

# 1&2 TIMOTHY DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor Phil Emerson

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

## OUR DISCIPLESHIP FLOW

At Emmanuel Church, we are passionate about living out the call to be disciples of Jesus Christ, and make it our goal to see His Kingdom come in our lives and the world in which we live. We recognise that in Biblical times, a disciple was someone who followed a teacher or rabbi, not simply to gain head knowledge to pass an examination, but to be fully immersed in the life of the rabbi, and *learn his ways*, so that they in turn could replicate this to the world around them. As Christians, we are now those who have been invited to ‘follow’ Jesus and all of His ways, and we therefore call ourselves His disciples.

*“This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.” 1 John 2:5,6*

We therefore want to take seriously the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20 to make disciples and also commit to an ongoing journey of teaching and discipleship together.

We all have differing personalities and learning styles. At Emmanuel, we recognise this diversity within the church body and therefore desire to support and journey together as we relate with God and each other in some of the following environments:

- **Public (20+)**

In the Bible, we see Jesus seeking to make disciples as He engaged with larger numbers of people, e.g., His interaction with the crowds (Matthew 4:25; Luke 14:25), and the 72 (Luke 10:1-24).

At Emmanuel, we want to use each of our **larger gathered environments** as an opportunity to make disciples, e.g., **Sunday services, Friday Youth/Kids’** environments, **men’s/women’s** gatherings.

- **Social (10-15)**

Jesus demonstrated the necessity for **smaller accountable relationships** as an essential part of the life of a disciple. He did this by teaching and doing life with his twelve disciples (e.g., Matthew 10).

At Emmanuel, small accountable relationships are offered through:

**Lifegroup 12s**

These are **gatherings of 10-15 people** who meet bi-weekly in homes or around specific interests, e.g., crafts, football.

- **Personal (2-5)**

As well as having smaller accountable relationships amongst His twelve friends, Jesus also seemed to go to even deeper levels of trust with three in particular – Peter, James and John (Matthew 17; Mark 9). At Emmanuel, we seek to do this through:

**Lifegroup 3s**

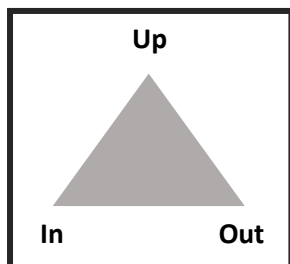
These are smaller **gatherings of 2-5 people** who are committed to transparent and accountable relationships in order to grow together in following Jesus. The aim for these groups is that after 1-2 years, each person in the group would be able to lead a smaller number of people themselves and replicate the process... **disciples making disciples!**

- **Intimate (1-1)**

Jesus regularly withdrew to spend time alone with the Father. This is the ultimate goal of discipleship, that each member of our church family would increasingly spend time alone with the Father and grow in devotion and desire to see the Kingdom come.

## A TOOL TO USE

As stated previously, 1 John 2:6 makes it clear that for those of us who call ourselves disciples of Jesus, our goal should be to daily *walk in the ways of Jesus*, our Rabbi. As we examine the New Testament we see that Jesus lived His life based on three relationships: **Up** – with His Father; **In** – with His chosen followers; **Out** – with the hurting world around Him. This is illustrated in the following triangle:



Jesus *taught* and *modelled* out to His disciples how to live into each of these areas in life.

### Up

Jesus frequently left the disciples to spend personal time with the Father (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16). He taught them the significance of prayer, and how to pray and communicate with the Father (Luke 11:1-13). When comparisons with one another or insecurities presented themselves, He spoke into it in love and challenged them into a greater depth of living (Mark 9:33-37; Matthew 18:1-5).

### In

Jesus had significant relationships with others in which He intentionally invested (12s and 3s). When He went to engage with the Father He brought the three with Him (Matthew 17:1). He taught them and modelled out the significance of Sabbath and rhythms of rest (Mark 6:31). He demonstrated with His life the significance of generosity and sacrificial love for others (John 13:1-17).

