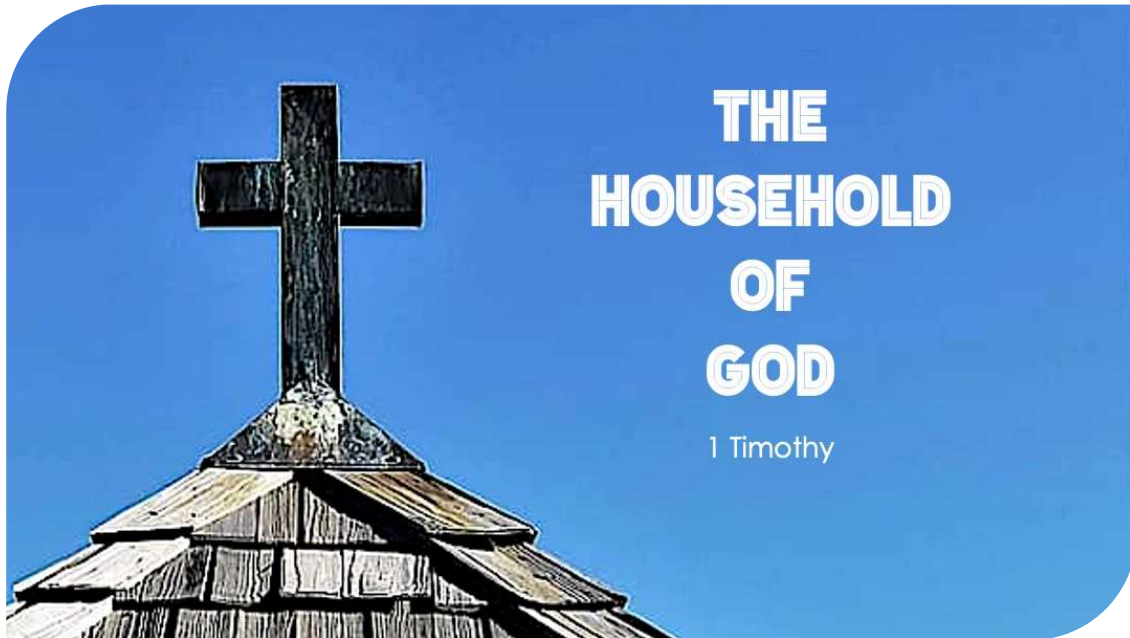


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Growth Group Booklet

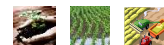
Term 4, 2020



**MANLY-LOTA
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
Growing Followers of Jesus



**CALLIDE VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**



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Series Introduction

When I was a younger man, I once received a very affectionate letter in the mailbox, from an older man, a mentor in my life. He'd handwritten his letter, sealed it with his own wax seal and personally delivered it to my home. I remember the courage it gave me.

Many years later, when I most find Christian ministry too hard and just want to give in, remembering that letter helps me recall all that my mentor has taught me: the gospel of Christ Jesus, trustworthy sayings, healthy doctrine, how to live as a Christian man, and as a minister... life-giving truths like that. But most of all, his letter helps me remember my mentor's love for me. His fatherly love. Although imperfect, his love reminds me of God's love, shown to us most clearly in the grace, mercy and peace of Christ Jesus our Lord.

'1 Timothy' is a letter just like that, only much older and much better. It was a handwritten letter from the heart, from the much older apostle named Paul, who mentored a much younger minister, named Timothy. Now in 2020, we four ministers have put together this 9-week series called 'The Household of God' to teach you 1 Timothy, from our heart.

Paul probably wrote this first pastoral letter in the mid-60s AD while in Macedonia (Eastern Europe), to Timothy who he'd sent to Ephesus (modern-day Turkey). Although it was written privately to Timothy almost 2,000 years ago, it was meant to be read out publicly in front of the church in Ephesus at that time, and the letter is all about the ministry of the whole Christian church across all of time. So, it's in God's Bible, in the New Testament, as a teaching letter for churches just like ours. To instruct ministers like us, elders like ours, and men and women like you, on how to conduct ourselves in God's family, His church. In chapter 3 Paul tells Timothy:

¹⁴ Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, ¹⁵ if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

If you're not yet a Christian the letter is also for you, but won't make any sense until you know Christ. It'll remain a mystery, until you become part of God's household. If that's you, now is the time to do business with God, by repenting of your sin and believing that Christ Jesus is your Lord and Saviour, so get on with it!

