

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.*

August 2014

## LEADER DEVELOPMENT: TRUTH MATTERS

### INTRODUCTION

How have you seen people deceived by false doctrine? What was the impact?

### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

#### **Read 1 Timothy 4:1-16**

*Note: Timothy was probably in his mid-30s or younger when Paul asked him to care for the church in Ephesus. It was rare in that time for a young man to hold such an influential leadership position. As a result, Timothy perhaps had to overcome age-related challenges to his leadership.*

1. What did the Spirit say some would do in the later time? v 1
2. Why did Paul use extraordinarily strong language to describe the ‘hypocritical liars’? V 2
3. What impact did the liars have on others? Why? v. 3
4. What is true about all that God created and why is this truth so liberating? vv. 4-5
5. How does Paul’s advice to Timothy in verse 6 apply to us today?

*Note: The ascended Lord commended this church with the words “You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them to be liars” (Rev 2:2). Christians are responsible for testing new doctrines and revelations against the clear teaching of Scripture (Acts 17:17).<sup>1</sup>*

6. How did Paul contrast physical training with godliness? v. 8 Where does fasting fit?

*Note: “All men” of verse 10 does not promote universal salvation. It refers to both Jews and Gentiles who have come to faith and are in the church.*

7. Why did Paul emphasize the ‘trustworthy saying’ in verses 9-11?
8. How can young leaders overcome age-related prejudices? v. 12
9. How much emphasis should we place on age when looking for spiritual leaders?
10. What are the advantages of implementing Paul’s guidance in verse 13?
11. How can we ensure we are not neglecting our spiritual gifts? v. 14
12. Why is it important for spiritual leaders to constantly be diligent in their duties? vv. 15-16
13. Why do you think Paul entrusted the health/welfare of the Ephesian church to Timothy? 2 Tim 1:13-14

### EVALUATION/APPLICATION

What steps can you take this week to inoculate yourself against false doctrine?

***Paul is saying: "Timothy, you got a good spiritual education, now apply and communicate it to your people - steering away from sugary sweet made-up lies - and focus on spiritual training." His people are going to need it. Notice that he says "physical training is of some value" - like an "in your face" slam at the proto-Gnostics who believed that only spiritual things are of value. But it's not just spiritual things that we need to focus on but becoming "like God" or "godliness." Don't put your hope in physical exercise or in spiritual mumbo-jumbo - put your hope in a real living God - labor to know Him and become like Him!***

*Pastor Tom Fuller (Living Waters Christian Fellowship); SermonCentral.com*

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<sup>1</sup> Cabal, T., Brand, C. O., Clendenen, E. R., Copan, P., Moreland, J. P., & Powell, D. (2007). *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (p. 1804). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.