### Out

Jesus personally lived a life that engaged with the crowds and the broken world around Him. He healed the sick (Matthew 8:1-4), fed the poor (Mark 6:30-44), and cast out demons (Matthew 8:28-34). But with the people who were closest to Him, He challenged them to do the same (Mark 6:37), and when they took risks themselves He critiqued and gave honest feedback to call out more for them (Luke 10:17-20).

As we spend time alone or together in this devotional, we want to help and encourage you to engage in each of these ways – UP, IN, and OUT.

# HOW TO USE THE BOOK

## First

If you haven't already done so, please take a second to fill in your name on the inside of the front cover. There'll be a lot of identical books floating around, and we don't want yours to get lost.

## Prepare

Get ready for each session by spending some time to invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you. The Bible is a written word (logos), which becomes a living word (rhema) as the Holy Spirit breathes upon it and speaks directly to our lives through it.

## Commit

Commit to the journey. Discipleship is not a commitment to a moment, but to a lifetime journey. As you personally commit to journeying with God daily, commit to others by sharing what you are learning (possibly in Lifegroup 12s or 3s), and in this way encouraging one another in what God is saying.

## Reflect & Respond

Each day, as you spend personal time with God, we encourage you to ask the following two questions:

- 1) What is God saying to me?
- 2) What am I going to do about it?

**This is how we become doers and not just hearers of what God is saying.**

## INTRODUCTION TO 1 & 2 TIMOTHY

Paul's writings are best understood in three sections of ministry. The early letters, like Thessalonians, were teaching founding principles. His mid-range letters to more established churches like Ephesians and Galatians became more doctrinal in their approach. The final batch, personal letters to men like Titus and Timothy, were a passing on to faithful men of what he had received.

Timothy most likely came to faith during Paul's first missionary journey. Most of the first letter deals with pastoral conduct, warnings about false teachers, and the church's responsibility toward church members, widows, elders, and slaves. Throughout the letter, Paul encourages Timothy to stand firm, persevere, fight the good fight, and remain true to his calling.

By the time Paul wrote his second letter, Timothy had been ministering in the church at Ephesus for four years. The second letter to Timothy is from a dreary Roman prison cell, just before Paul's death in AD 67. The Roman emperor Nero was a bit of a madman really. When the great fire of Rome happened in AD 64, it burned half the city. The Roman citizens were in an uproar. Christians became a convenient target for Nero, who used believers as scapegoats. Paul was one of those caught up in this persecution and was beheaded by Roman officials soon after writing this letter.

Though hardship would come, Paul wanted Timothy to continue in those things he had learned, drawing on the rich heritage of faith that had been passed down to the young pastor not just from Paul but also from his mother and grandmother. What a great encouragement it must have been for Timothy to know that his mentor boldly modelled his perseverance in the faith, even to the point of death.

Read and learn. This is great stuff!

Phil

**Live**

One of my much-loved verses is verse 12 of this chapter: *“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me trustworthy, appointing me to His service.”* It has been a little thankful prayer of mine over the years. I love how Paul thinks of Timothy as his own child in the faith, probably because Timothy came to trust in the Lord Jesus through Paul’s first missionary trip. Paul refers to him as *“my son whom I love”* in 1 Cor. 4:17.

Paul most likely wrote 1 Timothy sometime after the close of the book of Acts. Paul had been in prison for a couple of years in Rome and then he must have visited Ephesus. He knew that there were problems in the church, so while Paul went on to visit Macedonia, he asked Timothy to stay in Ephesus as the leader of the church. Paul, as the older man, is telling his ‘son’ what he must do – a run down on what to watch out for, if you like. As a warning, Paul names two men who had ruined their faith. Hymenaeus had become a false teacher (2 Timothy 2:17). Alexander could possibly be the man who made things from copper in Ephesus, someone who caused Paul a lot of trouble (2 Timothy 4:14). Paul handed these two men over to Satan and put them out of the church as an act of discipline for a person who would not repent of sin. The purpose of this severe act was that they might repent and learn not to speak against God or against the truth.