A Family Letter

Timothy had ridden shotgun with Paul on many of his travels around the Roman Empire. In the New Testament, Paul mentions Timothy in the opening greetings of 6 of his other letters, mostly to new churches around the Mediterranean. Timothy helped Paul plant churches, supported Paul in preaching and teaching the gospel and most of all, he learned from Paul. Timothy was Paul's disciple, as Paul followed Jesus. Timothy disciplined himself, as one who learned the disciplines of his mentor. We might say Timothy was Paul's apprentice, his offsider, his 'right-hand man'. But Paul had a better word for Timothy. Paul called him, 'my true son':

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope, ² To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

It seems Timothy didn't know his own father. We know Timothy had been raised by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice, who'd both taught Timothy the Scriptures since he was an infant (2 Timothy 1:15). We don't know if they were single mothers or

widows, but we do know they were some of the many faithful women the New Testament tells us about. It seems Timothy's father was absent, and that in such absence Paul had taken the young man under his wing. In this way Paul was modelling the God he worshipped, the 'Father to the fatherless, the defender of widows' (Psalm 68:5).

Now in the Roman world at the time, your family, your 'household', was sacred. And to call someone who was not from your family, with a term reserved only for family, was scandalous in that culture. Yet Paul treated Timothy like God treats us: bringing us into His household, treating us as his very own children, calling us His 'true sons and daughters'. In fact, as we'll see from the letter, our new identity as children of God radically reshapes how we are to treat each other in the church, God's own 'household'. For example: *Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers,² older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. (1 Timothy 5:1-2)*

A Confronting Letter

Paul had been confronted by the risen Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 19). And Timothy had been confronted by the truth of Christ Jesus since before he could remember, having 'known the Scriptures' since he was an infant (2 Timothy 3:15). Both men knew the gospel of Christ Jesus.

But Timothy, Paul's 'true son' in Christ Jesus, needed encouragement. Paul opens his letter by commanding Timothy 'to stay' in Ephesus. He's often been called 'Timid Timothy' throughout church history, but perhaps Timothy just found ministry intimidating. You see, overseeing the ministry of a church is hard. It's very confronting. People are difficult. And when you're a minister, elder or deacon there's great temptation to quietly give up and go AWOL in the face of shameless betrayal, false teaching by others and sabotage by people who pretend to have the best interests of the church at heart. Ministry itself is very confronting, especially as every good minister often finds himself the most difficult person to handle (more about that later...)

More confronting in 1 Timothy is Paul's insistence on the reality of God's judgement for sin. That there really is a devil. And that there is danger for us, of suffering 'shipwreck' of our faith, if we don't hold on to a good conscience, and healthy doctrine – as we'll see.

This was a confronting letter in the pre-Christian Roman culture of Timothy's time, but the letter is also confronting in ours. More so as we live into a post-Christian culture that's trending anti-Christian. Paul makes clear that for Christians there's something much worse than fake news in the media – it's fake news in the church: false doctrines and unhealthy teaching. And that there're more concerning issues than just the selfie-culture on Instagram, such as ignorant 'influencers' who cause chaos in God's family.

Paul dares to speak into our culture with eternal truths about gender and sexuality that unbelieving Australians will find offensive. For example, he assumes that biological sex of 'male and female' is real, normal, and God-given, and teaches that gender roles of 'men and women' are different, good and to be embraced, not obliterated. He also refuses to perpetuate unhelpful cultural stereotypes such as 'real men never cry' or 'women belong in the kitchen.' Instead, Paul confronts us to think more radically about sexuality and gender: that such personal characteristics of our identity are not *chosen by us*, but *received from God*.

In fact, Paul insists we relate to one another not according to *our desires*, but to *God's design* - not by how *we feel* about others, but how *God does*. For example, we'll hear that Christian men are to stop 'punching on' and start learning to pray. To stop using their hands to punch, and start using them to pray. Women are to stop dressing for self-promotion and start dressing out of self-respect. Homosexuality isn't be celebrated but condemned as unacceptable for believers, pornography in our lives is to give way to purity, and our love for money needs to die by giving it away.

It's a confronting letter in Australian culture, so prepare for God to challenge you in 1 Timothy. Our Aussie culture of alcohol and anger, gossiping and complaining, disrespecting our rulers and looking down upon our elderly, are all critiqued. Such behaviour isn't only chaotic and sinful, according to Paul, but unhealthy and especially destructive in God's household, the church.

