

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF GROUP TONIGHT

Every week, groups exist to help students connect with Jesus, their leaders, and with each other. Remind students of the four values of a healthy group: **connect, listen, build trust, and grow**. Tonight is an opportunity to grow deeper in your understanding of God and his word.

Tonight we're heading into a brand new series: GAINS. For the next four weeks, we'll focus on the gains we want to see in our spiritual lives. In 2 Timothy, Paul shows us how we can make the most of our calling, and how to grow into who God created us to be. But we have to be willing to do the work to see any gains—the kind of gains that will make a bold difference in this world.

Our main goal tonight with middle school students is to help them start owning their faith, and to help them learn from God's word on their own.

No matter what happens, students should begin to discover how they can make a difference in this world.

LOOK AHEAD

1. **SUMMER TRIP REGISTRATION for CIY MIX!**
There are only two spots left for CIY MIX! Register at tpcc.org/summertrips.
2. **No Catalyst next week, March 31!** We'll see you on Sunday, April 7.
3. **Serve at Easter!** There are so many opportunities to serve during Easter—we have so many guests who visit church for the first time, and you can make such a difference in their experience! Sign up with your group or your family at tpcc.org/Easter

CONVERSATION GUIDE

BREAK THE ICE: OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Ask: How can you be intentional and stay connected to God and to each other while you're out on break?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. **Over the next four weeks, we're going to be reading through 2 Timothy (the whole thing!) as we look at how we want to grow into who God created us to be.**
 - Does anything intimidate you about reading through an entire book of the Bible together?
 - Where in your life do you want to grow right now? Your relationships? Grades? Sports? Walk with God? Where would you most like to improve?
2. **Together, read 2 Timothy 1:1-5.**
 - What do you notice about this passage (besides the mother's name, Eunice)? What stands out to you?
 - Notice that Paul points out that Timothy shares the faith that was passed down to him from his grandmother and his mother. Who has passed is/her faith down to you? What kind of impact has he/she had in your life? How can you appreciate him/her this week?
3. **Ask a student who's ready for spring break to read 2 Timothy 1:6-8.**
 - What stands out to you about this passage? What do you notice?
 - Are you ever afraid to use your gifts? Do you know what your gifts are (what are you naturally good at)? When have you seen God use your gifts to serve others?
 - *PS: This is a great time to encourage students to go Growth Track! Week 4 every month—the fourth Sunday—is all about identifying and growing in your gifts! They can go after the 4 p.m. service at 5 p.m. and then jump into the 5:30 service when they're done.*
4. **Ask a couple of students to read 2 Timothy 1:8-12.**
 - What does it look like for you to use the gifts you have for Jesus' name?
 - How can you be unashamed this week in sharing about who Jesus is and what he's done for you?

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER: Break up into pairs and pray for each other.

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I have been sent out to tell others about the life he has promised through faith in Christ Jesus. I am writing to Timothy, my dear son. May God the father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy, and peace.

Timothy, I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. I long to see you again, for I remember your tears as we parted. And I will be filled with joy when we are together again. I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.

(2 Timothy 1:1-5)

This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear or timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

(2 Timothy 1:6-7)

So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News. For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserve it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News. And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News.

(2 Timothy 1:8-11)

That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am

sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.

(2 Timothy 1:12)

MAIN SERMON POINTS

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM TODAY'S MESSAGE

To maximize your impact, you need to develop your gifts, and then focus on how you deliver your gifts.

Deliver your gifts in the message of Jesus. Don't be ashamed!

The path to being unashamed is the path to trusting more. When you trust more, you'll talk more.