As I think about these two men whom Paul handed over to Satan I’m reminded of the power and need for repentance. As I pore over the Word of God, I don’t see a single place where the phrase *‘I’m sorry, but ...’* is celebrated as the vocabulary of heaven. Today, why not ask for God’s unfailing love and great compassion to free you from all *‘I’m sorry, but ...’* Instead, offer many more of these: *“Will You forgive me, Lord? I’m genuinely sorry and I offer no excuses. I’m just sorry, God.”*

**Pray**

Father, I know that in Jesus all of my sins have already been forgiven – past, present, and future; sins of thought, word, and deed. With this in mind, how dare I hold a grudge or unforgiveness. In Jesus’ strong name. Amen.



**REFLECT**

What is God saying to me?

**RESPOND**

What am I going to do about it?

## Live

At the outset of this chapter, we are encouraged to pray for everyone. The word “*everyone*” captures the heart of the gospel message. God’s desire is that ALL should come to the knowledge of the truth. In our culture today, it is widely believed that there are many ways to God. The belief that there is only one way seems too narrow for many to accept, but Jesus says in John 14:6 “*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*”

Many people interpret from 1 Timothy 2 that women should never teach in the gathered expression of church. I don’t think this is the case. In Acts 18, we see that Priscilla taught Apollos, the great teacher. In Romans, Paul mentions women who worked and taught in the church – Phoebe, Mary, Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis. In Philippians, Paul talks about Euodia and Syntyche. In the context of this passage, I suggest that Paul was prohibiting the Ephesian women from teaching, not all women for all time.

To understand these verses about women we must bring into context the situation Paul and Timothy were dealing with. At that time in the culture of Ephesus, women were not allowed to study. When Paul said that women should “*learn quietly and submissively*”, he was not trying to hold women back; he was, in fact, offering them an amazing new opportunity to study the Word of God. In order to do that, they needed to listen and learn with an attitude of quietness. Paul was prohibiting the Ephesian women from teaching because they didn’t have enough knowledge and experience yet. This problem was being magnified by the influence of false teachers. Without the appropriate biblical knowledge, they were more easily swayed by false teachings. I feel there is also a charge to men, who at this time were allowed to study, to roll up their responsible sleeves and teach their women well.

## Pray

Father, as I come to You, I take great comfort in knowing that I’ll always find You filled with compassion for me, teaching and training me even when my feelings are not fully engaged with You. In Jesus’ strong name. Amen.

**REFLECT**

What is God saying to me?

**RESPOND**

What am I going to do about it?

## Live

In this chapter we find the qualifications necessary for those who would serve as overseers or elders and deacons in the local congregation. The list begins with *“above reproach”* and ends with *“living in a manner worthy of respect”*, with all that goes in between. I would love you to read the qualities of leadership and then read verse 1 slowly, *“If anyone aspires to the office of overseer they desire a noble task.”* It’s a powerful, sobering list of positives and negatives. Paul, though hoping to come himself soon, writes this so that Timothy will be well-instructed on how to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church, the pillar and ground of the truth.

There is such a call to holiness for us as believers. Alas, I feel that the church, in a bid to make the gospel more relevant, have lowered their standards. Instead of the world becoming like the church, the church has become more like the world, which is a travesty and a tragedy. I love how Peterson translates Ephesians 1:22,23 *“The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ’s body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.”*

As the chapter concludes, Paul pops into his letter the mystery of godliness which pertains to the coming of Christ into the world. He declares it is *“beyond all question”*. I love this! What are the basic facts of the mystery of godliness? God appeared in the flesh ... was vindicated by the Spirit ... was seen by angels ... was preached among the nations ... was believed on in the world ... was taken up in glory. Wow! That is the gospel story captured in around 25 words (a bit like John 3:16 which has a similar number of words). Makes me wonder how we have added to the simplicity of the gospel. I love this chapter that is absolutely loaded with challenge and truth.

## Pray

Father, thank You for the elders and leaders in our church, none of whom claim to be perfect, but, like me, are a part of Your broken-yet-beloved bride. Turn our family gatherings into occasions where You are always filling the empty seat. In Jesus’ strong name. Amen.

**REFLECT**

What is God saying to me?

**RESPOND**

What am I going to do about it?

