is characterized by love. What are the marks of genuine gospel friendship we see from this chapter?



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2. What indication do we have from this letter (and elsewhere in Scripture) that Timothy could possibly have a spirit of fear (verse 7)? Why could he be finding ministry hard (see Acts 19:23-41, 1 Timothy 1:3, 1 Timothy 4:12-16, and briefly look over the rest of the letter)?

3. Paul reminds Timothy to “fan into flame” his spiritual gift (verse 6) and then reminds him of the gospel. Why would he do this?

Summarize the points he makes (verses 8-11).

What parts of the wonderful gospel do you tend to forget or need reminding of to keep going in your faith?

4. The issue of shame seems a big deal for Paul in this chapter (verses 8, 12, 17). What reasons does he offer Timothy as to why he is not ashamed of the gospel?

5. What further instructions does he offer Timothy to walk without shame?

For Discussion

6. What can make it difficult for you to keep living for Jesus? What encouragement do you find from Paul in this first chapter?

7. Looking at the examples of Paul and Onesiphorus, how can we practically encourage others in the gospel? Discuss what would help us as Central Church to live in deeper gospel connectedness.



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For Application

Who has invested in you? Who are you investing in? Imagine the encouragement in the gospel for Timothy to have received this letter from Paul. Consider writing a letter to your "Paul" and your "Timothy". Take 5 minutes now to at least make a start...

Who will you write to?

Why are you thankful to God for them?

How can you encourage them in the gospel? Do you recognize a spiritual gift in them that may need fanning into flame?

Make a start....and a note in your diary to send/email it!

For Prayer

Pray that the gospel will remain the main thing here at Central and that we will never be ashamed of it.

In response to what friends in your group have shared in Q5, use God's promises in Scripture to pray gospel truth over one another as we stand firm. Pray in thankfulness for God's Spirit who dwells in us to enable us to live for him, face suffering and use our gifts for his glory.



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SERMON NOTES ...

2

Don't Get Entangled

2 Timothy 2:1-13

For Starters

Think of a time you received a particularly meaningful personal letter, email or even piece advice from someone. What do you think made it so meaningful?

We are reading a pretty personal letter written by Paul to Timothy that is both intimate and insightful. The churches are meant to feel the weight of this relationship because discipleship - growing in maturity, mission and service - is meant to be done intimately. It is fundamentally relational. So take this into account as we unpack what Paul is saying to Timothy.

From the Word

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-13

1. Paul wants his 'child' Timothy to be strengthened for his task. What is the means by which Timothy will be strengthened and why is this so important?



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2. In verse 2 Paul calls to attention two very distinct actions that are key to Timothy's life and ministry. Firstly, it's what he 'heard' from Paul. What is it Timothy heard in the 'presence of many witnesses'? (Looking at 2 Timothy 1:8-14 may help.)

3. The second action Paul calls Timothy to do is 'entrust' the gospel to others. What two distinct characteristics should these people have and why are these important?

Timothy, is to centre his life and ministry around the gospel and passing on the gospel to those who would faithfully spread this glorious message. Paul will now use three vivid examples of how Timothy should model this gospel centred life: soldier, athlete, and farmer. Let's look at what Paul is saying to Timothy and us.

4. In verses 3-4, why do you think Paul chooses the example of a soldier when it comes to suffering?

5. How does an athlete gain a crown? And why do you think this is so important for Timothy's ministry?

6. Is the work of gospel ministry dependent upon God alone or man or both? Discuss.

7. What is a hard working farmer dependent upon in his work? Does this dependence mean they become lazier, why/why not? How you think relates to Timothy's work of the Gospel (read verse 10).



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8. Paul will close off this passage with two essential reminders for Timothy's ministry. From verses 8-9 what is the first reminder Paul gives Timothy? Why do you think this reminder is so important verse 10?

9. The second reminder is found in verses 11-13. Break down these verses and notice the contrasts and links. What do they all centre around?

For Discussion

As we consider our own lives and the way we are entrusted with the gospel message let us consider a couple of things.

