



Transforming Students, Changing Societies

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE ON 2 TIMOTHY

Studies for individuals and groups

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THIS BIBLE STUDY GUIDE IS DEVELOPED BY FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN UNIONS (FOCUS)

Founded in 1972, FOCUS is an Evangelical, Interdenominational, Christian organization, committed to student leadership and discipleship on University and college campuses in Uganda. FOCUS is also committed to nurturing students to grow and become effective witnesses in institutions of higher learning, and leaders in church and society. FOCUS is affiliated with evangelical students witness in other countries through the **International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES)**.

VISION

Christ-transformed students and associates impacting Universities, Tertiary Institutions, Churches and Society.

MISSION

To engage and equip students in institutions of higher learning and graduates for effective Christian Living.

OUR DISTINCTIVENESS

- Student fellowship (Students led, student to student reach out, part of an international student movement)
- Evangelical (The bible is final in all matters; Salvation by grace not by works; Commitment to the preaching of the gospel).
- Interdenominational (Membership is open to different evangelical denominations).
- Indigenous (Local initiative; Local outreach; Local ownership & Local support).

DOCTRINAL BASIS OF FAITH

- The unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the God head.
- The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgment.
- The divine inspiration and entire trustworthiness of Holy Scriptures, as originally given and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- The universal sinfulness and guilt of all men since the fall, rendering them subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- Redemption from the guilt, penalty, dominion and pollution of sin solely through the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God.
- The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and His ascension to the right hand of God the Father.
- The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration.
- The justification of the sinner by the grace of God through faith alone.
- The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.
- The one holy universal Church to which all true believers belong.
- The expectation of the Personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

NATURE OF OUR ENGAGEMENTS

The FOCUS strategy is establishing and strengthening student-led Christian Unions within universities and tertiary institutions of Uganda with support from a FOCUS staff worker. FOCUS programs are hinged on the four thematic areas, that is, leadership development, Discipleship, Mission and outreach and Social concern.

The Christian Union (CU) is our point of contact in any institution of higher learning. The **CU** is a student led group of Christian students from different denominations united around the gospel of Jesus Christ.

FOCUS ASSOCIATES

These are former members of the CUs and other Christian professionals who meet to share God's word and discuss contemporary issues. Associates introduce Christ to their work colleagues, support students and participate in nation building. Our associates are structured according to our regions of operation.

FOCUS VAN DER MOLEN TRAINING AND CAMPING CENTER

Our beautiful camping center at Bulega near Garuga Gold Club off Entebbe road - offers a Serene atmosphere for prayer retreats, meditation and training. Being on the shores of Lake Victoria makes it ideal for youth, church and organizational camps/retreats.

BOOKS AND LITERATURE

FOCUS has a reference library at the national office in Mulago (Kampala). FOCUS periodically prepares and produces Bible study guides and other leadership materials. The office also runs a bookstall where books are available at subsidized prices. The goal is to equip every CU and Associates Fellowship with a lending library.

FOCUS GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

FOCUS has a National Governing Council (NGC), composed of passionate personalities that work to support in the vision of reaching out to students. The day to day operations are coordinated by the secretariat headed by the General Secretary. He/she is supported by regional training coordinators.

HOW TO CONDUCT BIBLE STUDY

NOTES TO THE LEADER

Before the meeting.

1. Study the passage prayerfully until God has spoken to you through it.
2. Go through the questions and study to learn what God may be saying to you personally and to the group. Consider which questions are important and which ones are to be left in case time is not enough. Three questions you will always answer in any bible study.
 - Observation. These are questions of facts from the passage. What does the passage say? What is actually written?
 - Interpretation: Questions of meaning and understanding of the facts.
 - Application. Questions of meaning or understanding of the facts. What does the passage mean to us today?
 - Read the passage until you know it well
3. Pray for the study and each individual in your group.

During the meeting.

- Have the members introduce themselves on the first meeting.
- Pray before you start the meeting
- Create free and cheerful environment where each member feels free to share and open up.
- Have the passage read out aloud by one or more members.
- Make a brief introduction to the study
- Be flexible and rephrase the questions if need be for the members but keep the discussion centered on the passage. Stick to your bible as authority.
- Look at the people as they speak
- Do not be too quick to cut some off or to disagree with them.
- Be time conscious and ensure that you cover the whole study adequately and have time to pray and share.

Note: Remember your attitude as a leader makes a difference; so be enthusiastic, expectant to learn from your members, realistic, honest, patient and loving to the group members.

HOW TO LEAD A BIBLE STUDY

- Know the group members.
- If possible each member should have a bible.
- Get everybody participating and avoid preaching.
- Keep to the passage.
- Draw in the shy ones and restrain the domineering politely.
- Be courteous, complement truthfully
- Humor is necessary but it should not take people off the topic
- Be firm where necessary

Note: Unless indicated otherwise, all verses are from the New International Version (NIV).