**Live**

We read today how in latter times there will be a falling away from truth and some will depart from the faith. This falling away will come about as people give heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, leading to them speaking lies in hypocrisy and searing their consciences. Paul gives some examples of their false doctrines: forbidding marrying and commanding to abstain from certain foods. Regarding the latter, he makes it clear that all foods are acceptable for they are sanctified by the Word of God and prayer.

In the last half of this chapter, we find Paul instructing Timothy on how he can be a good minister of Jesus Christ. Personally, I have found this so true. As I lead people in sound doctrine, I get to be nourished myself. There is a caution to beware of falseness creeping in but to maintain godliness which is of more enduring value than bodily exercise. Though Timothy is young, he should not let anyone look down on his youthfulness. Instead, he must demonstrate the proper example of how a believer should speak and live. Paul encourages Timothy that by following all his admonitions, his progress will be evident to all and he will save both himself and those who hear him.

It's all about character, folks. It's amazing how we can let our character slip in front of the ones we love the most while we maintain it in the public eye of those we scarcely know. I read this story and it made me cry: *"Today, after 2 years of separation, my ex-wife and I resolved our differences and met for dinner. We laughed and chatted for almost 4 hours. Then, just before she left, she handed me a large envelope. In it were 20 love letters she had written to me over the last 2 years. There was a post-it note on the envelope that said, 'Letters I was too stubborn to send.'" Write someone a wee note today that you've been too stubborn to send before. It'll build character!*

**Pray**

Father, I thank You for Paul's reminder to young Timothy about building his character. I ask You for thicker skin and a bigger heart. I want to love well when I experience everything from unintended slights to fully intended harm. In Jesus' strong and mighty name. Amen.

**REFLECT**

What is God saying to me?

**RESPOND**

What am I going to do about it?

## Live

This chapter contains Paul's instructions to Timothy regarding various members of the congregation. He starts with members in general, counselling Timothy to consider them as family and encourage them accordingly. I love the sheer wisdom of the first verse. If practiced, it would bring massive change in the church – treat older men as dad, older ladies as mum, younger men and women as brothers and sisters. Simple and profound. A major section is devoted to the care of widows. Younger widows are expected to remarry and have children, while widows with children and grandchildren are to be supported by their own family.

Several remarks are made regarding elders. Elders who rule well are to be worthy of financial support, especially if they are labouring in the Word. Accusations against an elder are not to be taken seriously unless there are two or three witnesses (so no roast elder for Sunday lunch, please!). Those elders who are sinning need to be publicly rebuked that the rest may fear and realise that no one is above godly discipline.

Paul gives Timothy a solemn charge to be free from prejudice and partiality. This is so powerful to read as it is an issue that is prevalent today. Leaders are good at surrounding themselves with their family and close friends while alienating stronger and better people for positions of leadership. This is so wrong and proves the insecurities of such leaders. Wise leaders will bring on strong, godly fellow servants who will disagree when it is right to do so.

The chapter concludes with advice for treating Timothy's stomach ailment, which, may I remind you, is *"use a little"*, not down a bottle every night! There is a great wee nugget of wisdom as he concludes, giving a stark reminder that both sins and good works will eventually become evident.

## Pray

Father, help me to want Your purposes more than I want life not to be messy. Help me to glory in Your pleasure more than I fight for fewer hassles. Help me to abandon myself to You, my Father who does all things well. In Jesus' strong and eternal name. Amen.



**REFLECT**

What is God saying to me?

**RESPOND**

What am I going to do about it?

**Live**

This final chapter begins with instructions concerning servants and their duties toward their masters, especially masters who are believers. Paul gives a caution to not play on your boss just because he may be a fellow believer. A description follows of those who teach another doctrine – contentious, always looking for an argument, misusing the Scripture to try and prove their wacky theology. I am grieved by the many scholars today who seem to use most of their great abilities pointing out what they *don't* agree with, rather than tell me what they *do* believe. I hope that people will remember me more for who I was rather than who I wasn't, if that makes sense.

Mentioning the value of godliness when accompanied by contentment, Paul warns of the need to be content with the food and clothing we have and presents the danger facing those who desire to be rich. Remember, money is not a bad thing. Paul warns against the *love* of it, not the *having* it. My dad used to say, "It takes a steady hand to hold a full cup." I have to say, I personally, and our church, have been truly blessed by many such people. I thank God for their prosperity and pray for more of it for them.

