

1 Timothy

REVIVE THE CHURCH



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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Introduction

I'm really excited you picked up the Family Devotions booklet for 1 Timothy. As a parent or grandparent, your children need you to teach them about God and His Word. You have God-given influence that no one else has, and you also have God-given responsibility that has impact for generations to come (Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:4-9).

I would encourage you to plan a night each week as a family night. Have dinner together. Do family devotions, and then, participate in some kind of activity together. It could be a game, a project, or some kind of outing. And of course, eat something fun together as well to finish the night off.

So, about the family devotions. We're not talking about an elaborate church service. It may be very brief, but it could also be a little longer depending on the age of your children; the best range is probably 5-15 minutes. Think in terms of 4 elements: Read, Sing, Pray, and Play. Read the assigned Scripture text. Then, take a look at the thoughts in this booklet and the suggested questions. Don't feel locked in to what's in the booklet. You may come up with some of your own questions. If you need some help singing, YouTube is a good source for finding a good song to fit. Pray out loud together; encourage your children to pray. And then have some fun doing an activity together.

Read, Sing, Pray, and Play. This simple approach to teaching your children and building solid relationships could be life changing. It will even impact the next generation. The Lord will help you as you seek to do what He has commanded you to do! One more thing. Write down any special moments, thoughts, or ideas on the pages provided as you go. You'll be glad you have a record of memories when you look back. May the Lord bless your labor of love as you make disciples at home.

Below are three great places to find rich, theologically sound songs to sing with your family!

- The Summit Church: summitchurch.com/kids/music
- Matt Papa: mattpapa.com
- Getty Music: gettymusic.com

Dr. Rodney Navey
Senior Pastor

1—Guardian of the Truth

1 Timothy 1:1-11

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

Start by discussing where ultimate *truth* is to be found. Discuss reasons why knowing and following the truth is so important. From the text, identify problems that can arise when people don't embrace the truth.

Paul mentioned to Timothy the importance of confronting those in the church that were not embracing the truth. He shared that the goal of this command is *love*. Why is it the loving thing to do to confront people who are not following the truth? Why is it that we are not loving others when we refuse to confront them?

Conclude with prayer, thanking God that He has given us His truth through His Word (the Bible). Offer a prayer of repentance to God if you have not been following God's truth in certain areas of your life. Also pray, asking God to give you the boldness to confront those who are not living in the truth as is expressed in God's Word.

2—The Church Serves the Head of the Church

1 Timothy 1:12-20

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

The Apostle Paul had a tremendous calling to preach the gospel to people throughout the Roman world. Re-read verses 12-14 and discuss the ways that Paul was humble and appreciative of God for giving him the opportunity to serve. What should our attitude be when God gives us the opportunity to serve Him?

In verses 15-17, Paul shares that his receiving God’s mercy and becoming a true follower of Christ was an example to others who “would believe on Him (Christ) and receive eternal life.” What does this say about the importance of sharing our testimony? How might our sharing of our testimony affect other believers? How might it impact unbelievers?

Paul mentions to Timothy that by following Paul’s instruction, Timothy will “fight the good fight.” What kind of fight is Paul suggesting? In what ways might we see ourselves fighting this fight? Why is following God’s Word so important in this “fight”?

Conclude with prayer. Thank God for giving the opportunity to serve Him. Ask the Lord to give you an awareness of His truth in His Word so that you can “fight the good fight.” Conclude your prayer with the reading of verse 17 as an act of worship to the Lord!

3—The Church and Politics

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

In verses 1-2, what are we as believers in Christ called to do for everyone, especially for those in authority over us? Why is this important for Christians? Why is this different from the way the world responds to those in political authority over us?

Paul not only mentions the importance of praying for those in authority, but he tells Timothy that believers should live “peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” He mentions that such living “is good and pleases God our Savior.” Why do you think living this way pleases the Lord?

Paul shares the gospel message (verses 5-6), namely, that “there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men.”

Celebrate those in your family that have made this commitment, and invite those who have not made a commitment to Christ to trust Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. (Read and discuss **How to Have a Personal Relationship with God** in the back of this booklet).

Conclude with prayer. Ask God to give you a burden to pray for those in authority over you and the strength and discipline to live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and holiness.