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF 2TIMOTHY

Time and place of writing

The general consensus is that following his first imprisonment in Rome (**Acts 28:16, 30-31**), Paul was released and allowed to travel for several years before being arrested again. It was during this second imprisonment that Paul wrote this epistle from Rome (cf. **1:16-17**). Every indication is that he did not expect to be released (cf. **4:6-7**) and shortly after this letter, he was to be put to death by Nero. Since Nero was killed in 68 A.D, Paul would have died a short time earlier. This letter can therefore be dated around 66-67 A.D.

Author and recipients

The first two verses of 2 Timothy 1 clearly presents the author as Paul and the recipient as Timothy. Timothy was a young pastor in Ephesus whose relationship with Paul was one of a spiritual son as he would often call him my dear son (2Tim 2:1, 1Tim 1:1; 1Cor.4:17)

The words of a dying person are very important than the usual words he usually speaks. When a loved one is about to die, we strain to hear any whispered words of blessing or advice knowing these may be the last words we will hear from this person. In this letter, Paul shared his death bed communication to Timothy his son in the faith, passing along his final words of blessing, advice and comfort.

As he wrote this letter, Paul was awaiting his execution in a Roman prison (2Tim 4:6). Paul expected death soon, so he penned down these words of guidance and encouragement to his young son Protégé (disciple) in Ephesus. Paul wanted to give Timothy all the tools he needed to be an effective minister of the gospel.

Purpose of the Epistle:

Paul urged Timothy to **develop his relationship with God and to serve God faithfully**. Paul knew that Timothy would face many problems as a church leader, so he encouraged Timothy to **persevere in his faith and be faithful to his duties**. **Paul reminded Timothy to use the gifts God had given him, to hold onto the truth in God's word; to teach others** and be willing to suffer for the sake of Christ.

1 Timothy belongs to the genre called the Pastoral Epistles because it was penned to a church leader whose life and ministry was to reflect the authenticity and integrity of the Gospel truth they proclaimed. As a Book of the Bible 2 Timothy serves the global church of Christ with significant timeless truths about suffering amidst faithfulness and remaining in the true doctrines of the faith amidst severe opposition.

GUARDING YOUR FAITH IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

STUDY 1: The gospel call and heritage of faith.

Text of study: 2Timothy 1:1-7

Paul identifies the one who commissioned him. He is an apostle according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus. Paul acknowledges the part Timothy's mother Eunice, and Grandmother Lois played in nurturing his faith. He also focuses on his relationship with Timothy and his confidence in Timothy's Faith which is commendable for the ministry he has been called to. Paul encouraged Timothy not to neglect his gift and urges various considerations to induce Timothy not to turn away from that holy purpose to which he had devoted himself to.

As you read through today's text and answer the questions below, you will be able to learn more lessons from Paul to Timothy. Read the Text: 2 Timothy 1:1-7

- 1.How does Paul describe his call and aim vs.1?
- 2.Why was it important for Paul to emphasize his apostleship as sent by God?
- 3.Using the example of Paul, why are we called?
- 4.What do you make of Paul's greeting lines to Timothy vs.2?
- 5.What is Paul thankful to God for vs.3? In view of Paul's constant prayer for Timothy, what lessons do you learn?
- 6.What is Paul desiring vs.4?
- 7.How does Paul describe the background of Timothy's faith and why do you think that is important for us today?
- 8.What is Paul's charge to Timothy in reference to vs.6? How can we fan into flame the spiritual gift God has given?
- 9.What kind of spirit has God given us? What does this Spirit do to us and why is it important we have this kind of boldness?

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 1:7

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

STUDY 2: Never be ashamed of the gospel

Text of study: 2Timothy 1:8-12:

Is there anything in your life you have ever been ashamed of?

In today's text, Paul charges Timothy not to be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord Jesus nor of him (Paul) his prisoner. The grace of God has called us to his great work, and Paul possessed that gospel by which life and immortality are brought to light. God's work of redemption is based solely on His own eternal purpose and grace. This grace has been manifested through the mediatory work of our Lord Jesus Christ through whose death and resurrection abolished death and brought life immortality.

- 1.What did Paul encourage Timothy not to be ashamed of, and what is he encouraged to do instead vs.8? How would you respond to suffering that is caused by your faith in Jesus Christ?
- 2.According to verses 9-10, how is one saved? What has Christ accomplished? What is the call of salvation?
- 3.According to verses 11-12; who appointed Paul and what was he to be? What is the result of this responsibility? What is his attitude and confidence?
- 4.As believers today what are the times we may find ourselves tempted to be ashamed of the gospel and where should our confidence be?