Timothy is then charged to pursue things that are becoming of a man of God. He is encouraged to fight the good fight of faith and to lay hold on eternal life. He is solemnly urged by Paul to keep the commandment without spot and be blameless until the Lord's appearing, whom Paul describes in the most amazing terms, "*Who lives in unapproachable light*". The epistle ends with another little charge for Christians who are rich in this world and with an impassioned plea for Timothy to guard what was committed to his trust, avoiding meaningless chatter and stupidity that tries to be knowledgeable. What a great charge. In good old Irish terms ... spot them and avoid them!

**Pray**

Father, I want to fear You now that I no longer have to be afraid of You. Through the work of Jesus, You have eternally freed me from the fear of death and judgment. Now give me an affectionate awe and a humble reverence for Yourself. In Jesus' strong name. Amen.

**REFLECT**

What is God saying to me?

**RESPOND**

What am I going to do about it?

**Live**

Following Paul's first imprisonment in Rome and shortly after Acts was written, the general consensus is that Paul was released and allowed to travel for several years before being arrested again. It was during this time that he reached as far as Spain with the gospel. Paul knew his time was limited and he needed to burn for God as brightly as one could ever do. It was during this second imprisonment that Paul wrote this epistle to Timothy from Rome. He did not expect to be released. Shortly after this letter was written he was put to death by Nero. Nero was killed in AD 68, so Paul would have died a short time earlier, dating this letter to around AD 66-67.

Like the last letter, the Apostle Paul begins this one to his "*beloved son*" with a prayer for grace, mercy and peace on his behalf. Thankful to God for the unceasing memories he has of Timothy, Paul greatly desires to see him. Seeing him again will bring great joy as Paul is mindful of Timothy's tears and his unwavering faith. His purpose in writing begins in earnest with a series of exhortations toward steadfast service. He encourages Timothy to stir up the gift of God which was in him by the laying on of Paul's hands; to not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord or of Paul, His prisoner; and to hold fast the pattern of sound words which he had heard from Paul.

Timothy is reminded of those who had forsaken Paul. Rather than labour on the ones who deserted him, Paul tells of how Onesiphorus had proven to be a true friend by virtue of his courage, diligence, and service. Onesiphorus was part of the church at Ephesus and he, along with his family, seemed to go beyond the call of duty in serving Paul and the church. May I remind you that this is not just remembered by Paul, but all Scripture is breathed by the Holy Spirit. This boy Onesiphorus is registered in the courts of heaven.

**Pray**

Father, the government of all things is squarely on Your shoulders. Your kingdom of redemption and restoration is the only unshakable kingdom. Of the increase of Your government and peace there will be no end, for You will reign forever and ever! In Jesus' strong name. Amen.

**REFLECT**

What is God saying to me?

**RESPOND**

What am I going to do about it?

**Live**

Paul continues with exhortations to Timothy with an emphasis on endurance and diligence. After encouraging him to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, Paul charges Timothy to commit what he has learned to faithful men who can pass it along. Using the illustrations of a soldier, athlete, and farmer, Paul exhorts Timothy to endure hardship, be faithful, and work hard. Writing of his own endurance in hardship, he stresses the need to be true to the Lord.

The last half of the chapter is devoted to telling Timothy how to be *"useful to the Master"*. With warnings to shun profane and vain babblings, and avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, Paul reminds Timothy of things he should flee (youthful lusts) and what he should pursue (righteousness, faith, love, peace). Properly handling the Word of truth and correcting others with gentleness and humility, Timothy can truly be a servant of the Lord who is prepared for every good work, especially when dealing with those who have been ensnared by the devil. I love how Paul encourages and yet greatly challenges this young pastor, believing in and trusting him with the work of the ministry.

As I read this little letter, I notice how many verses I've underlined over the years about staying teachable, receiving correction, and loving discipline. I wish the number of highlighted verses was an indication of how humble and non-defensive I am. But that's simply not the case. I can still get stubborn, shift blame, and make excuses. It's good to have friends not just to have fun, but to pursue each other's hearts and build each other up, even when that gets messy. Please don't ignore concerns and corrections from mentors, friends, and maybe even angels God sends (Hebrews 13:2). I want to not just read the Bible, but have the Bible constantly reading me, exposing my sin and brokenness and revealing more and more of the riches of the gospel.