For our Stanthorpe and Rose City churches, we've just come out of our 'God's Dysfunctional Family' series. Where we spent a whole term looking at how God's people are NOT to conduct themselves. So thankfully, this term we're doing the opposite! Our key purpose in doing 1 Timothy is straight from the letter: *'To know how we ought to live as God's household' (3:15)*.

Hopefully, joyfully, with great encouragement from Paul, we'll see that one of the biggest antidotes to unhealthy churches is 'healthy' doctrine (less-helpfully translated as 'sound' in your NIV). Paul loved good doctrine. Timothy was to teach good doctrine. And we are to love *living out* good, healthy, life-giving truth – 'sound doctrine', as we'll see.

A 'How To' Letter

Much of what Paul teaches in 1 Timothy is about how we are to live. Conduct ourselves. How we're to treat others in God's Household, yes, but especially out of how we manage our own self. For Paul, the first of his 'trustworthy sayings' is all about managing our 'self': *Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst. (1 Timothy 1:15)*

What Paul means is not that he is literally the worst person who has ever lived. What he means is that all of us must accept that the sinner we best know is our own self. So, for example, I (Dave Bailey) am the worst sinner I know, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save! For you, it's you! This trustworthy saying, says Paul, is for everyone. First for him, also for Timothy, but now too for every minister and elder and deacon and church member – for every sinner in this world saved from God's judgement by Christ Jesus!

This means that the beginning of the Christian life is repentance. It's acknowledging the depth of our sin. It's owning our failure to live good and true lives on our own. It means admitting to God that although we thought we could get rid of him; we actually really miss him. That we can't do life on our own because all we seem to work towards, is death.

And so finally, we get to the most confronting, culturally subversive, and dangerous idea of 1 Timothy in our culture: that perhaps we're not as honest with ourselves as we like to think we are. We live in a culture that pretends to value *authenticity* above all else ('being who you really want to be') and at the same time value *tolerance* above all else ('let everyone else be who they really want to be'). It's a confused culture, and it's getting chaotic, because the only way to hold those two values above all else is to pretend they can go together. To convince ourselves that we all can do whatever we want to do and that somehow this won't impact each other in ways that limit doing what we want to do. The fact is that the only way we can try to live out such a pretence is to engage in collective self-deception. To trick ourselves so well, that we believe our own lies. To be like Leonardo DiCaprio's wife in the movie 'Inception': so convinced by herself that she lives in her own imagined world, cutoff from the real one – it results only in her death.

You see, in Paul's fatherly letter to his true son, 1 Timothy wakes us up from delusion. It fires a gunshot across the night of our sleeping. It wakens us to the truth that comes not from our own choices – as though you have your truth and I have mine – but to

the truth that only comes from God: *For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. (1 Timothy 2:5-6)*

You see, the confronting truth is that we need Christ Jesus to mediate for us. God's truth is that we don't just need a little bit of help to get along in life, but that we desperately need to be saved from our own chosen, sinful, deadly self-deception! Not just to bring us in from the cold winds of God's judgment, to the warm embrace of His household (the church), but to free us to live well - to conduct our very selves well, within it! To discover a true knowledge of God as he has revealed himself to us in Christ Jesus, and to discover that I, the worst sinner I know in this world, has become another 'true son', truly saved because of his deep, tender, and beautiful fatherly love.

Rev David Bailey (Rose City)

Other Series Contributors: Revs Andrew Purcell (Biloela), Peter Evans (Stanthorpe) and Jeffrey Keighley (Manly Lota)

Visual Overview

TIMOTHY

A HOLISTIC VISION OF THE CHURCH

- WHAT A CHURCH BELIEVES → WILL SHAPE HOW IT LIVES.
- THE CHURCH SHOULD BE KNOWN FOR INTEGRITY & SERVICE TO THE POOR
OUT OF DEVOTION TO KING JESUS.

7 TIMOTHY'S COMMISSION

CONFRONT THE CORRUPT TEACHERS
& THEIR "STRANGE TEACHING"

**GOD HATES
FLEAT EATERS!**

**ALEXANDER
& HYMENAEUS**

**JESUS
DISAPPROVES
OF MARRIAGE**

GENESIS

THEIR TEACHING IS DISTORTED!

