1 Timothy: integral parts of a healthy church

mars hill sermon & study series
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by pastor mark driscoll
mars hill sermon and study series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>table of contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>page 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an introduction to 1 Timothy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>page 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>studying 1 Timothy alone, with your family, and with your community group bible study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>page 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126 kids' bible questions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Saul was a man so violently opposed to Jesus Christ that he zealously persecuted and murdered Christians. But, Jesus returned from Heaven to convert Saul, who then adopted the Christian name of Paul and became a pastor and missionary. His courageous travels brought the Gospel to many people who had never heard of Jesus, including those in the town called Lystra where a young man named Timothy lived (Acts 16:1-4).

Paul loved young Timothy, and affectionately referred to him as a son (Philippians 2:22; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2). These men are virtually inseparable throughout the New Testament as they work closely together (Acts 18:5, 19:22), co-author books of the Bible (2 Corinthians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1), and serve God side-by-side (1 Corinthians 4:17, 16:10; Romans 16:21). Occasionally, however, they were separated, because Paul would send Timothy on important missions to straighten out problems that arose in various local churches (e.g. 1 Thessalonians 3:1-6).

Paul and Timothy gave their lives in service to Jesus Christ by serving His bride: the Church. They were acutely aware of the various problems in local churches, but, rather than standing at a distance to criticize those churches, they threw themselves into the churches’ needs and served tirelessly. The reason that these men loved the Church so dearly is because they were following the example of Jesus. Jesus died for the sins of His Church (Ephesians 5:25). He is the Apostle who plants churches (Hebrews 3:1), the Head over the Church (Ephesians 5:23), Senior Pastor in the Church (1 Peter 5:4), and builder of the Church (Matthew 16:18). Simply, Jesus loves the Church, and because Paul and Timothy loved Jesus, they too loved the Church.

On one of his missionary journeys, Paul planted the first church in Ephesus (Acts 19). Before finally leaving Ephesus for the last time, he sternly warned the elders/pastors of the Ephesian church that false teachers would rise up from within the church after he departed and try to destroy it (Acts 20). After warning the leaders of the tough job that lay ahead of them, Paul then prayed for the Ephesian elders, who shed many tears over his departure, knowing they would not see him again until they met in Heaven.

After Paul’s departure, the troubles and troublemakers that Paul prophesied did, in fact, come to Ephesus. Young Timothy had been laboring in Ephesus to sort out a litany of church problems, and was, apparently, a bit in over his head. Subsequently, Paul wrote Timothy two letters (1 and 2 Timothy) in an effort to encourage and direct his friend. Unlike the other New Testament letters, written to churches, these letters (and the similar letter to Titus) are very personal correspondences from an older pastor to an individual young leader whom he was mentoring.

The purpose for the book is twofold. First, Paul writes to order Timothy to courageously hold his ground and command the many popular heretical teachers infiltrating the church to stop promulgating their false doctrines (1:3). In this, we see the grave importance for a church to have: a rigorously biblical theology, skilled teachers who instruct in sound biblical doctrine, and courageous leaders who keep false teachers, heretics, and divisive nut-jobs from leading people astray. Second, Paul writes to command Timothy to teach practical theology to the people in the church, so that the conduct of their lives would be consistent with God’s will and Jesus’ example (3:15). In this, we also see that what people...
believe and how they live are inextricably connected to—and are of equal importance to—God and the health of His Church.

In this great letter we see the elements of a healthy New Testament church and the great spiritual battle that rages to implement one. Curiously, in our day the Church is in much the same shape as in Timothy’s day. The news has recently been filled with: teary-eyed fallen pastoral perverts, the abuse of children and subsequent corrupt cover-up by the Catholic Church, Episcopal ordination of an openly homosexual bishop who was previously a heterosexual husband and father, and raging debate in mainline Protestant churches over everything from same-sex marriage to ministers in skirts. Our hope in studying 1 Timothy is that Paul’s wisdom will help straighten out God’s plan for the Church in our day as it did for the first-century Church.

As we study these great books we will investigate some of the most debated and controversial issues in the Church. These will include:

• Can a woman be a pastor?
• Can a woman be a deacon?
• What are the qualifications to be a church leader?
• How should church discipline be done?
• How does a church discipline a sinful pastor?
• What should the church do for widows and single mothers?
• How should Christians pray for political leaders?
• How should young and old people interact in the church?
• What does God expect of rich Christians?

Indeed, these issues are as controversial today as they were nearly 2000 years ago. Hence, it may be tempting for some people to distort and malign the words of Paul because they find him tough to understand (or easy to understand but tough to swallow). But, Peter warned against this kind of error, which leads to the destruction of those who mess with Scripture (2 Peter 3:15-16). Therefore, it will be important for you to come humbly to the pages of your Bible to learn from—rather than argue with—God if you’re reading is to be profitable.

Practically, 1 Timothy is incredibly important and timely for us at Mars Hill Church. As a new Christian who was called by God into ministry in 1990, I studied these books most intently in preparing to plant our church. As our first potential elders gathered to lay the foundation for Mars Hill, it was these books that we labiously poured over together each week for some months to prepare us for God’s work in Seattle. With the continual growth of our church it is imperative that we continually return to these pages together for collective refreshment and direction.

As we study these books we will also investigate the eight illnesses that sicken a church:

1. leaders who are morally unfit
2. false teachers and dangerous heretics
3. demonic doctrines
4. greedy love of money
5. gossip
6. trashy, under-dressed women
7. arrogant, chest-thumping men
8. new Christians who become leaders too quickly

We will also study the eight truths that promote vibrant church health:

1. qualified elders and deacons
2. sound doctrine from Scripture
3. devotion to Jesus
4. loving family affection
5. orderly worship
6. caring for those in need
7. church discipline
8. encouragement and training of young leaders

Lastly, our studies will be particularly important for three kinds of people. First, emerging leaders aspiring to be used of God in ministry will find great mentoring
from Paul that God will use to prepare them for lives of fruitful service. Second, those who have been burned in a church, or who remain skeptical of fully devoting themselves to a church because of the sins and errors they have witnessed, will learn the differences between good and bad churches and how important it is for them to always be contributing to the building of a healthy church. Third, those who give generously of their time, money, and prayer to build Mars Hill will learn exactly why and how we operate as a church to ensure them that we are earnestly striving to obey God’s Word and operate as He commands. On behalf of the elders, deacons, and members of our church, I welcome you to study with us, and I welcome you into our church family lead by God who is our Father.

We will be studying I Timothy verse-by-verse together as a church. To help everyone in the church learn these great books, I have compiled this booklet to provide opportunities for people to study the books by themselves, as a family, and in their community group in addition to the sermon. The children’s classes that meet during the church service will also be studying I Timothy in an effort to steep everyone in the church in the same book of the Bible. In the final section of this booklet there are also some Kids’ Bible Questions that you may want to intersperse within your teaching times for fun and variety.

