

Warning Against False Teachers of the Law - 1 Timothy 1:1-11

Open It

1. Which would you rather receive from a good friend: a letter, or a phone call? Why?
2. What are some laws that you benefit from directly?

Explore It

1. Who wrote this letter? (1:1)
2. Why did Paul want Timothy to stay in Ephesus? (1:3-4)
3. In what way had some believers been misguided? (1:6)
4. How did Paul assess those who wanted to be teachers of the law? (1:7)
5. For whom was the Law made? (1:9-11)

Get It

1. In what way should we use God's law today?
2. How should we determine what is and isn't sound doctrine?

Apply It

What steps can you take to make sure your motives are from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith?

The Lord's Grace to Paul - 1 Timothy 1:12-20

Open It

1. Who are some people you know whose lives were dramatically changed at some point? How?
2. What sort of people try your patience the most?

Explore It

1. Why was Paul shown mercy? (1:13)
2. How was Paul "the worst"? (1:15)
3. How does a person receive eternal life? (1:16)
4. Why did Paul give Timothy his instructions? (1:18)
5. Why did Paul hand Hymenaeus and Alexander over to Satan? (1:20)

Get It

1. How and when has God shown you mercy
2. In what way has God used you as an example so that others might believe?

Apply It

For what grace and mercy that God has shown you do you want to thank Him today?

Instructions on Worship - 1 Timothy 2:1-15

Open It

1. What do you like or dislike about the worship of the church you attend?
2. How would you characterize the worship of the church you attend?

Explore It

1. What did Paul urge first of all? (2:1-2)
2. What does God want? (2:4)
3. For whom did Jesus give Himself? Why? (2:6)
4. What did Paul want people everywhere to do? (2:8)
5. What didn't Paul permit women to do? (2:11)

Get It

1. What sort of prayers should we make on behalf of our leaders?
2. How does your church understand and apply Paul's restrictions on women?

Apply It

How can you focus your attention on Christian service and worship of God over outward appearance?

Overseers and Deacons - 1 Timothy 3:1-16

Open It

1. What were some of the qualifications you had to meet for your job?
2. What important qualities should managers possess?

Explore It

1. What did Paul say about the person who wants to be an overseer? (3:1)
2. Why is good family management a qualification for being an overseer? (3:4-5)
3. Why shouldn't the overseer be a new convert? (3:6)
4. What qualities must a deacon possess? (3:8-10, 12)
5. Why did Paul write these instructions? (3:14-15)

Get It

1. Which of the character qualities needed by both overseers and deacons do you think is the most important for a church leader to possess?
2. If you applied the lists of qualifications for these positions to yourself, how would you measure up?

Apply It

What quality from the lists in 1 Timothy 3 do you want to improve in your life? How could you start?

Instructions to Timothy - 1 Timothy 4:1-16

Open It

1. Why do you think there is such emphasis on physical fitness in our society?
2. What qualities do you look for in a pastor or minister?

Explore It

1. What did Paul say about the consciences of hypocritical liars? (4:2)
2. Under what circumstances would Timothy be a good minister? (4:6)
3. How did Paul contrast physical training with godliness? (4:8)
4. To what was Timothy to devote himself? (4:13)
5. What did Paul want others to see? (4:15)

Get It

1. How can we be good ministers of Jesus Christ?
2. How will watching your life and doctrine save you?

Apply It

For what other Christians can you set an example in speech, life-style, love, faith, or purity? How?

Instructions to Timothy - 1 Timothy 4:1-16

Open It

1. What groups of people are treated with special favor in our society today?
2. Whose responsibility is it to care for the needy?

Explore It

1. How should believers treat older men, younger men, older women, and younger women? (5:1-2)
2. What should the children and grandchildren of a widow do? (5:4)
3. When should the church go out of its way to care for widows? (5:9-10)
4. What was Paul's advice to younger widows? (5:14)
5. What did Paul encourage Timothy to do and not to do? (5:22)

Get It

1. How should we treat fellow Christians?
2. What does it mean to care properly for needy family members?

Apply It

How can you assist your church in the care of widows or others in need?

Love of Money - 1 Timothy 6:3-10

Open It

1. What evidence do you see of a love for money among your friends or coworkers?
2. Why do you think most people are or aren't content with what they have?

Explore It

1. What do false teachers ignore? (6:3)
2. What was the result of the false teachers' unhealthy interests? (6:4-5)
3. What brings us great gain? (6:6)
4. With what should we be content? (6:8)
5. What price do some people eager for money pay? (6:10)

Get It

1. How could someone think that godliness was a means to financial gain?
2. Why is it hard to be content?

Apply It

About what situation in life will you ask God to help you be more content each day

Paul's Charge to Timothy - 1 Timothy 6:11-21

Open It

1. What well-known people or historical figures are known to you as fighters?
2. What goals do TV commercials and print ads encourage us to pursue?

Explore It

1. What did Paul tell Timothy to pursue? (6:11)
2. What was Timothy urged to fight? (6:12)
3. How long was Timothy supposed to keep Paul's command? (6:14-15)
4. Why should those who are rich not be arrogant or put their hope in wealth? (6:17)
5. How had some wandered away from the truth? (6:20-21)

Get It

1. In what way is the Christian life a fight?
2. What does it mean to "fight the good fight"?

Apply It

How can you fight the good fight of faith each day?