4—The Church and Gender

1 Timothy 2:8-15

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

In verse 8, there is a calling for men to “lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.” What does this verse suggest about a man’s responsibility to lead his family in spiritual matters/worship? What does this verse suggest about a man’s heart being freed of sin so that he can lead his family effectively?

Paul mentions the importance of modest and decent dress as well as godly living and worship for women (vs. 9-10). Why are these commands so important? How are these directives different from the world today? Women too are called to have a quiet and submissive spirit and not to strive for authority over men (vs. 12). What are the reasons why this directive is given by Paul (see verses 13-14)? How is this scripture different from how the world instructs people to live?

Paul mentions in Galatians 3:28 that male and female are both “one in Christ Jesus.” How does this verse relate to men’s and women’s value in the eyes of the Lord?

Conclude with prayer. Ask God to help you understand and appreciate that though we have equal worth in the eyes of the Lord, we still have gender uniqueness and are given distinct responsibilities in our service to Him. Pray asking that God would give you the strength and wisdom to follow His will rather than the world’s ways.

5—The Church’s Leadership Part 1

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

Identify some of the many criteria that are expected of a person who desires to serve as an overseer (position of leadership/authority) in the church. Have family members pick out one or two qualifications that makes the greatest impression on them. Give family members the opportunity to share why their chosen qualifications are so significant to them.

Why are these criteria so important for those who would serve in called positions of authority in the church? What might happen to the church if people occupy the position as an “overseer” but do not display the qualifications listed in the text?

Conclude with prayer. Ask the Lord to bless those who serve as pastors/overseers in the church. Also, pray that the pastors will remember the importance of these qualifications and be faithful to them. Ask the Lord to protect these leaders from any temptation from Satan that would cause them to stumble.

6—The Church’s Leadership Part 2

1 Peter 5:1-2

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

Those who serve as elders in the church are called to be shepherds of the “flock” (i.e., the church). A shepherd’s responsibilities are to feed the flock, protect the flock, and guide the flock to “green pastures and still waters” of God’s goodness.

First, how might a pastor/elder “feed” the flock? How is God’s Word involved?

How might a pastor/elder “protect” the flock? From whom or what does the church need to be protected? What could happen if the church is not protected?

If Heaven is our ultimate Promised Land, how might a pastor/elder help guide the church to its blessed eternal destination?

Peter mentions that called elders should not feel obligated to shepherd the church or use their calling to profit personally; instead, their calling should be with *eagerness* (the Greek word in the original language is where we get our modern English word for “thermal/heat” thus suggesting *passion*) and with genuine concern for the flock. Why are eagerness and concern so important?

Close with prayer. Ask God to give your pastors/elders a true heart to shepherd the church, the way God desires them to serve.

7—The Church’s Leadership Part 3

1 Timothy 3:8-13

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

Identify some of the criteria that are expected of a person who desires to serve as deacon (called position of service) in the church. Have your family members each pick out one or two that makes the greatest impression on them. Give them the opportunity to share why their chosen qualification is so significant.

Paul mentions that those who would serve as deacons must first be tested. Why is this important for the church to do this? What could happen if the church did not have any testing standard?

Paul shares in verses 11-12 that the church should evaluate a prospective deacon’s wife and children/household as well. Why do you believe this is important?

Paul writes that deacons that serve well “gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.” Close in prayer, asking that the deacons that serve in the church would serve the Lord well so that they might bring glory to Christ and bless those in the “household of faith.” If you are a member of LBC, find out who your deacon is and commit to pray for that person and his family regularly.

8—The Church’s Manual

1 Timothy 3:14-16

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

Paul mentioned that if he were delayed in visiting Timothy and the Church at Ephesus, his instructions would help them know how to live their lives to glorify God. Why is God’s Word so important to helping believers know how to live godly lives?

In verse 16, Paul shared the “mystery of godliness” by telling the story of Jesus Christ’s life, ministry, and purpose on earth. How is the life, ministry, and purpose of Jesus so important in understanding how a person might be declared righteous before God (i.e., be saved)?

Paul mentioned in verse 16 that Jesus was “believed on” in the world after he was “preached” among the nations. What does this say about the importance of sharing the gospel message to those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? See Romans 10:13-15 for additional information.

Close in prayer. Ask the Lord to guide the church in understanding the importance of God’s Word as our instruction manual to obey God and follow His will. Ask too that we as the church would have such a hunger for the Word that it would dwell all the more in our hearts and minds.