10. Firstly, in what ways are you entrusting others with the gospel message?

11. Secondly how often do we trust our own strength to accomplish this work of the gospel? How can we keep fighting this tendency of trusting in our strength while at the same time working with all our strength?

12. Finally, the reference in verse 4 to things that might entangle a soldier refers to things that distract us from the main purpose. What distracts you from faithfully discharging the responsibility to share the gospel message?

For Prayer

Pray that we as a Church would be faithful in passing on what we have heard to others who will in turn pass it on also.

Pray that God would be at work changing hearts and lives as we minister to them.

Pray that we would not be distracted from this important task.



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SERMON NOTES ...

3

Don't Fight

2 Timothy 2:14-26

For Starters

Have you ever spoken, then watched your comments go through people like wildfire? Describe the experience.

Today we look at the way Paul counsels Timothy about his interactions with others.

Recap ... what's Paul said to Timothy so far?

From the Word

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-19

1. Paul says "Remind them of these things. . ." Who is Timothy reminding and what is he reminding them of?

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2. What is Timothy NOT to allow? Why?

3. What does Paul say is a major issue with all this type of talk?

4. What is Paul's reasoning?

5. Paul is very clear with Timothy that words of truth are the only words that disciple "the elect in order to obtain salvation".

Who are the people you disciple?

How do you teach them the words of truth?

6. How are you comforted by God's firm foundation? What warning or command is also in God's seal?

7. Remembering those to whom you speak words of truth and the command in verse 19, how you can more effectively "rightly handle the word of truth"?

Read 2 Timothy 2:20-26

8. Paul has shown Timothy the importance of rightly handling the word of truth, especially for those we disciple. What does he say is the reason we are to put off such unhelpful talk?

9. How must someone who is the Lord's servant behave...

towards the body?

towards those not in the body?

towards everyone?



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For Discussion

10. Our work in serving God is to present everyone fully mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28, you may like to read 1:24-29 for some context). Keeping Paul's teaching to Timothy in mind, how can you participate in this work...

At home?

At work?

At church?

With your neighbours?

With other school/sport /extracurricular activities acquaintances?

11. Why is it so important that you "cleanse yourself from what is dishonourable" before you can be ready for every good work (verse 21) in God's kingdom?

12. Remembering that God is working through us to bring others to salvation (v21, 25&26), how can you be pursuing righteousness, faith, love and peace? How can we encourage you to find joy in this pursuit?

For Prayer

Ask God to help you always handle the word of truth rightly.

Ask God to protect our lips from the sorts of quarrels and irreverent babble mentioned in this letter.

Ask God to help us always to use our words positively to build up the body of Christ.



My Life ... Poured Out (2 Timothy)

SERMON NOTES ...

4

Don't Listen to the Wrong People

2 Timothy 3:1-9

For Starters

Have you ever had a negative experience with someone that got to the point that you felt you had to push them away? What happened?

In today's passage Paul instructs Timothy to be aware of some serious issues the church is facing in Ephesus. Paul's advice at first glance can seem to be quite tough and may even sound like it is contrary to other Biblical teaching. But Paul is instructing Timothy on how to deal with some serious personal cases and it's for good reasons he is doing this.

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From the Word

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9

1. In verse 1, what period of time is Paul referring to when he says "the last days"? HINT: consider it in the context of all the verses.
2. Look at the characteristics listed in verses 2-4 and discuss how they are contrary to godly living.
3. Paul tells Timothy to expect that there will be godless people. How would this advice help Timothy?
4. What sort of person is verse 5 talking about and why should they be avoided? (See also Matthew 7:15, Titus 3:10)
5. In verses 6-7 we see quite a specific type of event or example given. What do you think Paul's main point is?
6. In verse 8-9, We are told of two men who opposed Moses. Why does Paul use them as an example? [If you missed the sermon, you might need to do some digging around to work out who they are!]

For Discussion

7. We are still in the last days. Where do we see the kind of godlessness Paul refers to in verses 2-4 evident around us?
8. How does such godlessness make you feel?