For the parents, particularly the fathers of young children, it is important for you to sing, pray, read Scripture, and discuss God with your young children each day. It will be best to keep these times short (i.e. 10-15 minutes or so), because if they are too long and arduous your children will grow to resent them, and this is a terrible thing to do to a children. In our home, each night before bedtime we take time to read Bible stories, discuss Scripture, sing, pray together, cuddle, etc., and it is often the highlight of my day and theirs. As a parent, you will be wise to also capture the teachable moments that emerge each day to cultivate your children’s heart toward loving obedience to Jesus. Lastly, if your children are older, they should be able to do the same Bible studies in this booklet that you are doing, and the community group questions will be appropriate for your dinner-table conversations with them.
Scripture to Read
Acts 14:8-20 (Paul’s first journey to Timothy’s hometown of Lystra), Acts 16:1-5 (Paul’s second visit to Lystra), and Philippians 2:22; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2 (where Paul describes his relationship with Timothy).

Summary of the Texts
In these texts we meet Timothy and see how his life intersected with Paul. We also get Paul’s own description of his relationship with Timothy, which will help us understand the personal nature of the letters that Paul wrote to him. This is important because, if we neglect to know the author and recipient of 1 and 2 Timothy, it is likely that we will misunderstand the motivation and meaning of what is written.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation
“...Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.” Philippians 2:22

Questions for Personal Study
• What about Paul’s first missionary journey to Lystra surprised you?
• What kind of young man must Timothy have been to join Paul when he returned to Lystra?
• What risks did Timothy take and what sacrifices did he make to join Paul in ministry?
• What kind of character qualities must Timothy have had for Paul to trust him so completely and to send him out to do ministry on his behalf?
• If confronted with the decision to be worshiped like a god or stoned and left for dead like Paul, which do you think you would honestly choose?
• Why does Paul say that God feeds, cares for, and makes happy the unbelieving in Acts 14:17?
• What is Timothy’s reputation in Acts 16:2? What is your reputation at Mars Hill?
• Why did Timothy need to be circumcised in Acts 16:3? Are you surprised at his commitment to the Gospel in this way? What changes need to be made in your life to be more effective at evangelizing lost people?

Questions for Community Group Discussion
• God used Paul to bring Timothy to faith. Who did God use to bring you to faith? Who are you presently trying to bring to faith in Jesus?
• How were you convicted by Paul’s zeal for evangelism in Lystra?
• Why were Paul and Timothy so close, and what can we learn from this about how to build spiritual friendships?
• Do you have any experiences in which Christians have become so dear to you that they become a second kind of family in addition to your blood relatives? Who are some of these people?
• Have you ever had a relationship with someone older or younger than you, in which you were either like Paul or Titus—in a relationship of encouragement? What did you learn from it?
Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children the life and conversion of Saul to Paul from Acts 7:54-8:3, 9:1-31. Make sure that they understand that Jesus can change anyone’s heart and forgive even the worst sins. Then, ask them if there is anyone who is not a Christian who they want to pray for, if there are any sins they have committed recently that they want Jesus to forgive, and pray with them.

Tuesday: Read to your children the account of Acts 14:8-20 and explain that some people worship other people instead of God, which is wrong. Also, explain that God is the one who sends the rain, makes our food grow, and gives us joy and fun in life (Acts 14:17). Take some time worshiping God together in song and praying for things that you are both thankful God has given you, including your children.

Wednesday: Explain to your children that the Church is a family of people who love God, and that they are blessed to have two families: their physical family and their spiritual family. Explain to them that God is the Father over the Church and that the people in the Church can love each other as friends. Tell them that Paul was a good pastor who was friends with a younger pastor named Timothy, and that they too can be friends with older people who love God. Spend some time together in prayer for Mars Hill, its leaders, and your friends at church.

Thursday: Explain to your children that the Bible is divided into two parts. The Old Testament (39 books) was written before Jesus came, and the New Testament (27 books) was written after He came to earth. Explain to them that God told the authors exactly what to write down, and that the books of the Bible are how God speaks to us. Tell them that Paul wrote some of the books of the Bible, including two letters to his friend Timothy. Help your children write a letter to a friend like Paul did to Timothy.

Friday: Explain to your children that Christians can tell other people about Jesus so that they too can become Christians. Tell them that God used Paul to tell Timothy about Jesus so that Timothy could become a Christian. Help the children identify the various people in their life that God uses to teach them about Jesus. Ask them if there are any friends they have who aren’t Christians that they could speak to about Jesus. Pray to God thanking Him for the people in the children’s life and asking Him to change the heart of non-Christians your family knows.

Saturday: Ask your children some Kids’ Bible Questions from Section III of this booklet.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.
**Scripture to Read**
*I Timothy 1:1-11*

**Summary of the Texts**
God has a mission for His Church, namely the Gospel of Jesus Christ (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 if you are uncertain about what the Gospel is). However, Satan often sends false teachers and divisive people who want to detract from the mission of the Gospel to argue about stupid and foolish things. These people are prone to gather a crowd (and thereby divide a church because they are relationally connected to people in the church), and they speak with confidence and authority even though they are in error. Such people must not be tolerated for even a minute in the church, but rather must be commanded by the church leaders to cease promoting heresy and causing division.

**Scripture for Memorization and Meditation**
“...command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God’s work which is by faith.” – *I Timothy 1:3b-4*

**Questions for Personal Study**
- What does 1:4 say false teachers and their pet doctrines cause in the Church?
- What things does Paul list in 1:5 for testing your motives when you speak to other people about difficult issues?
- According to 1:6-7, why are false teachers often so persuasive?
- According to 1:8-11, how can we use the Old Testament law rightly? For further insight see Romans 3:19-31; Galatians 3:19-25, I John 3:4, and Matthew 5:17-18.

**Questions for Community Group Discussion**
- What experiences have you had with false teachers and theologically divisive people who like to argue too much?
- How can you be praying for and helping to promote sound doctrine at Mars Hill?
- Has everyone in the group taken the Gospel Class to ensure they understand the doctrine of Mars Hill?
- What is the difference between Christians who disagree on a secondary theological matter and a false teacher who is in error on a primary theological matter?
- What does Paul mean that “…the law is good if one uses it properly”? How is the Old Testament law often used improperly?

**Tips for Parents with Young Children**
*Monday:
Explain to your children that not everyone who teaches the Bible teaches the truth. So, it is important for them to know their Bible so that they can tell who is a good Bible teacher and who is a bad one. Ask your children who is in their lives to help them learn the Bible, and pray for those teachers (e.g. friends, Sunday school teachers, parents, grandparents, etc.). Also, ask them who they are teaching by their own words and actions (e.g. siblings, friends, younger children who look up to them, etc.), and explain to them how important it is that they too be good teachers.*
Tuesday: Explain how in 1:5 Paul says that it is important for us to do things in a loving way. Ask the children how they are doing at being loving or unloving toward others, and spend some time in prayer asking God to help them be loving toward other people and not impatient or mean-spirited.

Wednesday: Explain to your children that the Bible is filled with God’s laws, and share with them in words they can understand what the Ten Commandments are from Exodus 20:1-17. Make it your goal to have your children memorize the Ten Commandments.

Thursday: Quiz your children to see how many of the Ten Commandments they can remember and teach them what each one means.

Friday: Explain to your children that the laws in the Bible are from God and are meant to protect us from sin and harm, so we should obey them. But, no one but Jesus is perfect, and so sometimes we break God’s laws. When we do, the Bible calls this “sin,” and Jesus will forgive us for our sins if we ask Him, because He died and resurrected for our sins. So, spend some time discussing the importance of God’s rules with your children, and praying for the forgiveness of any rules they’ve recently broken.

Saturday: Ask your children some Kids’ Bible Questions from Section III of this booklet.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.