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 1:8 "So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God."

STUDY 3: Be true to the Word;

Text of study; 2 Timothy 1:13-18

Having exhorted Timothy not to be ashamed to speak out for Christ, Paul presents himself as a model of boldness in the face of suffering. He draws his confidence from knowing the character of that redeemer he had believed and being convicted beyond any reasonable doubt that God will guard His own word from distortion. He charges Timothy to follow the pattern of the sound words he heard from him through faith in the love of Christ.

- 1.What is Paul's charge to Timothy in vs.13-14? Why is this charge important to us believers? How can you be true to the gospel?
- 2.What do you make of the honest reality of finding yourself alone without the help of your friends? Vs15
- 3.How was Onesiphorus helpful to Paul vs16-18? Why is it important to always lookout for God's ever present help in our times of need?
- 4.As believers, how can we build a gospel centered life, which causes us to serve other believers in need?

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 1:14 "Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you - guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us."

CHAPTER 2: A DILIGENT WORKER AMIDST HARDSHIP

STUDY 4: Entrust the gospel to faithful men

Text of study; 2 Timothy 2: 1-2

As we have already seen the gospel heritage is one that runs through the lines of faithfulness and obedience to Christ. Only those who have truly received the call can relate to its responsibilities; since Christ first calls us to be with himself before sending us to call others to love and know him. In this text, Paul as a mentor to Timothy charges him to pass on the gospel to other entrusted men who are qualified to teach others also.

- 1.What was Paul's encouragement to Timothy vs.1? Why is this important?
- 2.What challenge does Paul give to Timothy vs.2? Why is it important to pass on the gospel?
- 3.How have you been able to respond to the commission to pass on the gospel to others? What qualities of men are to be entrusted with the gospel? And why is that important?
- 4.How can we grow in our faithfulness to the task of advancing the gospel?

Memory verse

2 Timothy 2:2 "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

STUDY 5: Endure hardship for the sake of the Gospel

Text of study; 2 Timothy 2:3-7

No one really wants to be told that they will have to hang in tough because the tough times are not going to quickly disappear. But that was not the case with Paul who surely having tasted the difficulties of living for Jesus would affirm the character of endurance. In this passage Paul is tasking Timothy to endure hardship giving the comparisons of the soldier, athletes and farmer.

1.What did Paul called Timothy join vs.3-4? Who does Paul see himself to be? How would we see things differently if we identified ourselves as Soldiers of Christ?

2.Which traits do athletes, farmers and soldiers have in common vs.5-7? How can a Christian emulate the life of a;

- a)Soldier
- b)Athlete
- c)Farmer

3.What is your attitude towards suffering? How might Christ be calling you to suffer for him today?

Memory verse

2 Timothy 2:4 “No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.”

STUDY 6: The reward of endurance

Text of study; 2Timothy 2:8-13

To be able to arm ourselves with the attitude of suffering for the gospel, we need to look beyond our present reality to the hope that we have in Christ. The suffering of this present world is not to be compared to the coming glory and this is to encourage us to remain faithful to the very end. In this portion of scripture, Paul gives a reason for his suffering and his source of confidence:

- 1.What gospel did Paul preach vs.8-9? Why was this gospel offensive to those persecuting Paul? What encouragement can we draw from the fact that God's word cannot be chained?
- 2.What was Paul's motivation in enduring hardship vs.10? What motivates your service for Christ?
- 3.What encouragements and warnings are echoed in the trustworthy saying? Vs.11-13
- 4How can we be reminding each other about the right motivations for serving Christ and suffering for him?

Memory verse

2 Timothy 2:10 "Therefor I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory."

STUDY 7: A workman approved by God

Text of study: 2 Timothy 2:14-19.

There are marks of a true worker of the gospel; they rightly handle the word of truth. However the challenge we have is in discerning what the gospel truth is. In fact, many times we find ourselves involved in vain arguments. We may sometimes do this thinking that we are defending the gospel. In this text, Paul advises Timothy on how to conduct himself in such scenarios and explains the source of his approval.

1.What was Timothy to do vs.14-16? How does the text describe a workman approved by God?

2.What is the potential of the spread of false teaching vs.17-18? What wrong teaching does Paul talk about in this passage? What is the impact of false teaching?

3.What is the source of Paul's confidence vs.19?

4.What are some of the wrong teachings you have encountered today and what is your response? What do you make of the idea of name calling false teachers?

5.How can we grow in our confidence and faithfulness in handling the Word of truth?

Memory verse

2 Timothy 2:15 "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

STUDY 8: A vessel of a noble purpose

Text of passage; 2 Timothy 2:20-26

As we share the Good News, we meet different audiences and some are very difficult to deal with. In this text, Paul helps us to know how to handle such audiences. We are left with a task of choosing the kind of an article we would like to be.