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9. As Christians it can be easy for us to look at the world and forget about our own sin. What areas of godlessness could you work on in your own life? Check out Romans 12:1-2, 9-20 and Philippians 3:17-21.

10. Take a look at verse 5b. Is Paul telling us to avoid godless people as a rule?

11. When should we take the step of avoiding a godless person? See also Galatians 6:1 and Matthew 18:15-19.

12. We can find it hard to keep showing grace to difficult people. How might we show grace to someone in a situation like this?

For Prayer

Pray for our world in these last days and that we would remain compassionate to people who display ungodly behaviour.

Pray for wisdom in dealing with people who you find difficult.

Pray that our church would be protected from those who come in with deceptive and dangerous motives.



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SERMON NOTES ...

5

Don't Neglect the Truth

2 Timothy 3:10-17

For Starters

Think back to a time when someone rebuked or corrected you? What happened?

Because we are proud people, it can be hard hearing the rebuke that someone brings. How we receive that rebuke usually depends on what we think of the one doing the rebuking. One of the things God does is to rebuke us. We see today that God has given his word to challenge us, change us and train us as we live as servants of God in this world; and that sometimes requires a rebuke! God's word certainly provides comfort when we are struggling (something which also appears in this passage) but if we are reading it well, it will also make us uncomfortable.

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From the Word

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17.

1. In verse 10, Paul contrasts Timothy with those he talked about in chapter 3:1-9. What is the difference?
2. Paul's influence on Timothy's life is powerful. Who has been a positive influence on your spiritual development? Take some time to celebrate those people with the group and even consider contacting them this week to thank them.
3. Timothy has also shared with Paul in suffering. How does Paul understand the place of persecution in the life of the Christian (verses 11-12)?
4. Put verse 12 into your own context and share about how you have suffered persecution because of the Lord Jesus.

It seems Christians in Australia today are under a greater threat of persecution. Where do you think this persecution will be most evident and what will help us persevere through it?

5. Paul is convinced that persecution and evil will be an ongoing reality. What will help Timothy deal with these realities (verses 13-15)?
6. Think of a time when you have had doubts and felt like giving up on your faith. What caused that? What helped you at this time?
7. Look back to 2 Timothy 1:5. How did Timothy first become acquainted with God's word (verse 15) and what difference did this make to his life?



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8. Having explained that the Bible makes us wise for salvation, Paul says there are four further ways the Bible is useful to us (verses 16-17). What are they and discuss what each means?

9. What result does God want his Word to bring about in the life of the Christian according to verse 17? What do you think that means?

For Discussion

10. Describe your relationship with God's word of truth. Do you love to read it? What would help you be a more consistent Bible reader?

11. If you are a parent or grandparent, what encouragement does the example of Eunice and Lois give you?

12. How lately has God's Word served to correct or rebuke you?

13. Do you feel competent and equipped for every good work? How might God's Word help you with this?

For Prayer

Pray for those who are being persecuted for their faith all around the world. Note that we will have a week dedicated to this in our homegroups next week.

Thank God for his Word. Pray for one another to grow in our competence and in being equipped for every good work.



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SERMON NOTES ...

6

Don't Give Up

2 Timothy 4:1-8

For Starters

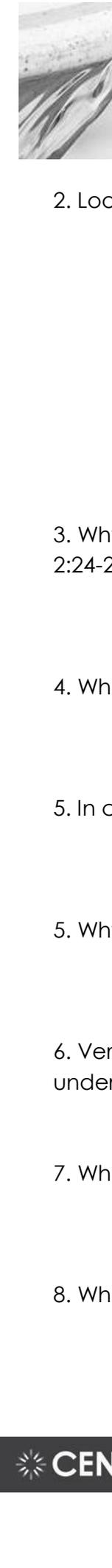
Has there ever been a time when you've bucked the trend, gone against the flow or not followed the crowd? What kind of opposition did this bring?