THE PURPOSE OF THE
ORAN® IS TO EXPOSE THE TRUTH
ABOUT THE HUMAN CONDITION

WHO... WE NEED HELP.

**THE MESSIAH
CAME TO SAVE
SINFUL PEOPLE**

d by

created by
the Bible Project

2-3 INSTRUCTIONS FOR EPHEMIS PT 1

PEACE

...USURP
LEADERSHIP
POSITIONS



DEACONS
(K=SERVANT)

• IN GOD'S FAMILY
(THE CHURCH)

4-6a INSTRUCTIONS FOR EPHEMERIS PT 2-

1-16 CORRECTING BAD THEOLOGY

INCLU-
SIVE
OF
MARRI-
AGE

5:17-25 CONFRONTING OURS HEW

188

6b TIMOTHY'S COMMISSION

CONFRONT THE CORRUPT TEACHERS
 & THEIR DESIRE FOR A FAITH

TEACHING ABOUT CONTE
& SIMPLE LIVING

CHRISTIANS WITH WEALTH SHOULD BE FORTH IN GOODWORKS



6:15-16 "10 11"

POWER & INCOME

Series Theme Song

SHOW US CHRIST

Music by Doug Plank, words by Doug Plank & Bob Kauflin © 2011

VERSE 1

*Prepare our hearts, O God, help us to receive
Break the hard and stony ground, help our unbelief
Plant Your Word down deep in us, cause it to bear fruit
Open up our ears to hear, lead us in Your truth*

CHORUS

*Show us Christ, show us Christ
O God, reveal Your glory
Through the preaching of Your Word
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord*

VERSE 2

*Your Word is living light upon our darkened eyes
Guards us through temptations, makes the simple wise
Your Word is food for famished ones, freedom for the slave
Riches for the needy soul; come, speak to us today*

BRIDGE

*Where else can we go, Lord, where else can we go?
You have the words of eternal life*

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Week 1: In a world of fake news and contested truths, where people think the church is the last place we could belong, Christ Jesus is our only hope and His church is our only foundation for true Christian community.

Following Sunday 11 Oct

1. Reflect on Church

Where in our Sunday gathering did you see or experience God at work (this could be in the sermon, Bible reading, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Read 1 Timothy 1:1-3, 3:14-16

What stood out to you?

3. Drilling Down

1. From the opening greeting, who has written this letter and to whom has he written?

2. How are the writer, God and the original reader described, and in whom is their relationship established?

3. From the theme verses in the middle of the letter, why is he writing?

4. God's Household Design

1. Read Acts 20:13-38 together. Describe what Paul had done in Ephesus and what he knew would happen after he left.

2. From 1 Timothy 3:14-16, how does Paul describe the church?

3. What is the great mystery 'from which true godliness springs'? (See also 3:8-11 of Paul's letter to the Ephesians)

5. Household Relationships

1. Whenever we join a new team, a new workplace or a new household, it takes time to learn how to conduct ourselves there. What are some things we expect to have to learn when we join a new set of relationships like these?

2. Remember all the different households you've been a part of. What were the relationships between you and those you lived with? Who decided how you lived together in those households?

3. Paul writes so that we will know how to live together in God's household, the church. List off what you might expect him to talk about in this letter.

6. Prayer

1. Reflect on 'the mystery' which inspired Paul to write this letter to his true son in the faith, Timothy. Praise God for what has now been revealed to us, about Christ Jesus.

2. Ask God to help us think about His church as 'The Household of God' this term.

3. Commit to God our relationships in His household. Talk to Him about our different relationships in church, and ask Him to teach us this term how to live together.



Week 2: Ministry in God's household springs from faith and repentance, revealing our sin and rebellion - so we need God's gospel to be at work on our hearts.

Following Sunday 18 Oct

1. Reflect on Church

Where in our Sunday gathering did you see or experience God at work (this could be in the sermon, Bible reading, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Read 1 Timothy 1:3-17

What stood out to you?

3. Drilling Down

1. In v3-7, what does false teaching lead to and what is the true source of godly teaching?

2. In v8-11, the law is good if used 'properly'. Discuss how Christians can misuse the law today.

3. The first of three trustworthy sayings is in v15. What's so important about the phrases 'Christ Jesus coming into the world' (incarnation) and 'to save sinners' (redemption)?