Scripture to Read
I Timothy 1:12-20

Summary of the Texts
In the Church there are leaders, like Paul and Timothy. Those leaders are hand-selected by God for their ministry and, by His grace alone, are enabled to be faithful servants of Jesus. Paul, for example, was a man who blasphemed Jesus and murdered Christians before His conversion. Likewise, Timothy was specially chosen by God for ministry through a prophecy that was given by other Christian leaders about Him. In these examples we see that it is God who calls people into ministry, and that unless God should call someone, he should not pursue church leadership because he will not be able to withstand its pressures. As an illustration of this principle, Paul mentions two men who had wandered from their faith—having gone from speaking kindly about Jesus to cussing Him out.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation
“…Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.”
– I Timothy 1:15b
Questions for Personal Study

- According to 1:12-14, where does the human capacity to do ministry come from?
- Why does God often save the worst sinners and use them for ministry, according to 1:15-17?
- What are the attributes of God listed in 1:17, and what do they mean for your life?
- What things will you need to do to keep from wandering from faith, according to 1:18-20?
- What is blasphemy and how serious is it, according to 1:20?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- Are you ever, like Paul, astonished that God would save, love, and work through you? Why?
- Paul lists his pre-conversion pet sins in 1:13. What things have changed in your life since meeting Jesus?
- What does it mean to honor and glorify God, in 1:17?
- Have you ever shipwrecked your faith?
- Do you know any people who have or are shipwrecking their faith? How can you pray for and help them? Will you invite them to your community group or church service?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that God can love and forgive even the most evil and terrible people. Explain to them how Paul killed Christians and cussed God before he became a pastor, and that God changed his heart. Assure them that no matter what they do, God will still love and forgive them if they ask Him to.

Tuesday: Explain to your children the aspects of God described in 1:17 that they need to understand. Allow them to ask you any questions about each of these attributes of God.

Wednesday: Explain to your children that God has given them a conscience to guide their lives so that they can know right and wrong. Explain that both the Bible and their consciences are gifts from God to help them make decisions. Ask them for examples of when they have used their consciences, and provide examples from your own life.

Thursday: Explain to your children that being a Christian is something that we do for our whole lives and not something we stop doing when we get older. Make sure they understand that things such as praying, reading the Bible, going to church, and loving God are good for us to do all the time. Ask them what their favorite parts of being Christians are, and any parts they don’t like. If there are things they don’t like about being Christians, find out why and try to make that enjoyable so that they continue in it.

Friday and Saturday: Ask your children some of the Kids’ Bible Questions from Section III of this booklet.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.
week 4

Scripture to Read
I Timothy 2:1-10

Summary of the Texts
In this section of verses, Paul lists some important things that churches should be doing. First, they should be regularly praying to God (who rules over all governments) for political leaders, so that the laws would not encumber the freedom of God’s people to worship and live freely. Second, Christian men are to lift their hands in prayer to God, rather than wasting their energies with chest-thumping arrogance and disputing. Third, Christian women should be known for their character, and not their thong underwear hanging out of hip-hugger jeans. In this, we see that God desires the Church to exist with political freedom to worship without external opposition. And, we also see that God wants the Church to be filled with men and women who respect themselves enough not to inhibit the health and growth of the Church in the pursuance of common male and female sins.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation
“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...” – I Timothy 2:5

Questions for Personal Study
- Which political leaders and issues should you be praying for?
- What does it mean that Jesus Christ is our mediator? How does this affect such things as our worship and prayer?
- Is it possible to connect with God without going through Jesus? Why not?
- What does Paul mean by saying that God is our Savior, mediator, and that He gave Himself as our ransom?
- What are the common sins of Christian men that Paul mentions, and what could they do to a church?
- What are the common sins of Christian women that Paul mentions, and what could they do to a church?

Questions for Community Group Discussion
- Which political leaders and issues should your group be praying for?
- What kind of lives does God want His people to live?
- Which people does God want to be saved? Which non-Christians are you praying for and sharing Christ with?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the only mediator between people and God the Father? What alternative mediators vie for this position in our culture?
- Practically, why is it important for the men in our church to not be hot-headed and prone to fighting with one another?
- What does Paul say men should pursue instead of conflict?
- Practically, why is it important for the women in our church to not dress immodestly? What does your group consider to be immodestly dress for a woman?
- What does Paul say women should pursue instead of an expensive and tempting wardrobe? What are some good deeds that you have seen godly women perform that you have admired?
Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that God is bigger and more powerful than all the kings and presidents in the world. Therefore, we can pray to God and He can work to change things so that Christians around the world can worship Him. Then, explain local, national, and international government in a simple way, and pray with them for specific leaders, like our mayor and our president.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that even though people sin, God still loves and them, and that Jesus’ death can forgive their sin if they ask Him. Then, spend some time making a list of people they know who are not Christians that they can be praying for and speaking with about Jesus. And, ask them if there are any sins they have committed recently that they can pray to Jesus to forgive them for and change their hearts to not do those things anymore, and then pray together.

Wednesday: Ask your children some questions from the Kids’ Bible Questions listed in Section III of this booklet.

Thursday: Explain to your sons that God does not want them to get angry and be mean to people, and that when they start to lose their tempers they should stop and ask God to calm them down. Explain to your daughters that Christian ladies should dress nicely but not seductively. Teach that they should seek to get attention not by being under-dressed, but by being holy and living their lives for God.

Friday: Pray with your children tonight and lift your hands in prayer to God. Ask your children why God might like for them to raise their hands in worship and prayer sometimes.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children and/or ask them some of the questions from the Kids’ Bible Questions listed in Section III of this booklet.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.
Scripture to Read
I Timothy 2:11-15, 3:2

Summary of the Texts
God made us male and female, and this does not mean that one is good and the other is bad. But, it does mean that men and women are different, though equal, and that God has created them each for some purposes, which are different. In the Church, women are to learn theology (which was a radical concept in Paul's day). As they learn, Christian women are to respect their teachers and pastors. Women, however, are not allowed to serve as the pastors in the church who preach/teach in authority over the men. The word that Paul uses here for teaching most likely refers to the preaching/teaching done by the elders, as every other time he uses this word in the book it is in reference to the preaching/teaching by an elder (4:11, 5:17, 6:2). At Mars Hill, we believe that many women are given the spiritual gift of teaching, and should therefore study theology (including attending Bible college and seminary) so that they can teach. But, teaching as an elder in the highest office of authority in the church is not permitted for a woman. This is tied by Paul not to a cultural matter, but rather to creation—where Adam was made first to lead but then cowardly wilted in the face of pressure, while Eve tried to lead but sinned (though she was well-intended). In this section, we see that childbearing is a special office that God gives to women alone, as in the next chapter Paul will explain that becoming an elder/pastor is a special office that God gives men alone. And, rather than denigrating motherhood as our culture is prone to do, Paul elevates it as a high honor that helps grow a woman’s relationship with God. To help you make sense of this controversial text and the theological debate that rages about women in ministry, I have compiled the following chart in hopes of helping you understand the various teams:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Egalitarian</th>
<th>Complementarian</th>
<th>Hierarchical</th>
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<td>Men and women are partners together in every arena of ministry. All ministries and offices in the church are open to all qualified men and women. Gender is not a relevant distinction for excluding any person from any church office.</td>
<td>Men and women are partners in every area of ministry together. All ministries in the church are open to all qualified men and women with the singular exception of the office of elder, which the Scriptures require to be a male-only office. Women can serve as deacons, teach, lead worship, serve communion, be in full-time paid ministry, etc.</td>
<td>Women and men are created to operate in different spheres of ministry within the church. Women are not permitted to be an elder or deacon, serve communion, teach men, lead worship, pray or speak in the church service, etc. Women should focus on building ministries for other women and children.</td>
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<td>Slaves, Women, and Homosexuals, by William J. Webb, is a helpful book articulating this position carefully.</td>
<td>Two Views on Women in Ministry, by James Beck and Craig Blomberg, is a helpful debate between egalitarian and complementarian positions, and the appendix is basically the MH position.</td>
<td>Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, by John Piper and Wayne Grudem, is a helpful book articulating this position carefully.</td>
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Lastly, Mars Hill is basically a Complementarian church, and if you desire to study this issue further, the following verses are the most pertinent on the matter:
Genesis 1:3; Judges 4:1-24; 2 Kings 22:14-20; Isaiah 3:12; Romans 16:1-5,
16:7; I Corinthians 11:2-16; I Corinthians 14:33-35; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:18-19; I Timothy 2:8-3:13; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 3:1-7