From his prison cell, Paul realises the kind of opposition Timothy is facing in his ministry. So he encourages him to keep on going. His words and his example will remind us to persevere in doing what's most important in this life, until we reach the next life.

From the Word

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-8

1. What is Paul's charge in verses 1-2?



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2. Looking at verses 2-3, why does Paul tell Timothy to preach and what does it mean to preach...

in season and out of season?

reprove?

rebuke?

exhort?

3. Why is patience necessary for the one who is to preach and teach others (see also chapter 2:24-26)?

4. What is it that causes people to turn away from the truth (v3-4)?

5. In contrast, what does Paul exhort Timothy to do (v5)?

5. Why these things? What does Paul think Timothy might face (v5)?

6. Verse 6 gives us insight into Paul's current situation. What does Paul say about what he understands about his immediate future?

7. What does Paul mean when he speaks of being poured out like a drink offering?

8. What confidence does Paul hold for his ultimate future and why (v7-8)?



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For Discussion

9. Why do we struggle to proclaim the good news in the face of opposition?

10. Why do we struggle to reprove, rebuke and exhort each other?

11. In the light of the things Paul says in verses 8-9, what should motivate us to proclaim the good news?

12. Look again at verse 7. Can you honestly echo those words?

13. Knowing that ultimately only one thing matters, how can you encourage one another to finish the race well?

For Prayer

Pray that each member of the group would take every opportunity, in season and out of season, to proclaim the truth.

Pray for God's power to finish the race in this life, well.



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SERMON NOTES ...

7

Don't Neglect the People

2 Timothy 4:9-22

For Starters

2 Timothy concludes with names, travel plans and seemingly insignificant details that can easily be overlooked. However, these details give us a glimpse of the intimate and personal relationships Paul had with many people. Paul is deeply invested and interested in people; some who were good and others who sought to derail the ministry. Name a time when someone has heavily invested in your life.

In today's passage we see Paul discussing and interacting with many different characters. However, with much joy, love and encouragement these deep personal relationships create, they also expose Paul's life of hardship, persistent challenges, difficult situations and sacrifice.

Today, people are just as important and relationships are just as tricky.

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From the Word

Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22

1. Paul first mentions Demas (v10). Demas had been a close colleague of Paul and was a member of Paul's inner circle. Read verse 10 and discuss what has happened to Demas and what has caused this.

2. What does it mean to love this present world?

3. Although not reproached for having left Paul, Paul continues to discuss other colleagues who had left for various other reasons (Crescens, Titus v10 and Tychicus v12 and v16). Discuss Paul's response to this and the importance of Mark (v11).

4. In verses 14-15, Alexander the coppersmith actively carried open warfare against the gospel and is obviously not a friend. How did this impact Paul's missionary work? What warning does Paul give?

5. Through Paul's relationships, both good and bad, what was Paul's objective and strengths, as he invests in others?

6. With Paul's isolation, suffering, trials, assault and opposition in mind, how did Paul 'pull-through' in the face of hardships?

7. Following the flow of thought in verses 9-16, what is the significance of the phrase "So I was rescued from the lion's mouth" and verse 18 (v17-18)?



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For Discussion

8. Paul's life was full of risk, sacrifice, tension, discomfort and conflict. In what areas of your life do you struggle with these things, as you live for Christ? If any?

9. Could it be said of you that you desire the things of the present age (love the world) above God? Where is this most evident?

10. Sometimes loving and investing in others is difficult. There is sometimes betrayal, abandonment and opposition. How can you love others and stand firm in these difficult times?

11. It is clear that Paul invested deeply in others. How can you work towards loving others and building up the body of Christ? What barriers might you face and how would you overcome them?

For Prayer

Pray for those who are struggling with temptations of this present world.

Pray for your frontline and the people you are involved with.

Pray that you can be strengthened by God to invest in others and that others may invest in your walk with Christ.

Pray that we can love all of God's people and pray also for those who oppose God.

Pray that even in isolation and hardship, we can rest safely in His heavenly Kingdom and to him be the glory, forever and ever.



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