9—The Church’s Unsaved Members

1 Timothy 4:1-5

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

What does Paul write that the Holy Spirit says about the world in the “later times”? What involvement do demons/evil spirits play in this reality?

Do you believe that the church has unsaved people that attend its services? Do many of these claim to be Christians? Why might they not be?

Paul mentions that there would be some professing teachers who are “liars with seared consciences.” He shares that these people of influence try to manipulate people (even those in the church) to follow their rigid rules of control in areas where there could be freedom. Why do these people try to control others this way? What is their desired goal in doing so?

What are some ways that “people of influence” in the church today might use their power to control others? Why is this so dangerous for the church?

Close in prayer. Ask the Lord to protect believers from those who would infiltrate the church and try to control it for their own selfish motives. Pray asking that God would give discernment to the pastors to know how to handle these situations to protect the church.

10—The Church Must Train Its Men

1 Timothy 4:7

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

Paul shares with Timothy to “have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales.” These things caused distraction for believers in the church at Ephesus and divisions in their church and families. What are examples of things that can cause distractions in the church and families today?

The word for “train” in the text comes from a root word in the original language where we get our modern word, “gymnasium.” What benefit do we receive physically for being disciplined in going to the gym? How might the training Paul addresses here be good for us spiritually?

The word for “godly” suggests being devoted or dutiful to God’s will. When you think of the word *devoted* what comes to mind? Why is being committed to the Lord’s will so important in living a godly life?

Close in prayer. Ask God for wisdom and strength to “train/discipline” yourself to live a godly life for His glory.

11—The Church’s Training Program

1 Timothy 4:6-10

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

Paul shares with Timothy the importance of warning the Church at Ephesus of the dangers of permitting certain people to establish mere rule-following as a measure of genuine spirituality. Paul too warns against following godless myths and tales. Why do you believe Paul gave Timothy this instruction? How might these things negatively affect the church’s focus?

Paul mentions to Timothy that he must train himself to be godly. What might that look like for you and your family (i.e., training yourself as a family to be more godly)? What things might you incorporate into your lives to become more godly?

According to verse 10, what is the motivation for us to enter God’s training program? How should that affect our motivation in our family?

Conclude with prayer. Ask God to give you a heart for His training. Then seek ways to be disciplined to the task, knowing that God has profound pleasure in His people doing His will.

12—The Church’s Public Perception

1 Timothy 4:11-16

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

Paul shares with Timothy not to let anyone look down on him because of his age; instead, Paul directed Timothy to set the example by the way he lived. In verse 12, what areas did Paul identify as opportunities for Timothy to give a good witness to other believers? Ask family members to share which areas mentioned in verse 12 impact them the most (and why)?

According to verse 13, Paul mentions the importance of public reading, preaching, and teaching of Scripture. Why is this important in the church?

Paul too mentions to Timothy that he should watch his life (the way he lived) and doctrine (what he believed) closely. What might happen to our witness to unbelievers if we don’t follow this command? Are people watching us as believers in Christ? How?

Conclude with prayer, asking God to give you the strength to be diligent to watch your behavior and beliefs closely so that God might be glorified in your lives.

13—The Church is a Family and Partners with Families

1 Timothy 5:1-16

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

In verses 1-2 what are some ways we are to treat each other in the church? Give some examples how you might demonstrate these commands.

In verse 4, Paul instructs children and grandchildren to care for parents and grandparents, for this is “pleasing to God.” Why do you think God is pleased when children minister to the aging parents/grandparents that once took care of them? How might this relate to helping the older members that are a part of the “church family”?

In verse 8, what does Paul say about a person that does not provide for his family? Why do you believe that Paul would use such strong words? How does that motivate you as a family?

Conclude with prayer, asking God to give you guidance in helping your personal family and your church family.

14—The Church’s Responsibility to Its Leaders

1 Timothy 5:17-25

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

Paul shares that elders of the church are “worthy of double honor,” and that a “worker deserves his wages.” Why is it important to honor pastors/elders who are called by God to shepherd the flock (i.e., the church)? What might a pastor/elder feel if the church fails to honor him?

Why is it important to not bring an accusation against an elder unless there are at least two witnesses? Why do you believe Paul suggests that two or more witnesses are important?

Paul shares with Timothy not to be hasty in the “laying on of hands” in selecting leaders for the church. In other words, Paul did not want the church quickly to approve people to positions of leadership. Why is this important?