**Scripture for Memorization and Meditation**

“I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man…”

**Questions for Personal Study**

- What significance does Paul attribute to Adam being created before Eve?
- What happens when men fail to take responsibility for the church and the family, and can women by themselves fill the gaps left by weak men like Adam?
- Why is the debate about gender roles so fierce in our culture?
- What virtues does Paul encourage godly women to pursue? What do they mean?

**Questions for Community Group Discussion**

- Why is it important that a woman learn theology and do so in a way that is respectful to the pastors in her church? What happens if either of these commands is neglected?
- Do you think Jesus was sexist for not choosing a woman disciple, or that Paul is sexist for not choosing women pastors?
- What does it mean that Eve was deceived? Do you believe that feminism, like Eve, is well-intended but often deceived, and allows men to shirk their responsibilities like Adam?
- Have you ever seen a large and healthy church with strong men in attendance that is lead by and preached at by a woman pastor?
- How does Paul’s respect for motherhood conflict with our cultural attitude about motherhood and children?
- Do you think you’ll ever be back to Mars Hill now that you’ve learned where we are at on this issue?

**Tips for Parents with Young Children**

**Monday:** Explain to your children that God wants all of His people to learn the Bible so that they can know Him and teach other people. But, God also wants His people to respect their teachers (e.g. in school, church teachers, parents, etc.), so they need to be respectful and pay attention. Ask your children to teach you a Bible lesson so that they can begin to practice teaching their faith to other people.

**Tuesday:** Tell your children the story of Adam and Eve (Genesis 1-3)—how Satan asked them to sin, and that Adam stood by and said nothing while Eve sinned against God and then had Adam join her. Ask them what Adam and Eve should have done, and what they should do when someone wants them to sin.

**Wednesday:** Tell your children that children are a blessing from God and that to be a mother is a wonderful gift from Him. Explain why you are so glad that you have them and why you have organized your life to serve them. Then, ask them what they think it will be like for them to be parents one day, and pray over them thanking God for them.

**Thursday:** Spend some time asking your children questions from the Kids’ Bible Questions in Section III of this booklet.

**Friday:** Have your children draw a picture of Adam and Eve in the Garden being tempted by the serpent. Ask them why Adam and Eve hid from God when they sinned, and tell them that when they sin they should not hide from you or God, but should rather simply repent.

**Saturday:** Spend some time reading a Bible story to your children (or having them read one to you if they are old enough).

**Sunday:** Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.
**week 6**

*Scripture to Read*
I Timothy 3:1-7

**Summary of the Texts**
God appoints leaders in His Church, and in this section gives the criteria someone must meet to be called a pastor/elder (see also Titus 1:5-9). The terms elder, pastor, overseer, bishop, and shepherd are synonymous, and are used together in such places as Acts 20:28, and I Peter 5:1-4; so, when Paul here speaks of an overseer/bishop, he’s speaking of a pastor. This position of leadership is the highest in the New Testament and therefore requires that only the most godly and most motivated men be chosen for this high honor. At Mars Hill, we raise up our pastors from the most qualified members of the church, and we have both paid and unpaid pastors. The qualifications for an elder are generally also a good criteria for all Christians to aspire to.

*Scripture for Memorization and Meditation*
“Now the overseer must be above reproach…” – I Timothy 3:2

**Questions for Personal Study**
- Which of the items listed do you find yourself excelling at, and are therefore encouraged by?
- Which of the items listed to you find yourself struggling with, and are therefore discouraged by?
- Why is it important that a pastor/elder personally aspire to lead in the church rather than being compelled to be lead by other people?

**Questions for Community Group Discussion**
- Which of the items listed as qualifications for a pastor surprised you? Why?
- If the elders in a church do not live up to these qualifications, what will the health of the church be?
- What does Paul mean by a “recent convert,” and how long should someone be a Christian before they become a pastor?
- What experiences have you had in seeing godly elders live up to these criteria?
- What experiences have you had in seeing sinful elders fail to live up to these criteria?
- What do you think the best and worst part of being an elder is?
- How can you be praying for the elders at Mars Hill?

**Tips for Parents with Young Children**

**Monday:** Explain to your children that God puts leaders called pastors/elders in the church to make sure everyone is learning about Jesus and obeying the Bible. These pastors are supposed to be good men who love Jesus and who live for Him. Ask your children to be praying for the pastors at Mars Hill and the people in the church, and spend some time in prayer with them.

**Tuesday:** Explain to your children that the church is like a big family, and that the pastors are like the daddies who love everyone, teach them, and make sure that the family is doing well. Ask your children to explain to you what they think it means that Christians are like a big family. Then explain to them that they are blessed to have two families, their family at home, and their family at church.
Wednesday: Ask your children some questions from the Kids’ Bible Questions listed in Section III of this booklet.

Thursday: Explain to your children that someday they will likely get married and have families of their own. Tell them that they want to have a good family so that they can teach other people and open their homes to invite other people to be friends with them and Jesus. Also, explain that when your family has people over that you are doing ministry, and that they are part of that ministry.

Friday: Spend some good time singing worship songs with your children tonight, from a kids’ worship CD if you have one.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children and/or ask them some of the questions from the Kids’ Bible Questions listed in Section III of this booklet.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.