**Pray**

Father, by the power of Your Word, once again, I want to own, grieve, and repent of pride, defensiveness, and a lack of teachability. Help me anticipate and welcome feedback from those who love me concerning my attitude, choices, and excesses. In Jesus' strong and eternal name. Amen.

**REFLECT**

What is God saying to me?

**RESPOND**

What am I going to do about it?

### Live

There is an old saying, "If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything." That's why Paul gives exhortations to steadfast service in the first two chapters and then proceeds with exhortations to sound doctrine in these last two chapters. He warns of difficult times to come, describing the condition of some people during the last days. Paul tells Timothy to avoid such people, for they would be just like Jannes and Jambres who resisted Moses in the Old Testament. Their folly was plain for all to see.

Reminding Timothy of how he had carefully followed Paul's doctrine and manner of life up to that point, Paul warns of the persecution to befall those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus. While evil men and impostors will grow worse and deceive many (being deceived themselves), Timothy is exhorted to continue in those things he has learned. Paul gives special mention to the Scriptures that Timothy had known since childhood. All Scripture is inspired of God and has the value of making one wise for the salvation which is by faith in Christ. Scripture instructs in such a way as to make us complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Today I asked myself how I could be equipped for every good work. I took my journal and drew a line down the centre of the page, making two columns. Column 1: things I need to give up/be careful of. Column 2: things I need to begin/practise more fervently. A good exercise! We live in a world where even in our Christian culture we don't talk much about sacrifice, giving up, laying down. Oh yes, we sing it, but to practise it is another matter. There are podcasts and God-channel teachings on wealth, health, prosperity and all the rest, but what about stirring up the gifting that is within you, laying your "I will" on the altar of His will? This is where true life begins. You can ask when you get home to heaven; Paul and Timothy will tell you this is true!

### Pray

Father, forgive me. I am blessed today for You have completely forgiven all my transgressions, once and for all. You have thoroughly covered my sins by the blood of Jesus. In Jesus' strong name. Amen.



**REFLECT**

What is God saying to me?

**RESPOND**

What am I going to do about it?

**Live**

The final chapter begins with a charge for Timothy to preach the Word at all times. The time was coming, and now is, when people would not listen to sound doctrine but instead follow teachers who would tell them what they wanted to hear. Therefore, Timothy was to be watchful, endure what afflictions might come his way, preach when he felt like it and when he didn't, do the work of an evangelist as he fulfilled his ministry. I think this last one is a powerful statement. We must all DO THE WORK of an evangelist. It is our mandate to tell others about Jesus and it is not so much something we do, as who we are.

Paul knows that his own end was near and expresses with a beautiful confidence his personal satisfaction that he has fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. He is confident that there is laid up for him that crown of righteousness which the Lord will give to all who wait for and love His appearing. Timothy is then told to come as soon as he can. As he writes, only Luke is with Paul, for Demas has forsaken him and others have left for other places. Paul makes requests, one related to Timothy bringing Mark along, followed by a warning about Alexander the metalworker, also referred to in chapter 1 of Paul's first letter. He mentions those who forsook him at his first defence and prays that it might not be charged against them.

I love how Paul has learned to lean on the Lord, knowing with confidence that the Lord would stand by him. He is confident that the Lord would deliver him from every evil work and preserve him for the heavenly kingdom. Timothy is asked to relay greetings to Paul's dear friends, brief references are made to Erastus and Trophimus, and finally, Paul sends greetings from various brethren and closes with a prayer that the Lord will be with Timothy.

**Pray**

Father, as I read how Paul prayed for Timothy, I'm reminded that Your steadfast intercession is one of the greatest treasures I have. Knowing that Jesus is constantly advocating and praying for me not only keeps me sane, it also motivates me to bring my friends before You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**REFLECT**

What is God saying to me?

**RESPOND**

What am I going to do about it?