Conclude with prayer. Ask God to help you better understand the responsibility of giving honor to those who lead in the church. Pray specifically for those who serve as pastors/elders in the church.

15—The Church's Equality

1 Timothy 6:1-2

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

Slavery was a common reality for many people in the Roman Empire, and many people found themselves serving as slaves to masters. Even though in this passage Paul discusses the relation of slaves with their masters, in 1 Corinthians 7:21, he encourages slaves to secure their freedom if they were able. In 1 Timothy 6, Paul is not endorsing slavery; rather, he is encouraging slaves to make the choice to esteem their masters with full respect. Slaves had the freedom to decide to honor their masters by their behavior and in their obedience. Why do you believe this was important for Christian slaves in Ephesus to hear this?

How might this situation be similar to a workplace scenario today, where there are employees and supervisors over them? How should a Christian employee treat his supervisor? How should he obey the directives his boss/supervisor gives him? Why is this important?

According to verse 2, how were Christian slaves to treat their masters in Ephesus who too were believers in Christ? Why is this important? Why is taking advantage of a Christian boss in a work setting today dishonoring to the Lord?

Close in prayer. Pray for any bosses/supervisors that may be given the responsibility of managing anyone in your family. Invite the children too to pray for their parent(s), since they are also given responsibilities to lead their children.

16—The Church Tests Its Leaders and Teachers

1 Timothy 6:3-10

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

The Apostle Paul gives warning about those who teach false doctrines in the church. In verses 4-5, what are some characteristics of those who teach these things? Take a few minutes to share why these things are so destructive to the church.

In verses 6-10, Paul gives warning of those who would try to use their positions of authority to profit financially. In verse 9, Paul shares that those who want to get rich “fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.” What are some modern day examples of the “traps” into which these kinds of leaders might fall?

In verse 6, Paul shares that “godliness with contentment is great gain.” Why do you think this is so? What are the “gains” that a believer in Christ might receive if he is pursuing godliness with contentment in his life?

Close in prayer. Ask God to help you have a heart that seeks godliness with contentment. Pray for your church leaders that they would not fall into the trap of wanting to profit from their service to the Lord. Ask God too to give you a heart that would seek Him first, and not wealth/riches first.

17—The Church Fights For Its King

1 Timothy 6:11-16

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

Paul tells Timothy to flee from worldly desires/wealth, and instead, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Take a few minutes to share why these things are so important to pursue in our lives.

Paul too calls Timothy in verse 12 to “fight the good fight of the faith.” The word for “fight” comes from a Greek word where we get our word “agonize.” Why might our fighting to live righteously be a “struggle” in this world? Who is waging war against us to defeat us (see 2 Corinthians 2:11, Revelation 12:12)? According to Romans 16:20, to what can we look forward as believers?

Paul also tells Timothy that to fight the good fight of faith, he should “take hold of the eternal life to which he was called.” The word for “take hold” has the idea of seizing something with fervent passion. How might being passionate about our eternal life with God in Heaven help us in fighting the good fight?

Close in prayer. Ask God to give you His strength and power through His Holy Spirit to fight against Satan’s attacks and temptations. Ask Him to give you an excitement for the eternal life that you have been given in Jesus Christ, so that you can battle well.

18—The Church is Rich in Good Works

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

The Apostle Paul tells Timothy to command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant or to put their hope in their wealth. According to verse 17, why does he say this?

Why does Paul tell Timothy to put his trust in God? What is the promise that we have from the Lord if we put our trust in Him?

According to verse 18, what is Timothy to command those who have wealth? According to verse 19, what is promised to those who do so?

Paul calls the “coming age” (i.e., eternal life with God in Heaven), the “life that is truly life.” Why will living in eternity with God be the TRUE life?

Close in prayer. Ask God to give you a heart to bless others with the resources He has given you. Ask Him to help you have a desire for eternal blessings that will come to those with a giving heart that blesses those in need. Ask God to help your family in finding a specific person or ministry with which you can help.

19—The Church Guards the Good Deposit

1 Timothy 6:20-21

Begin by praying as a family, asking God to give insight as you read the text, then ask someone to read the passage out loud.