4. God's Household Design

1. The problem Paul is addressing with Timothy is that of unhealthy doctrine. We can see in this passage that in God's household, healthy doctrine starts with addressing the sin in our own hearts. How must healthy doctrine affect leaders of God's household and how they teach it?

2. How can we encourage and support the leaders of our church to make this a priority in their lives and in God's household?

5. Household Relationships

1. While this passage is particularly addressed to teachers and leaders, we are a priesthood of believers where each member is involved in some form of ministry. How are you addressing the sin in your own heart?

2. How has your love (v5) been growing over the last 6 months?

3. The trustworthy saying of v15 makes the practice of regular confession, repentance and forgiveness foundational for relationships in God's household. Where do you have a broken or strained relationship in your life? Invite prayer to have the courage to pursue healthy relationships.

6. Prayer

1. Ask God that you would be discerning and that you teachers and leaders would model healthy doctrine.

2. Ask the Spirit to help you address a sin you are currently struggling with in your life that corrodes a good conscience.

3. Pray that in God's household you would pursue a 'love which comes from a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith.'



Week 3: God has made peace with us through Jesus Christ, and in his peaceful household we are all called to fight well, to live peaceably together.

Following Sunday 25 Oct

1. Reflect on Church

Where in our Sunday gathering did you see or experience God at work (this could be in the sermon, Bible reading, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Read 1 Timothy 1:18 - 2:15

What stood out to you?

3. Drilling Down

1. Paul's command to teach healthy doctrine is now applied to different conflicts in the church. This passage is full of conflict! List off all the language of conflict from 1:28 to 2:15.

2. This passage is all about God's desire for peace in His household. Who does Paul charge Timothy to fight for peace for, in the following sections:

- a) 1:18-20
- b) 2:1-2
- c) 2:3-7
- d) 2:8
- e) 2:9-10

3. In 2:5-6 Paul explains how Christ has made a way for peace with God. What doctrinal truths does Paul nail down here?

4. God's Household Design

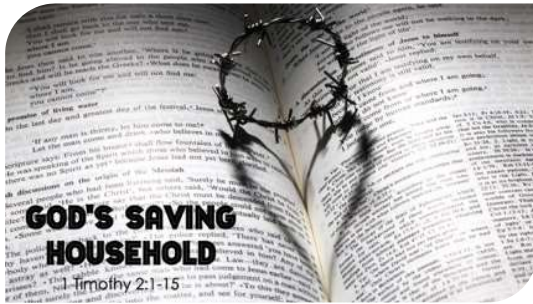
1. In verses 18-20 Paul again mentions the command from verse 3, about healthy doctrine instead of false doctrine. He also mentions 'a good conscience' again, for the second time in this letter. Why does God insist that healthy doctrine and good consciences go together?
2. In verse 20 Paul uses extreme language when talking about Hymenaeus and Alexander. Yet what is at stake for them and what is Paul's goal with such household discipline?
3. What things are God's sons and daughters commanded and urged to actually DO, in this passage?

5. Household Relationships

1. In 2:5-6, the centre of this passage, Paul explains how Christ has made a way for peace with God. Why does peace in all our other relationships flow from our relationship with God?
2. What does our living in peace cost God?
3. What 'costs' does Paul then demand we pay to live in peace with each other?

6. Prayer

1. Praise the one God and one mediator between God and humankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for many.
2. Thank God for those in authority in our lives - in our own households, in our country, and in our church family - the peaceful household of God.
3. Ask for grace, mercy and peace from God the Father so that we might fight well together for peace in God's household.



Week 4: Roles for men and women in God's household are (controversially) different, because of God's design to serve God's desire to save (which is even more controversial!)

Following Sunday 1 Nov

1. Reflect on Church

Where in our Sunday gathering did you see or experience God at work (this could be in the sermon, Bible reading, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-15

What stood out to you?

3. Drilling Down

1. What does Paul want for men and why? (v.8 cf. vv1-2) What might "holy hands" mean?

2. What about for women? (vv.9-10) Why does what women wear matter?

3. In household gatherings what are women allowed to do and not allowed to do? What does "quietness" mean and who else is called to be quiet? (cf. v.2)

4. God's Household Design

1. The teaching on the different gender roles isn't just driven by Paul's hang ups about women. There's something more foundation in his mind - what is it? (v.13 cf. Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15-25).

2. Read Genesis 3:1-19. What happens to God's household design?

3. How does Adam's failure to deal with 'false teaching' in the Garden of Eden feed into Paul's teaching about the affirmation of male leadership and teaching roles?