**Week 7**

Scripture to Read  
I Timothy 3:8-16

Summary of the Texts
The Bible has two positions of senior leadership in the church. In the first half of this chapter, Paul explains the qualifications for the elders/pastors. In this section, he does the same for deacons. A deacon is literally a servant who leads the church by doing the innumerable things that need to be done, and by managing the many faithful people in the church who also serve. The qualifications for a deacon are virtually identical to those of an elder, with two exceptions. One, a deacon must have sound doctrine, but need not be a gifted teacher like an elder. Two, a deacon can be either a man or a woman. While the NIV interprets the qualifications to make it sound like the women mentioned are wives of the male deacons, the text more likely simply means female deacon, or deaconess, as the word “wives” is not in the original Greek text. Therefore, Paul is simply talking about male deacons and female deacons like Phoebe (Romans 16:1). At Mars Hill, we have male and female deacons who lead the church, and some deacons are paid, while others are not.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation
"They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons." – I Timothy 3:10
Questions for Personal Study

• List the general qualifications for a deacon.
• What additional criteria does Paul give for women deacons?
• In permitting women to be deacons, does Paul permit women to be in full-time ministry even though they are not elders?
• Why is it important for church leaders to first be tested, as Paul commands, before they are given authority?
• What does it mean that the Church is the pillar and foundation of the truth?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

• Have you ever seen someone in church leadership who people did not respect? What happened as a result?
• What additional criteria does Paul give for women deacons? Why are these things important for women leaders in the church?
• Why is it important that church leaders have their households in order as an example to others?
• All of God’s people are called to serve, like the deacons, and so it is important to be serving. Where are you serving?
• How many hundreds of people do you think are serving at Mars Hill? How can you be praying for the deacons and other servants at Mars Hill?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that there are two kinds of leaders in the church: pastors and deacons. Explain that to be a deacon means that you serve other people and God with a good attitude. Explain how they can be serving God by serving other people, and give them specific chores and tasks to be doing.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that God serves us, and that we should serve each other. Ask them to name all the people who serve them, and all the ways they serve them, so that they see how blessed they are. Then, have them pray to God thanking Him for those people, and have them remember to thank people as they serve the children.

Wednesday: Ask your children some questions from the Kids’ Bible Questions listed in Section III of this booklet.

Thursday: Explain to your children that Christians are supposed to go to church to learn about God, to have friends, and to serve other people. Ask them how they are supposed to act in church, and what ways sometimes they fail to be good in church. Pray for them that God would help them to be thoughtful and kind at church.

Friday: Spend some time singing worship songs, coloring, reading, doing Bible questions, or whatever else sounds fun to your children.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.
Week 8

Scripture to Read
I Timothy 4:1-8

Summary of the Texts
Not everyone who teaches the Bible is actually teaching the Bible. Some people who claim to be teaching the Bible are in fact getting their doctrine from demons and not the Holy Spirit. Such false teachers are dangerous, because they live hypocritical lives and have so damaged their consciences that they are unable to see how evil and foolish they are. Paul notes that false teachers are prone to teach that holiness comes through abstinence and not redemption. Subsequently, they will take the things that God has made good and, rather than encouraging people to enjoy them biblically, make long lists of moralistic rules that forbid people from doing things that God gives them the freedom to enjoy. For example, Paul says that demonic false teachers will forbid others to enjoy such things as marriage and certain foods (e.g. alcohol or meat). To guard against false teachers, Christians are to avoid stupid arguments about dumb things, and are instead to devote themselves to training their souls like an athlete trains his body, so that they are spiritually healthy and strong.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation
“For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.” – I Timothy 4:4-5

Questions for Personal Study
• How is false teaching more than just error, but truly a demonic attack upon a church?
• If a heretic has a seared conscience and hypocritical lifestyle, how difficult is it to get him to repent and straighten up?
• What does Paul mean by training oneself? What does this mean for you practically? What is your plan to train yourself? Write up this plan so that you can be diligent in executing it, and so that it becomes habit-forming for you.

Questions for Community Group Discussion
• What experiences have you had witnessing Christians who stray from sound doctrine to pursue crazy ideas leading to spiritual death?
• Why is it important to heed Paul’s advice and have nothing to do with pointless arguments with false teachers?
• If false teachers are allowed to continue influencing others, what happens to the freedom people enjoy in the church?
• Share with your group what your plan is to train yourself. How can your group be praying for and supporting you as you execute your plan?

Tips for Parents with Young Children
Monday: Explain to your children that God made everything in the world good, and that we can use things in a way that is bad or good. For an example, we can use a stick to pretend we are exploring, or use it to hit someone over the head. Tell your children that God wants us to enjoy everything in life—from our food to our friends—and that if we use all the good things He has given us, then God is happy and so are we. Explain to your children the ways that they are rightly using the things God has given them, and ways they are wrongly using some things God has given them (e.g. not sharing the toys and such that God has given them).
Tuesday: Explain to your children that God made our bodies in such a way that they need exercise, so that we can grow and be strong and healthy. Make sure your children have regular exercise and that they see it as a spiritual act that pleases God. Have them do some exercises.

Wednesday: Ask your children some questions from the Kids’ Bible Questions listed in Section III of this booklet.

Thursday: Explain to your children that their souls need exercise just like their bodies. Ask them to list for you the things Christians should do to exercise their souls and be strong in Jesus (e.g. pray, read Scripture, go to church, serve, etc.)

Friday: Ask your children what they would like to do tonight to have a special memory with you, and then do it (e.g. go to Krispy Kreme donuts, wrestle, read, cuddle and watch a kids’ show, etc.).

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.

week 9

Scripture to Read
1 Timothy 4:9-16

Summary of the Texts
Throughout history, God has often worked through young people. Examples would include: Josiah, who became king at the tender age of eight (2 Kings 22:1), Jeremiah the teenage prophet (Jeremiah 1:6), and Mary the teenage mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-27). Timothy too was a younger man who Paul had sent into the church at Ephesus to fight heretics, appoint qualified leaders, and clean up a variety of messes. Older people in the church did not respect Timothy because of his age, and were prone to look down on him because of his life inexperience, which likely included also being unmarried. So, Paul encouraged Timothy by telling him that the goal of his ministry was not the approval of men as much as the mission of God to save lost people. Therefore, to stay on God’s mission, Timothy was urged to not tolerate disrespect, but instead to live his life as an example for others to follow—by using his gifts of preaching and teaching the Bible. To do this, he would need to closely watch both his beliefs and behavior, because the very life and health of the church depended upon his faithfulness to God, and youthfulness was no excuse for failure.
Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for them believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." – I Timothy 4:12

Questions for Personal Study

• What does it mean that God is our Savior?
• Young leaders are often overlooked or disrespected because of their lack of experience. What does Paul say a young leader should do to gain respect?
• Why does Paul stress the reading, preaching, and teaching of Scripture as the centerpiece of the church services?
• Why does Paul stress the importance of having a good theology and living a good life?
• Which people follow your example and are influenced by you for good or evil? As you make decisions in life, why is it important for you to consider how your life is leading other people either toward or away from Jesus?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

• Paul says that it is God who saves people. Which people are you sharing Christ with in hopes of seeing them saved?
• Why is it important that Mars Hill and other churches have both older leaders like Paul and younger leaders like Timothy?
• Why do some people look down on young leaders? According to Paul, what should young leaders do when they are not getting the respect they deserve?
• Why does Paul state that the reading, preaching, and teaching of Scripture should be the centerpiece of our church services. Why must these commands be heeded by our church? What experiences have you had with churches that do not elevate the Scriptures in their services, and what was the result?
• Paul states that other Christians should be able to see our spiritual progress, and so take some time to point out the progress you are seeing in one another’s lives among your group.
• Paul says that Timothy should use his spiritual gift. What do you think your spiritual gift(s) are?
• Paul states the importance of both holy living and good theology. How are these items related? Is there one that you are excelling at more than the other? What can be done for you to excel in both?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that God often uses young people for ministry. Read them the story of King Josiah (2 Kings 22) if they are boys, and the story of Mary if they are girls (Luke 1:26-56).

