

2 Timothy: Introduction

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2 Timothy 1:1-12

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Discussion and Reflection Guide

2 Timothy is the last pastoral letter that Paul writes as awaits his death in prison

He is handing off his spiritual ministry and legacy to Timothy focusing on what matters most.

*Have you been able to benefit from a last letter or special words from someone near their death that passed on wisdom or experience to you?

*How does the context of Paul's circumstances impact what he says in this letter?

Rich relationships and the legacy of faith are prominent in the greeting

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 1:1-5 (NIV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

² To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

*What relationships are part of your own legacy of faith?

*What can you already notice about what is most important for Paul to pass on in this greeting?

Paul encourages fanning into flame the gift of God

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 1:6-8 (NIV)

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.

*What does Paul mean by 'fan into flames' in relation to the 'gift of God'?

*How have you been encouraged in using your gifting? What has that meant to you?

Paul knows the gospel and ministry will continue after his death through others

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 1:9-12

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.

*What is Paul trying to pass on in this passage?

*What does this truth spark in you?

Reflecting on his final days Paul says – I have entrusted it all to God

The gospel is true, and Christ Jesus is enough.

*How does this introduction from the letter to Timothy help us focus on what matters most and give us perspective?

*What talents or gifts is God inviting you to fan into flame for the sake of those around you?

*What have you entrusted to Christ Jesus to guard until your life on earth is over? Are you being invited to trust him with more?

*What do you sense the Spirit is showing you about what is most important?