4. Remember that Timothy is pastoring in Ephesus. Read Ephesians 5:25-32. Paul may be writing about different roles in marriage, but notice what drives Paul's teaching especially in v.32. Who and what is the model of leadership? Is leadership about position and power or something else? (cf. 1 Tim 2:3-6)

5. Household Relationships

1. How do you feel about the teaching of these verses? What is hard to accept? Does our culture's view of men and women make this difficult or is it something deeper?

2. How do men often make this teaching about leadership and teaching roles difficult?

3. What sacrifices are this passage calling you to make - and what's the goal?

6. Prayer

1. Give thanks for how Jesus has given himself for us and that through him the God's good design and purposes for men and women are being recovered.

2. Pray we'd follow Jesus' patterns for leadership and authority. Pray that we'd avoid thinking in worldly terms about authority, power, and position - for both men and women.

3. Ask that we'd not think about this passage in terms of limits or boundaries - but more in terms of how women & men can complement each other well in the church, while we keep in mind the big desire that God has in mind for people (2:4)



Week 5: A leader in God's household is someone who by faith is addressing their sin, which is displayed in their character.

Following Sunday 8 Nov

1. Reflect on Church

Where in our Sunday gathering did you see or experience God at work (this could be in the sermon, Bible reading, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-16 (v1)

What stood out to you?

3. Drilling Down

1. What qualities of a mature Christian must we see in overseers (v1-7)?
2. How are deacons to exhibit lives shaped by the gospel (v8-13)? What is one key difference to overseers?
3. What does Paul say in v15 is the key reason he's written this letter?

4. God's Household Design

1. The passage speaks of three households: self (1-7), family (4-5) and God's (14-15). How do each of these households reflect the hearts of leaders?
2. How is God's household going to be managed well for peace and quiet lives (v4-5)?

3. What is the relationship between the type of leaders God wants for his church in Ch3 and the nature of the church he wants in Ch2?

5. Household Relationships

1. All of the qualities of Christian maturity are the fruit of healthy doctrine, a good conscience and a sincere faith, all grown together by Jesus. To what extent do you think our church family looks for these qualities in our leaders?

2. What does this passage teach us to expect from leaders in relationships in these three households?

3. The gospel is not just an inward change but an outward one as well. Considering v15, think about what you were like 5 years ago and how you conduct yourself today. How has Christ Jesus changed you?

6. Prayer

1. Pray for our church leaders, for the ongoing work of Christ in their lives as they grow in maturity.

2. Pray for our church to benefit from Christ-centred leadership that helps us all grow and mature.

3. Pray for our households to exhibit the characteristics of a 'church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth' (v15).



Week 6: As true believers, we are sons and daughters of the living God. Living in His household is founded on the truth of the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus.

Following Sunday 15 Nov

1. Reflect on Church

Where in our Sunday gathering did you see or experience God at work (this could be in the sermon, Bible reading, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-16 (v15)

What stood out to you?

3. Drilling Down

1. Why is Paul writing these instructions to Timothy?
2. What is the pathway to 'true sonship' that God provides for every member of his household (v.16)?
3. How does this produce 'true godliness' (v.16) in the sons of God, where the law has failed to do so? (aka 'the mystery')

4. God's Household Design

Overseers and Deacons are like parents in God's household, amongst all the sons and daughters of faith. They set the blueprint for household conduct.

1. As believers we grow in our faith and maturity:- what parts of a leader's behaviour should we seek to imitate from our overseers and deacons(vv.2-11)?

2. Who is the ultimate figure-head in God's house, and who has confirmed/vindicated this truth (v.16)?

3. What should we seek to imitate from him?

5. Household Relationships

1. Why is it important for us to know how to conduct ourselves in God's house?

2. What is one thing you need to change about how you are conducting yourself?

3. What is it that confirms we belong in the house of the living God and are accepted among God's family (v.16)?

6. Prayer

1. Praise God for the ongoing work of transforming us more and more into the likeness of Jesus.

2. Ask the Spirit to help us be more like Jesus in our thoughts and actions.

3. Ask for courage to keep addressing the sin in our lives, submitting more and more of our life to the lordship of Jesus.



Week 7: God's household grows 'fit' with a healthy trainer putting it on a nourishing diet, and who trains himself in godliness as a model to the whole household - since spiritual training has eternal value.