Tuesday: Explain to your children that Timothy was a young pastor, and because he was young, some people in the church looked down on him. Then, explain to them that sometimes people don't think kids can really love and serve the Lord, but that the Bible says otherwise. Teach them from this section of Scripture the things they can do to live for Jesus even though they are young.

Wednesday: Ask your children some questions from the Kids’ Bible Questions listed in Section III of this booklet.

Thursday: Tell your children that Jesus had disciples; Timothy was Paul’s disciple, and they have disciples too. Explain that disciples are people who follow our example, and ask them to list their disciples (e.g. friends, siblings, etc.) and explain why they need to set a good example for them.

Friday: Explain to your children that the Bible is from God and totally true, and so Paul tells us to read it, learn from Bible teachers, and go to church to hear the Bible preached. Teach your children how important these things are, and ask them if they have any questions about the Bible or why it is important for them to learn it.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough.
Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.

Week 10

Scripture to Read
I Timothy 5:1-16

Summary of the Texts
Churches are made up of various kinds of people at various stages of life. Because of this, it is important to consider the different groups of people in the church and how they should interact. This is particularly important in our fragmented culture, where older and younger people tend not to have friendships, and where younger men and women are prone to sexual contact and relational confusion. In this great section of Timothy, Paul explains how a church is, in a sense, a spiritual family where older men should be like fathers, older women like mothers, and young men and women should love each other like brothers and sisters, without any sexual contact. Additionally, the single mothers and widows are to be cared for by the church family, either by getting cared for by their family, getting married if they are young, or getting cared for by the church if they are older and their family is unable to care for them.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation
“Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.” – I Timothy 5:1-2
Questions for Personal Study
• Why is it important that young people in the church treat older men and women with deference and respect?
• What kind of relationship does Paul encourage between young unmarried men and women? Does this allow friendship and love that is not sexual?
• How should young and old widows/single moms be helped?
• According to 5:14, what should young Christian women be encouraged to do?

Questions for Community Group Discussion
• If the young men at our church fail to heed Paul’s counsel regarding their relationships to young women, what will our church become?
• Which older men and women do you respect and look up to like parents?
• Why is it important that Christians take care of the needs of their relatives?
• According to Paul, why should young single mothers get married?
• What can be done at our church to encourage godly young men to also consider single mothers when seeking a wife, so that they can do for a woman and her child(ren) what Joseph did for Mary and Jesus?
• What are your thoughts about 5:14 as counsel for young Christian women (see also Titus 2:3-6)?
• Do you know of any single mothers or older widows that your group could adopt as a ministry, as Paul describes?

Tips for Parents with Young Children
Monday: Explain to your children that there are two kinds of families in the Bible: the immediate family and the church family. Tell them how blessed they are to have both kinds of families. Ask them which older people they appreciate, and which young people they enjoy, and then pray for those people. If the children like, they can draw pictures or write notes to send to those people thanking them for their friendship.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that some children do not have a daddy, either because he died, or because he does not live with his children. Tell them that God will still be a Father to such children and that other Christians, especially men, are supposed to help make sure that kids without a daddy have a good life. Spend some time in prayer together for any children they know who do not have a daddy.

Wednesday: Ask your children some questions from the Kids’ Bible Questions listed in Section III of this booklet.

Thursday: If you have a daughter, explain 5:14 to her. If you have a son, explain 5:1-2 to him.

Friday: Explain to your children that one of the duties of a father is to provide for the physical needs of his family with such things as food, housing, and transportation. Teach your sons that one day they will be a husband and father, and that to do so they will need to work and study hard so that they can make money. Teach your daughters that one day they will be wives and mothers, and that they will need to marry a man who loves God and works hard to provide for his family.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.
**week 11**

**Scripture to Read**
I Timothy 5:17-25

**Summary of the Texts**
This section includes a series of instructions regarding church leaders. The pastors/elders who lead the church are given both high responsibility and high respect. Part of this respect includes a good salary, particularly for those pastors who preach and teach well. To not pay a skilled pastor who has worked hard to help grow a church is a cruelty akin to working an animal on a farm without ever feeding them some of the harvest. Pastors, however, are to be held accountable for their lifestyles, and anyone with a charge of sin against a pastor will need to bring a formal charge to the elder board with at least a few witnesses to ensure that the accusation is in fact true. If it is, the other pastors who are not in sin are supposed to publicly rebuke the sinning pastor as an example for the church, so that partiality and favoritism are never shown to church leaders over church members. One of the common errors in a church is to take a gifted and godly person and rush him into leadership too quickly. This only helps to set him up for sin, and is therefore to be avoided in favor of patience. Church leadership is a weighty call that can take a toll on someone’s health, which explains why Paul told Timothy to drink a bit of wine to calm his nerves and settle his stomach. And, church leaders who sin, like all Christians who sin, eventually have the consequences of their sin catch up with them. For some, their sin is obvious, while for others it takes a while to be exposed. But, Paul warns all Christians that sin cannot be hidden forever, and so we should deal with our sin quickly if/when it should happen.

**Scripture for Memorization and Meditation**
"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching." – I Timothy 5:17

**Questions for Personal Study**
- Why is it important to the health of a church to pay a good pastor a good salary?
- What steps should be taken to correct a sinning elder? How does this process both keep the pastors accountable and prevent false accusations from disgruntled people?
- What does it mean to be hasty in laying hands on someone in the church?
- Why does Paul say that sin cannot be hidden forever?

**Questions for Community Group Discussion**
- Do you respect the leaders at our church who preach and teach? Why or why not?
- Why is it important that sins committed by our church leaders are not treated with favoritism and partiality?
- What experiences have you had seeing people who were rushed into Christian leadership too quickly?
- What pressures and stresses have you felt from doing ministry? How did you deal with them?
- It is true that sin cannot be hidden forever? If so, how should this practically affect how we react to our sin?
Tips for Parents with Young Children

**Monday:** Explain to your children that favoritism is a sin because we are supposed to be equally good to all people. Ask your children to remember a time when they have been left out by other people and how sad it made them, or a time when they got in trouble for something that someone else did. Tell them that God is saddened when we do such things, and so it is important for them to treat all people well and not play favorites with some people. If you have multiple children, stress to them that you do not favor any one of them but in fact love each of them equally.

**Tuesday and Wednesday:** Ask your children some questions from the Kids’ Bible Questions listed in Section III of this booklet.

**Thursday:** Explain to your children that sin cannot be hidden forever, and that God always makes it visible eventually. Tell them that there is no such thing as secret sin, and that even if you (the parent) cannot see it that God can. Ask them if there are any secret sins that they need to confess to you (e.g. sneaking candy, doing something that is forbidden when you are not looking), and encourage them to always tell you the truth.

**Friday:** Ask your children what they would like to do (e.g. read a story, pray, sing worship songs, go for a nature walk to enjoy God’s creation, etc.) and then do that with them.

**Saturday:** Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough.

**Sunday:** Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.

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**Week 12**

**Scripture to Read**
I Timothy 6:1-10

**Summary of the Texts**
In this section, Paul deals with the related issues of work (6:1-2) and money (6:3-10). In that culture, slavery ranged from a voluntary life of service for good pay and benefits to paying off a debt and being forced into labor without rights. In our day, the parallel would be Christian ethics for working your job. Christian employees should be exemplary because they work for Jesus and not just their bosses (see also Colossians 3:22-25). And, how Christians work also sets a reputation for Jesus among their coworkers. Christian workers who have a Christian boss are also cautioned to be extra careful in not taking advantage of their boss. Regarding money, Paul says that we must learn to be content with what we have or will be tempted to forsake our faith to worship money instead of God, in an effort to get rich. While money is not good or evil, but simply a tool for good or evil, the love of money rather than God leads to a litany of evils and grief.