Why do you think Paul instructed Timothy as a leader in the Church at Ephesus to guard all that had been entrusted to his care (i.e., sound doctrine of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the words of instruction in leading the church)? Why is it important for believers today to guard sound doctrine and words of instruction from God’s Word?

In verse 20-21, from what does Paul warn Timothy to turn away? Why is this important? What happens to those that fall prey to these things? Why do they find themselves so far away from where God would desire them to be in fellowship with Him?

Paul concludes his letter to Timothy with a blessing of “grace be with you.” Why do you think Paul might have ended with these words?

Close in prayer. Ask God to give you a desire to guard the sound doctrine and the teachings of how to live your life so that you might finish well in living the life God has given you. After the end of your prayer time, take time to give a blessing to each family member by saying, “Grace be with you.”

20—Lessons from the Lawndale Pastors in 1 Timothy

Begin by praying as a family.

As we conclude this devotional series on 1 Timothy, take time to reflect upon this letter that you have been reading through as a family. Give family members opportunity to share which topics and verse(s) meant the most to them and why.

Reflect upon the pastors' sharing during the sermon time. Share with each other any words that the pastors shared that were especially significant to you.

Close in prayer. Thank the Lord for His Word in 1 Timothy. Ask the Lord to continue to give you insight as you return often to study this book.

How Can I Have a Personal Relationship with God?

Many people in our world today either don't believe that God exists or believe that they are good enough to gain God's favor. But the Bible teaches that absolutely no one is righteous or good (Romans 3:10-12; Psalm 14:3); in fact, we all have "sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Actually, the Bible teaches that we are God's enemies (Romans 5:10); and in our sinful nature, we cannot even please God (Romans 8:8). We are not able to stand before God, and present ourselves as worthy of receiving His favor and goodness. Psalm 74:22 tells us that God, who is Holy and Righteous will "rise up and defend His cause." The wicked "will not go unpunished" (Proverbs 11:21). God "loves justice" and only "upright ones will see His face" (Psalm 11:7). The reality again is that none of us are upright, holy, and just.

The Bible too shares that the "wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). What we learn from this passage is that our sinful thoughts and acts against God have brought the reality of the curse of physical death and spiritual death separated from God for all eternity in a place called Hell.

As tragic as this is for us, the Bible gives us wonderful hope, for it says that "God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). God sent His Son, Jesus Christ into the world over 2000 years ago to pay our sin penalty. Jesus lived a sinless life, but He was falsely accused and crucified on a cross. Jesus' death is the only sufficient payment for our sins, because Jesus is God in the flesh. He lived a sinless life, and He willingly offered Himself as the payment for our sins (John 10:17-18). All that happened to Jesus did not catch Him by

surprise, for it was out of joy that He desired to go to the cross for you and me (Hebrews 12:2).

Jesus' sacrifice was planned even before the beginning of time by God, because God wanted to offer us the hope of being forgiven of our sins if we would receive His Son's death and resurrection as the payment for our sins (Ephesians 1:3-8). The way we receive this gift of God is by faith. We can't do enough to win God's favor, we must repent of our sins and receive His Son's death and resurrection as the only sufficient remedy for our being under the just judgment of the One True Holy and Righteous Judge . . . God Himself.

The Bible says that if we "confess with our mouths that 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in our hearts that God has raised Him from the dead, we will be saved" (Romans 10:9). Our response to God's offering of grace is to confess Him as Lord (which means to surrender ourselves to Him as the Righteous King of our Lives), and believe in our hearts in the truth that Jesus' resurrection is the evidence of His triumph over sin and death. This is the way that we are able to receive the gift that God offers to us of being pardoned of sin and adopted into His eternal family. The Bible shares that "today is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). Our hope at Lawndale Baptist is that all who are working through these devotionals will take time to examine their hearts and determine if they have ever received God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. If not, pray asking God to forgive you of your sins (see 1 John 1:9). Then, trust Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, receive His gift that He offers you through His death and resurrection, and surrender your life to Him today. God has promised to forgive you of your sins, cleanse you of your unrighteousness, and embrace you as His own (John 1:12-13). He

too promises you an abundant life on this earth (John 10:10) as well as the blessedness of eternal life with Him (John 3:16).

If you have prayed to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, we as the pastoral staff would love to hear of your decision. You certainly are welcome to call the church office at (336) 288-3824 and let the pastoral staff know of your commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May God bless you and your family.

LAWNDALE BAPTIST CHURCH