Following Sunday 22 Nov

1. Reflect on Church

Where in our Sunday gathering did you see or experience God at work (this could be in the sermon, Bible reading, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5:2

What stood out to you?

3. Drilling Down

1. How has the Spirit warned that some will "depart from the faith" and devote themselves to the "teaching of demons" (vv.1-3)?

2. What instead is Timothy to put before the church (vv.4-6), and what will help him do this (vv.7-8)?

3. What makes this training more valuable than "bodily training"? (vv.8&16)

4. God's Household Design

1. How does rejecting God's gifts (marriage and food) stop people growing fit?

2. Why does Jesus give leaders to churches and what's their role? (v.16).

3. What does Paul want us to trust about the priorities of God's household (vv.8, 16)?

5. Household Relationships

1. According to Paul, what is the role of Scripture in protecting us from false teaching and freeing us to grow fit and healthy in our relationships? (see vv. 5, 6, 13, 16)

2. How ought we as the whole household of God be concerned about the fitness of each member?

3. Paul anticipates that Timothy's teaching and training for godliness will lead to observable progress (v.15). What observable progress have you seen in God's household over the last 6 months?

6. Prayer

1. Thank God that he has worked through faithful trainers to ensure the a good diet has been passed on to us.

2. Ask God to help your household to maintain the good diet, and training.

3. Pray that we'd be longing for more than just good teaching - but healthy, mature disciples to be grown.



Week 8: God's Household is to honour everyone: from widows to elders and slaves to masters - as we all seek to honour God amidst the sin that entangles our lives.

Following Sunday 29 Nov

1. Reflect on Church

Where in our Sunday gathering did you see or experience God at work (this could be in the sermon, Bible reading, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Read 1 Timothy 5:3-6:2a

What stood out to you?

3. Drilling Down

1. How many different 'personal' scenarios does Paul analyse in these verses?
2. What things does Paul prescribe for dealing with sin, and for honouring all in God's household?
3. What specifically does Paul advise Timothy? (vv.21-23)

4. God's Household Design

1. How are relatives called to look after each other (vv.4-5, 8)?
2. How does Paul show that every person and relationship in the household is about honouring God? (Eg. widows, elders, slaves and masters)

3. How does God call us to care for our leaders, and why is this good (vv.17-25)?

5. Household Relationships

1. How do we honour every individual in God's Household?

2. How are you going at honouring different people in our church family, and what do you need to change to honour some better than you have been?

3. What particular sin in your corner of God's household - whether obvious or currently hidden - needs to be dealt with ASAP? Who will you honour by asking them for help this week?

6. Prayer

1. Pray for wisdom and courage to honour every member of God's household.

2. Ask God to help us to learn to put our religion into practice.

3. Ask God to show us where we need to stop dishonouring his name and our fellow believers in His household.



Week 9: Our 'loves' make a huge difference in God's household: The love of wealth will use God to get money, kill your contentment and you. But the love of God will use money to build for eternity.

Following Sunday 6 Dec

1. Reflect on Church

Where in our Sunday gathering did you see or experience God at work (this could be in the sermon, Bible reading, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Read 1 Timothy 6:2b-21

What stood out to you?

3. Drilling Down

1. What are the dangers that come with the desire to be rich (vv.9-10)?
2. How does the desire for wealth affect what is taught in churches and what people believe? (vv.5 & 10)
3. What commands does Paul give Timothy (vv.11-16)?
4. What are the rich to do with the wealth God has given them and why (vv.17-19)?

4. God's Household Design

1. What does God want for his household? (vv.3, 6, 8)

2. What are healthy ways to think about and use wealth and what drives these healthy ways of thinking (vv.11-16)?

3. In this passage, what is the opposite to departing from the truth, wandering from the faith, and piercing ourselves with many griefs? What is "all we need" for this?

5. Household Relationships

1. How do we in God's household sadly work against one another's contentment?

2. Why do we struggle with being generous and what does this have to do with our desires?

3. How does Paul's vision of Jesus (vv.14-16) challenge and modify your financial goals?

6. Prayer

1. Thank God for how he gives life (v.13) and richly provides us with everything to enjoy (v.17).

2. Pray that we'd see clearly that we've been given much to be generous with for the sake of eternity.

3. Pray that our desires (especially in regards to earthly wealth) would spring from godliness with contentment.