- 1.What according to verses 20-21 makes an article or vessel of a noble use?
- 2.In your own words, what is the meaning of the vessel of honor and that of dishonor?
- 3.What are we to flee from and what should we pursue vs.22?
- 4.What is the Lord's servant not supposed to do vs.23-24?
- 5.How are we to deal with those who oppose our leadership vs.25-26?
- 6.What do you make of the fact that behind every discord there is the captivity of the devil? How should this motivate us to pray for those who oppose us?

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 2: 24-25, "And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to knowledge of the truth..."

CHAPTER 3: THE COMING PERSECUTIONS OF THE LAST DAYS

STUDY 9: Warnings of the terrible days

Text of study: 2 Timothy 3:1-9

When you read through this portion of scripture, you may think that Paul is with us today! You do not need to have been alive during Paul's time to witness this. It has already manifested in our generation that every terrible deviations from the gospel truth and persecution for the sake of Christ are happening. People want to experience what God gives and yet they don't want God. Therefore, Paul advises Timothy not to be part of them and so are we.

- 1.What kind of behavior does Paul say people will show and what will their end be?
- 2.Why should Timothy have nothing to do with the ungodly men?
- 3.Discuss how these behaviors are reflected today.
- 4.Why did Paul refer Timothy to the last days?
- 5.How should we respond to people who have a form of godliness but deny its power?
- 6.What kind of teachers is Paul warning about vs.8-9? What is their fate?

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 3:5. "Having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people."

STUDY 10: Abiding in the scripture

Text of study; 2 Timothy 3: 10-17

Paul in this text narrated to Timothy his character and persecutions that he suffered at Antioch, Iconium and Lystra and how the Lord rescued him from all, so that he would be encouraged when he faces the same. He went on to tell Timothy about what the plight/trouble of those who desire to live a godly life and the fate of imposters. Paul also encouraged Timothy to abide in the faith, affirming to him the source of all scripture and how it qualifies the man of God for His work.

- 1.What Knowledge does Timothy have about Paul vs.10-11? What persecutions are believers experiencing today? What challenge does this pose to us today?
- 2.What is the relevance of Paul's persecution experience to Timothy? What do you make of Paul's declaration in verse 12-13?
- 3.In what things was Timothy to Continue vs.14-15?
- 4.What is the source of Scripture according to verse 16-17? Why is the Word of God important in a Christian's life?

Memory verse

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

STUDY 11: Preach the Word at all times

Text of study; 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Paul warns Timothy that a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound doctrine. However Timothy is challenged to preach the word of God in all seasons. We also note Paul's satisfaction about his service to Christ, and the confidence he possessed as he looked forward to the Judgment Day and the heavenly kingdom.

1. Why and when does Paul tell Timothy to preach the word vs. 1-2?
2. What would some people not put up with in V. 3-4? How do you relate Paul's words to Timothy with our current situation and how do you see it manifest today?
3. What advice does Paul give to Timothy on how he should do his ministry vs. 5?
4. How does Paul describe his Christian walk vs. 6-8? What is the relevance of Paul's statements in these verses in regard to Timothy's ministry?

Memory verse

2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

STUDY 12: The Lord is faithful

Text of a study; 2Timothy 4:9-22

In this part of the text, Paul was deserted by those he trusted to be loyal to him like Demas and Alexander. However in all this, the Lord remained faithful and rescued him from every evil attack. One wonders why a trusted friend or brother would do such a thing. Where should our hope be in such a time?

- 1.What did Paul ask Timothy to do and why vs.9-10? As Christians are there times when we lament like Paul? If yes give examples
- 2.What do make of Paul's request for Timothy to bring John Mark vs.11?
- 3.What do you make of the opportunities and challenges associated with working with people vs12-22?
- 4.What do we learn from the moments of standing alone vs.16-18? Share with us an experience where God was your ONLY rescue.

Memory verse 18

2 Timothy 4:18, "The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen."













NOTE

This image shows a full page of primary-ruled paper. It features multiple sets of horizontal dotted lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. The lines are black dots on a white background, and there are no margins or other markings present.

NOTE

[illegible]



NATIONAL OFFICE

Plot 229

Kafeero Road, Old Mulago

P.O. Box 16415 Kampala

Office : +256 788582852

Email: gs@focusuganda.org

Website : www.focusuganda.org

REGIONS

1. Central Region	+256 778 989273
2. West Nile Region (Arua)	+256 787 100663
3. Western Uganda (Mbarara)	+256 780 177168
4. Rwenzori Region (Fortportal)	+256 784 380838
5. Busoga Region (Jinja)	+256 759 691255
6. Eastern Region (Mbale)	+256 783 158949
7. Northern Uganda (Lira)	+256 774 687264