**Scripture for Memorization and Meditation**
“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” – I Timothy 6:10
Questions for Personal Study

- While considering your job (including ones you don’t get paid for, like mothering) are you convicted or encouraged by 6:1-2? Why?
- What can you do to be a better worker at your job?
- According to Paul, how are false teachers often motivated by a love of money and not a love of God?
- What does it mean to love money?
- What kinds of sin have you seen a love of money cause?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- After reading 6:1-2, how do you rate yourself at doing your work?
- How have you seen your work reflect upon other people’s view of Jesus?
- How content are you with your income and possessions?
- Are you able to sincerely enjoy the simple things in life, like food to eat and clothes to wear?
- What kinds of evil have you experienced or seen occur from people who make money their god?
- Why is money an unsatisfying god that eventually causes grief?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that part of being a Christian is to be a good worker. Make sure your children have chores, and that they understand why it is good to learn to work hard and do a good job. For some chores you should pay your children so that they learn how to earn and manage money, while some chores should simply be done because they are members of the family.

Tuesday: Explain contentment to your children in such a way that they are thankful for what they have. Make sure they understand that to be content means: to be happy (and not jealous) when another child gets something, not always whining for new things, and not asking for everything in the store when they go shopping with you. It will be very important for you to explain how advertising works, and that it is designed to make them feel not content.

Wednesday: Ask your children some questions from the Kids’ Bible Questions listed in Section III of this booklet.

Thursday: Teach your children that when we leave the earth we won’t take any of our stuff to Heaven. So, while we should enjoy the stuff we have in this life, we should be more concerned with growing in godliness, which we will take to Heaven with us. Explain what a blessing it is to have simple things like food and clothes, and how many people don’t have even those things. Make sure that your family spends some time together in prayer thanking God for what you have.

Friday: Explain to your children that we are to appreciate money but not love it like we do God. Teach them that if they love money and things too much, they will commit all sorts of sins. Teach them about such sins as coveting (wanting what other people have), stealing (taking what is not yours), jealousy (not being happy for other people who have nice things), and fighting (arguing over things that we don’t want to share with people).

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.
week 13

Scripture to Read
I Timothy 6:11-21

Summary of the Texts
This section closes Paul’s first letter to Timothy with a series of instructions for him personally and for his ministry duties. First, Paul commands Timothy to avoid the many sins listed in the book, and to instead pursue a long list of godly virtues throughout the remainder of his life. Second, Timothy is given instructions for how to pastor rich people and what to teach them. Paul then closes with an encouragement for Timothy to avoid stupid chit-chat with arrogant fools, and instead fight for the truth and lean heavily into God’s empowering grace.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation
“But you, man of God, flee from all this and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith…” – I Timothy 6:11-12a

Questions for Personal Study
• What things does Paul command Timothy and all Christians to pursue? What does this look like for you practically?
• What imagery does Paul use to explain Jesus in this section?
• What does it mean to honor Jesus in all of life?
• What do rich Christians need to be commanded by the church leadership?
• What does it mean to turn away from godless chatter?

Questions for Community Group Discussion
• How are you doing at pursuing the things Paul tells Timothy to pursue?
• How is it a fight for you to keep your faith?
• What are some examples of godless chatter you have been involved in? How can you turn away from godless chatter in the future?
• What does it mean to wander from the faith? Have you ever wandered from your faith? Is there anyone you know who has wandered that you should be seeking to bring back to faith?
• What have been your favorite parts of I Timothy? Why?
• What changes have happened in your life and doctrine through studying this book?

Tips for Parents with Young Children
Monday: Explain to your children that Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords who is in charge of all of creation. Teach them that, because of this, we should always obey Jesus and follow His example. Ask them what it means to be a king and how people are supposed to treat a king. Have them draw a picture of Jesus as a king.

Tuesday: Teach your children that some people are rich and have a lot of money. Explain that rich Christians are supposed to use the money God gives them to help other people who don’t have very much. Find a way for your family to help someone in need, to teach your children how important it is to help others. This may be bringing a meal to a mom recovering from birth, to serving at a soup kitchen or giving money to someone you know who is struggling financially.
Wednesday: Ask your children some questions from the Kids’ Bible Questions listed in Section III of this booklet.

Thursday: Explain grace to your children. Teach them what it means to be both saved by grace and empowered to live the Christian life by grace.

Friday: Teach your children that God wants us to share. Ask them what things they have a hard time sharing (e.g. toys) and explain how important it is to share. If there are things that they are good at sharing, make sure to note those things and to thank them for being generous. Ask them to also recall how other people have shared with them in ways which made them happy, so they see how nice it is to be blessed by a generous person.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teachers, serve the other children in their kids’ class (if they don’t sit through the church service), talk about Jesus with any kids who are not yet Christians, and be looking for ways to pray for the other children throughout the coming week. After church, please discuss with your children what they learned and how their ministry went.

The point of the Kids’ Bible Questions is both to teach your children and to find out how much of what you are teaching them they are remembering. The following questions range from very simple to more complicated, and you can choose which ones are best for your children. If you can think of additional questions, feel free to use them also. These questions are ones that I have used with my kids, and some are suggestions from them. As you ask these questions, your children will likely have lots of questions of their own; so do take your time to answer their questions, as that is incredibly important and gives you insight to their degree of understanding about God.

**Questions about God**

Q: How many Gods are there?
A: One

Q: What is the Trinity?
A: God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit

Q: What are four names for God?
A: Christ, Jesus, Lord, Father, God, Holy Spirit, King, etc.

Q: Who made God?
A: No one, God has lived forever

Q: Where is God?
A: In Heaven and everywhere

Q: Is there anything or anyone more powerful than God?
A: No

Q: Name three miracles God has done.
A: Created the world, parted the Red Sea, brought manna down from Heaven, came to earth as Jesus to the Virgin Mary, walked on water, healed people, rose from death, etc.
Questions about the Bible

Q: What does God know?
A: Everything

Q: Who wrote the Bible?
A: God told His people what to write down

Q: Does the Bible have any mistakes?
A: No, it is perfect

Q: What is the most important thing in the Bible?
A: Jesus

Q: What part of the Bible is about the times before Jesus was born?
A: Old Testament

Q: What part of the Bible is about the times after Jesus was born?
A: New Testament

Q: How many books are in the Bible?
A: 66

Q: How many books are in the Old Testament?
A: 39

Q: What is the first book of the Bible?
A: Genesis

Q: How many books are in the New Testament?
A: 27

Q: What is the last book of the Bible?
A: Revelation

Q: Name three people who wrote books of the Bible?
A: Moses, David, Solomon, John, Paul, Peter, etc.

Q: What are the four gospels?
A: The stories about Jesus' life

Q: Who wrote the four gospels?
A: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Q: What does the Bible call a preacher?
A: A prophet

Q: Name three prophets from the Bible.
A: Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah, Jonah, Jesus, etc.

Q: Which book of the Bible was written especially for little kids?
A: Proverbs (1:4)

Questions about Jesus

Q: Who is Jesus?
A: God

Q: Where was Jesus born?
A: Bethlehem

Q: Who was Jesus’ dad?
A: Joseph

Q: Who was Jesus’ mom?
A: Mary

Q: Did Jesus ever sin?
A: No

Q: Who were Jesus’ brothers?
A: James and Jude

Q: Who were some of Jesus' best friends?
A: Peter, James, John, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, etc.

Q: How did Jesus die?
A: Mean people nailed Him to a cross

Q: When Jesus died what did they stick into His heart?
A: A spear

Q: What did they do with Jesus’ body?
A: Wrapped it up and put it in a tomb

Q: How long was Jesus dead?
A: Three days

Q: Is Jesus dead today?
A: No, He is alive because He rose from death

Q: Where is Jesus today?
A: He is in Heaven

Q: What do we celebrate at Christmas?
A: Jesus’ birth

Q: What do we celebrate at Easter?
A: Jesus’ resurrection

Q: Is Jesus ever coming back to earth?
A: Yes, to take us to Heaven

Q: Why did Jesus die?
A: For our sins

Q: Why did Jesus die for our sins?
A: He loves us

Questions about the Disciples

Q: What do you call someone who learns from his teacher?
A: A disciple

Q: Name three of Jesus disciples.
A: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas, etc.

Q: Who was the man who hated Christians before God changed his heart and made him a Christian pastor?
A: Saul/Paul

Q: Which disciple betrayed Jesus?
A: Judas
Q: Who was Jesus’ best friend and youngest disciple?  
A: John  

Q: Who was the lead disciple?  
A: Peter  

Q: Which disciple doubted that Jesus had risen from death?  
A: Thomas  

Questions about creation  
Q: Who made everything?  
A: God  

Q: Why did God make everything?  
A: For us to enjoy  

Q: Why did God make everything so beautiful?  
A: Because God is an artist  

Questions about Christian Living  
Q: What is a Christian?  
A: Someone whose God is Jesus  

Q: What is prayer?  
A: When we talk to God  

Q: What can we pray to God about?  
A: Anything  

Q: Why should we obey God?  
A: Because He loves us and knows what is good for us  

Q: Are we supposed to worship other people?  
A: No  

Q: Who are we supposed to worship?  
A: God/Jesus  

Q: What are some ways we can worship God?  
A: Reading the Bible, praying, serving, doing chores, telling others about Jesus, obeying God, obeying mom and dad, singing, etc.  

Q: Give three reasons why Christians go to church.  
A: To learn about God, to worship God, to see Christian friends, to take communion, etc.  

Q: To what do we pay money?  
A: Tithing  

Questions about Heaven  
Q: Can you get to Heaven just by being good?  
A: No  

Q: How do you get to Heaven?  
A: You have to ask Jesus to forgive your sins  

Q: Does everyone go to Heaven when they die?  
A: No, only Christians  

Q: What will we do in Heaven?  
A: Sing, eat, play with friends, be with God, etc.  

Q: Will kids be in Heaven?  
A: Yes, God loves children and they can love God  

Q: Will animals be in Heaven?  
A: Yes  

Q: Will Heaven be scary?  
A: No, everything is fun and it never even gets dark  

Q: Name a godly child in the Bible.  
A: David, Samuel, Jesus, Joseph, Daniel, etc.  

Q: Who hit his brother and killed him?  
A: Cain killed Abel  

Q: Who is in charge of Heaven?  
A: God  

Q: What does Jesus sit on in Heaven?  
A: A big throne  

Q: Will there be angels in Heaven?  
A: Yes, and they will sing to God with us  

Q: Will anyone sin in Heaven?  
A: No  

Q: Will anyone get sick or die in Heaven?  
A: No  

Q: Will anyone be sad in Heaven?  
A: No, everyone will be happy  

Q: Will there be music in Heaven?  
A: Yes, God loves music, God sings, God has instruments in Heaven, and people, angels, and animals will all sing in Heaven  

Q: Will there be parties in Heaven?  
A: Yes  

Q: What do you think we will do at the parties in Heaven?  
A: Eat food, sing, dance, laugh, play games, see our friends, meet God, etc.
Questions about sin
Q: What is sin?
A: Sin is when you don’t do what you are supposed to, or do what you are not supposed to.

Q: What are some sins you have done?
A: Yelling, not sharing, stealing, yelling, lying, etc.

Q: Is it a sin to not do what your mom or dad say?
A: Yes.

Q: What sin did the Israelites commit while walking around for forty years?
A: Whining and complaining.

Q: Is it a sin to make a mistake?
A: No, everyone makes mistakes (e.g. spilling your milk) and they are not sins.

Questions about the Gospel
Q: What is the Gospel?
A: The story about Jesus dying for our sins.

Q: What is repentance?
A: Asking God to forgive our sins.

Q: What is grace?
A: When God gives us something we don’t deserve (like love or forgiveness).

Q: What is mercy?
A: When God doesn’t give us something bad that we deserve because He loves us (like Jesus dying for our sins so that we don’t have to).

Q: What is faith?
A: Trusting God.

Questions for boys
Q: Name four godly men in the Bible.
A: Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Caleb, David, John, Paul, etc.

Q: Name two warriors from the Bible.
A: David, Gideon, Samson, etc.

Q: Who is the strongest man in the Bible?
A: Samson.

Q: Name three things that a Christian husband is supposed to do.
A: Love God, love his wife, work hard, make money, etc.

Questions for girls
Q: Name three godly women in the Bible.
A: Mary, Esther, Ruth, Elizabeth, Miriam, Deborah, Rahab, etc.

Q: Name two sinful women from the Bible.
A: Delilah, Potiphar’s wife, Jezebel, Tamar, Herodias’s daughter, Bathsheeba, etc.

Q: What will Jesus be like when He comes back to stop the bad guys?
A: He will ride a horse, wear a white robe dipped in blood, and have a sword coming from His mouth.

Q: If Satan is a dragon, what will Jesus do to him?
A: Jesus will slay the dragon with His sword.

Questions for girls
Q: Name three godly women in the Bible.
A: Mary, Esther, Ruth, Elizabeth, Miriam, Deborah, Rahab, etc.

Q: Name two sinful women from the Bible.
A: Delilah, Potiphar’s wife, Jezebel, Tamar, Herodias’s daughter, Bathsheeba, etc.

Q: Who was Jesus’ mom?
A: Mary.

Q: Which lady sang and danced to worship God after He parted the Red Sea?
A: Moses’ sister Miriam.

Q: Name three things that a Christian wife is supposed to do.
A: Love God, respect her husband, work hard, take care of her family, etc.
Q: Name three things that a Christian mommy is supposed to do.
A: Love God, love her kids, teach her kids, read books and the Bible with her kids, feed her kids, discipline her kids, pray with her kids, play with her kids, etc.

Q: Who should tell a girl who she should marry?
A: Her daddy

Q: Name a princess or queen in the Bible.
A: Pharaoh’s daughter, Queen Esther, etc.

Silly Questions

Q: Who was the short man who climbed into a tree to see Jesus?
A: Zacchaeus

Q: What did the kids sing when Jesus came into town?
A: Hosanna!

Q: What swallowed Jonah?
A: A whale

Q: What did John the Baptist eat as a kid?
A: Bugs and honey

Q: What animal brought food to Elijah the prophet?
A: A raven