

2 Timothy: What Matters Most

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2 Timothy 2:14-26

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Discussion and Reflection Guide

Paul encourages Timothy not to argue about unimportant things

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 2:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.

*Do you have an example of a time that you got caught up in a quarrel of no value? Why did it seem important at the time?

*How do these types of arguments 'ruin those who listen'?

Word-wars put the focus on the victory of the speaker, not the victory of the truth

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 2:15-18 (NIV)

¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

*What can this passage show us about engaging with people?

*How would you describe what it means to 'correctly handle the word of truth'?

The invitation is to be used by God

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 2:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁹ Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

²⁰ In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. ²¹ Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

*How do you sense the Spirit is inviting you to be used – prepared to do good work?

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 2:22-26 (NIV)

²² Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. ²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵ Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

*What does this passage say about the goal of our engagement?

*What does it look like to engage rather than enrage?

*Where do you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to flee arguing? To pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace?