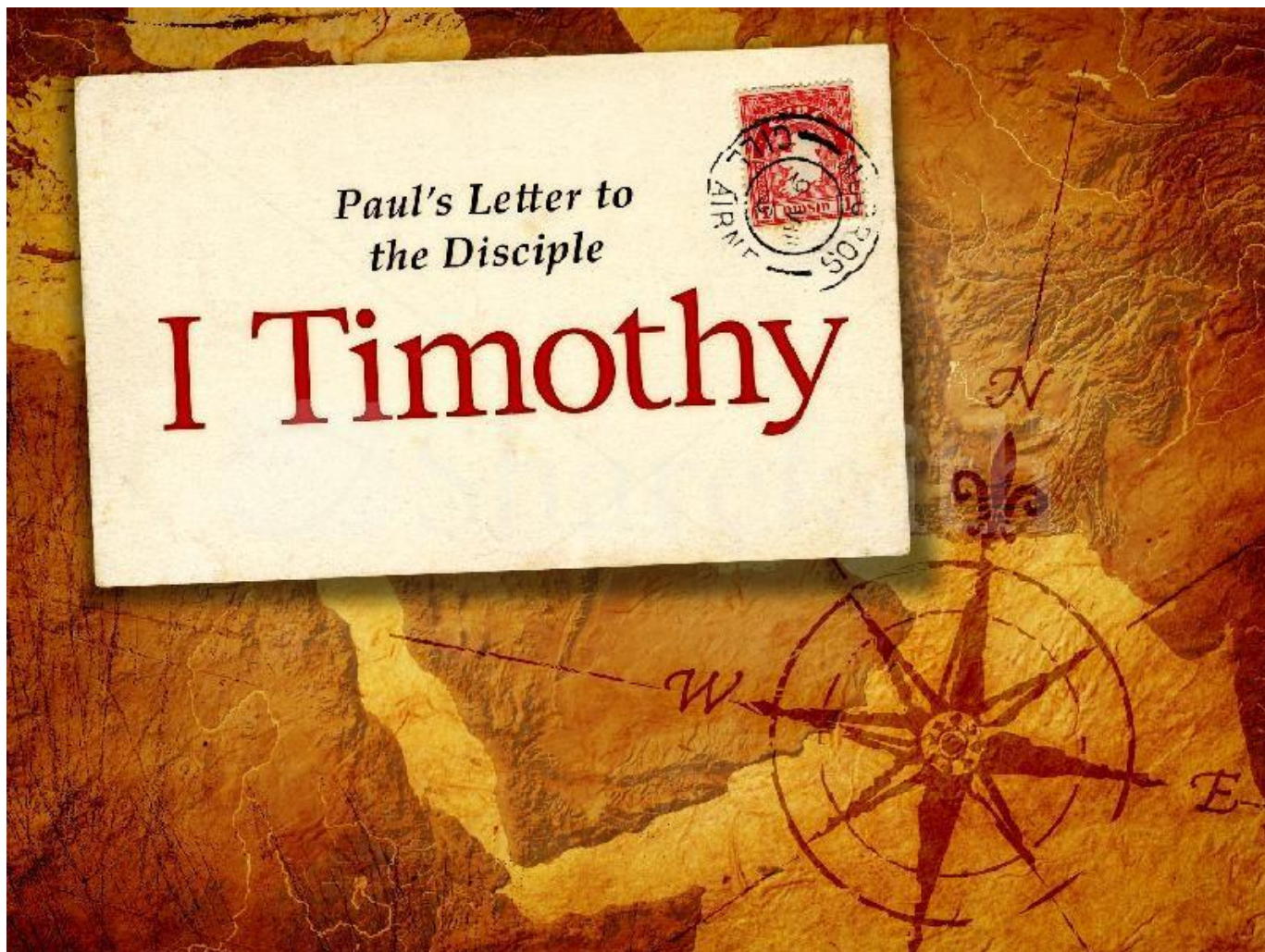




6 studies from Paul's First Epistle to Timothy

Please Note the following:

1. It is not necessary to answer the Bible Study Questions before meeting together for the Bible Study. Some people like to prepare beforehand whereas others like to think through the Bible Passages in a group setting. It is also not compulsory to answer ALL the questions.
2. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you.
3. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information **MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL** and **NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP**

Introduction

The Apostle Paul writes to his protégé Timothy and imparts instructions for Church Leadership and Godly Living.

Date written: AD 62-64 (up to 65).

Written from Macedonia or Greece after Paul's first Roman imprisonment and addressed to Timothy who was leading the church in Ephesus.

1 Timothy was originally intended for Timothy, a young pastor, but also for the broader church in Ephesus. Its focus on church leadership and false teaching makes it relevant to leaders and congregations in any era.

Paul: As the mentor to Timothy, Paul provides spiritual guidance and leadership advice. He emphasizes the importance of sound doctrine (core Christian beliefs) and godly living.

Timothy: A young pastor in Ephesus, Timothy is tasked with overseeing the Church and correcting false teachings. Paul encourages Timothy to lead with confidence and integrity.

False Teachers: Although not named, these individuals are prominent, as Paul warns against their influence in spreading incorrect doctrines. They are depicted as undermining the faith with false teachings and greed!

Summary

After Paul was released from prison in Rome, he discovered that leaders in the Ephesian church had distorted the genuine message they had first heard from Paul himself. They had misapplied certain Jewish practices and borrowed some others from the philosophies of the day. They restricted certain foods, forbade marriage and stressed controversial speculations as the path to spiritual progress. At the same time they tolerated immoral behaviour. So Paul sent his young co-worker Timothy to Ephesus and wrote him this letter, which he was expected to share with the church. Paul hoped it would give Timothy the power and influence to set things in order until Paul could get to Ephesus himself.

Paul's focus is on what true leadership in the church looks like. This would help the Ephesians reject those who weren't qualified and replace them with those who were! Paul includes a special warning towards the end of his letter about the dangers of greed, which seemed to be at the root of their problems.

Throughout the letter Paul uses the phrase **Christ¹ Jesus** – that is, **Messiah Jesus** – which emphasizes the kingly rule of Jesus. This helped remind the church that Jesus is the real leader and is the clearest model of authentic leadership!

In chapters 1-3 Paul discusses warnings against false teaching and provides guidelines for church leadership. He also emphasizes the qualities of leaders, stressing the importance of character over status.

In chapters 4-6. Paul addresses personal conduct, godliness, and responsibilities of church members, including specific instructions for different groups like widows and elders. Paul's teaching encourages a community centered around mutual respect and service.

Key Themes

Sound Doctrine² – Paul stresses the importance of holding to correct teaching in the church. This ensures that the foundation of faith remains strong and true for all believers. By adhering to sound doctrine, the church can effectively combat false teachings and maintain its integrity.

Church Leadership – Paul outlines the qualifications for church leaders, such as elders and deacons. His guidelines emphasize the need for spiritual maturity and moral character in those who lead. These qualifications help to foster a healthy church environment, promoting accountability and guidance for all.

Godly Living – Paul instructs believers to live moral and upright lives, demonstrating their faith through their actions. This encourages believers to live in a way that

¹ Christ (Greek) and Messiah (Hebrew) both mean the same thing – God's chosen anointed one!

² Doctrine is the formal set of Christian beliefs and teachings that the Church of our Lord Jesus follows.

reflects Christ's love and righteousness. Such living serves as a powerful witness to others and draws them towards the message of the Gospel.

Symbolism and Imagery		
The Good Fight	Sound Teaching as a Trusted Deposit	Physical Training versus Godliness
Paul uses the metaphor of a soldier fighting the "good fight" of faith, symbolizing perseverance and dedication to Christian living. This imagery motivates believers to stay focused and diligent in their spiritual journey.	Paul describes the Gospel as a precious deposit entrusted to Timothy, symbolizing the responsibility to safeguard the truth. This highlights the weight of carrying and sharing the true message of Christ with others.	Paul compares physical training with godliness, emphasizing that spiritual discipline has eternal value. This metaphor shows the importance of prioritizing spiritual growth over temporary earthly matters.

Practical Application

Leadership in the Church – Paul's advice on choosing leaders based on character and faith can be applied to how we select and evaluate leaders in our community today.

Living with Integrity – Timothy's example encourages young leaders to live with integrity and confidence no matter what their age or experience.

Guarding Against False Teachings – The call to protect the church from false doctrine is a reminder for Christians today, to stay grounded in Biblical truth and be discerning in their beliefs.

Study 1 – Guard the Gospel and Proclaim God’s Grace

1 Timothy 1:1-20

(Ian Warrell - Sermon on 6th Sept 2026)

Background Reading: Read Acts 7:54-8:3; Acts 9:1-19; Acts 13:9

1. Who was Saul (Paul), and what do these passages tell us about his life and his encounter with Jesus?

Background Reading: Acts 16:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:1-5

2. Who was Timothy, and what do these passages tell us about his background?

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11

1. How does Paul describe himself? (v1)
2. Who is Paul writing to? And what is the greeting? (v2)
3. Where is Timothy and what does “*stay there in Ephesus*” imply? (v3)
4. What teaching and activities is Timothy to oppose? (vv3-4) – See also, 1 Timothy 4:7 and Titus 1:14; 3:9.

5. What is the goal of Paul's instruction? (v5) What had some people turned aside to (vv6-7)
6. What does verses 8-11 teach us about the proper purpose of God's law, and how does that point us to the gospel?

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17

7. How does Paul describe God's grace towards him? What does this reveal about Paul's attitude towards his past? (vv12-14)
8. Why is Paul's conversion and calling such an encouragement to him—and to us? (vv12-16)
9. . What is the “***trustworthy saying***” Paul mentions, and how does Paul's own life demonstrate its truth? (vv15-16)
10. Why do you think Paul moves from describing Christ's mercy in verses 12–16 to praising God in verse 17?

Read 1 Timothy 1:18-20

11. Why does Paul remind Timothy of the prophecies previously made about him? (v18; cf. 1 Timothy 4:14)

12. What is Timothy charged to do? (v19)

13. What happens when faith and a good conscience are rejected? What do Hymenaeus and Alexander teach us? (vv19-20)

14. **Ponder:** What kinds of teaching or distractions can take our focus away from the gospel today?

15. **Ponder:** What might be the consequences of false teaching in a Church?

16. **Ponder:** How can we guard ourselves and our church against being distracted from “*the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel*”? (vv10-11)

17. How do the following passages relate to **1 Timothy 1**?
Exodus 34:6-7

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Deuteronomy 13:1-5

Psalm 51:1-17

Psalm 133

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of 1 Timothy 1?



What light globe moment did you have?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus and for your grace to us in sending our Lord Jesus. Thank you for the Apostle Paul's testimony of your grace to Him and the encouragement it is to us. Help us to be bold in confronting and opposing false teaching. Enable us and equip us through your Word and Spirit to fight the battle well, holding on to faith and good conscience. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Study 2 – Instructions on Public Worship

1 Timothy 2:1-15

(Geoff Davidson - Sermon on 13th Sept 2026)

Background Reading: Read Genesis 1:26-28

1. What does this passage teach us about the value, dignity and God-given role of both men and women?

Background Reading: Read Genesis 2:18-25

2. What does this passage teach about God's purpose for men and women?

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-15

3. What types of prayers does Paul encourage, and for whom are they to be offered? (vv1-2)
4. What kind of life does Paul want Christians to be able to live? (v2b)
5. Why are these prayers pleasing to God? What does God desire for all people? (vv3-4)
6. Who is the mediator between God and humankind? (v5)

7. What is the “**testimony**” that has been given “**at the proper time**”? (v6)
8. How does Paul describe his calling and ministry? What has God appointed him to do? (v7)
9. What does Paul want men to do? What attitude should accompany their prayers? (v8)
10. What does Paul want women to emphasize in the way they present themselves, and what does he say should be their priority? (vv9-10)
11. What does Paul say women are to do? What does Paul mean by learning “**in quietness and full submission**” (v11)
12. What reasons does Paul give for his instruction in verses 12–14? How do verses 13–14 connect with Genesis 2–3?

13. Verse 15 is difficult to understand. What are the possible meanings of “***but women will be saved through childbearing***”? How does the rest of the verse help us understand what Paul means??

14. How do the following passages relate to **1 Timothy 2**?

Genesis 3:1-19 - How does the account of the Fall help us understand Paul's reference to Adam and Eve in **1 Timothy 2:13–14**?

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - How does “the LORD is one” help us understand Paul's statement that “there is one God” in **1 Timothy 2:5**? What does this tell us about the importance of Christ as the one mediator?

Isaiah 45:20-23 - What does **Isaiah 45:20–23** reveal about God's concern for the nations, and how does this connect with Paul's call to pray for “all people”?

Ezekiel 18:23, 32 - What do these verses reveal about God's attitude towards sinners? How does this help us understand **1 Timothy 2:3–4**?

15. **Ponder:** How might the instructions in 1 Timothy 2 apply to public worship today?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Timothy 2?



What light globe moment did you have?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you, that you created men and women in your image; that you desire us to pray for all people; that you desire all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth; and thank you that Jesus is the only mediator between God and humankind. Thank you that you are a God of order and desire order in worship, with men and women having complementary roles. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Study 3 – God’s Household: Pastoral Oversight

1 Timothy 3:1-16

(Geoff Davidson - Sermon on 20th Sept 2026)

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1. What does Paul say is a “*trustworthy saying*” and what does he mean by “*whoever aspires to be an overseer*”? (v1)

2. **Ponder:** Given what Paul has written so far in his letter to Timothy, why is having godly overseers important for the church?

Note: In the **New Testament**, *overseer* and *elder* can refer to the **same church leadership role**, viewed from different angles:

- **Elder** (Greek - *presbyteros*) — emphasises the person as a mature leader.
- **Overseer** (Greek - *episkopos*) — emphasises the responsibility of supervising or overseeing the church.
- **Pastor/shepherd** (Greek - *poimēn*) — emphasises the responsibility of caring for and feeding God's people.

You can see these ideas brought together in **Acts 20:17, 28**, where Paul calls for the **elders** of the Ephesian church (v17) and then tells them that the Holy Spirit has made them **overseers** (v28) and that they are to **shepherd** God's church.

3. What are the qualifications of an **overseer** listed in verses 2 to 7?
 - a. Verse 2 – what qualities?

 - b. Verse 3 – what attitudes and behaviors must an overseer avoid?

- c. Verse 4 – how should an overseer manage His household
- d. Verse 5 – what is the reasoning here? Why?
- e. Verse 6 – what is the reasoning here? Why?
- f. Verse 7 - what is the reasoning here? Why?

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13

4. What are the qualifications of a **deacon** listed in verses 8 to 13?

- a. Verse 8
- b. Verse 9
- c. Verse 10
- d. Verse 11 – the Greek expression in verse 11 can be understood as “**women**” or “**wives.**” Christians differ over whether Paul is referring to female deacons or to the wives of male deacons. In either case, what qualities does Paul require?

e. Verse 12

f. Verse 13

5. **Ponder:** Looking at the qualifications for overseers and deacons, what does God appear to value most in those who serve and lead in his church—ability, position, personality or character? Why?

Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16

6. What does Paul hope to do, and why does he give Timothy these instructions even though he hopes to come soon? (vv14-15)
7. How does Paul describe the church as “***God's household***”? What does this tell us about the nature and importance of the church? (v15)
8. What is “***the mystery from which true godliness springs***” (v.16), and how does Paul’s description of Christ explain the source of true godliness?
9. **Ponder:** What can the whole church learn from the qualifications in this chapter, even if we are not overseers or deacons?

10. How do the following passages relate to **1 Timothy 3**?

Exodus 18:13-27

Numbers 11:10-17

Mark 10:42-45

Titus 1:5-9

1 Peter 5:1-4

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **1 Timothy 3**?



What light globe moment did you have?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for Jesus' church and for the way you define clearly in your Word what pastoral oversight should look like in Jesus' church. Enable and equip Jesus' church to have: godly leaders and faithful servants who keep Christ at the centre of every aspect of your church. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Study 4 – Being a Good Servant of Christ

1 Timothy 4:1-16

(Sermon on 27th Sept 2026)

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-16

1. What does the Holy Spirit warn will happen “in later times”? What will cause some people to depart from the faith? (v1)
2. What characterizes the people who promote these teachings? What does Paul mean by “***hypocritical liars***”? (v2)
3. What specific teachings does Paul identify, and why might these teachings appear religious or spiritual? (v3)
4. What does Paul teach about everything God has created? How are God's gifts to be received? (vv4-5)
5. What does Paul say is the antidote to these false teachings? (vv6–7)
6. **Ponder:** What does Paul mean by “***train yourself to be godly***”? (v7)

7. What is the value of physical training compared with training for godliness? What does Paul mean when he says that godliness is valuable “***for both the present life and also for the life to come***”? (vv8–10)

8. What does Paul tell Timothy to teach, and how is Timothy to set an example for believers? (vv11-12)

9. In verse 12 Paul tells Timothy to set an example in five areas: ***speech, conduct, love, faith*** and ***purity***? What might each of these look like in the life of a Christian today?

Speech

Conduct

Love

Faith

Purity

10. What instructions does Paul give Timothy about Scripture and his ministry? (v13) Do these instructions apply to us today?
11. What is Timothy not to neglect? Why? (v14)
12. Why does Paul tell Timothy to practice these things and immerse himself in them? What does he expect to happen? (v15)
13. What does Paul mean by “***watch your life and doctrine closely***”? Why are both important? What might that look like in your life? (v16)
14. How do the following passages relate to **1 Timothy 4**?

Genesis 1:26-31

Psalms 119:9-16

Proverbs 4:20-27

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Timothy 4?



What light globe moment did you have?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for your good gifts and for the truth of your Word. Help us to guard the gospel, grow in godliness, and set a good example in our words and actions. Give us wisdom to recognize false teaching and strength to remain faithful to you. May we keep a close watch on our lives and our teaching, and point others to Jesus. In His Name, we pray. Amen.

Study 5 – Social Responsibilities: Widows, Elders & Slaves 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2a
(Sermon on 4th Oct 2026)

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2

1. How does Paul instruct Timothy to relate to older men, younger men, older women and younger women? (vv1–2)
2. What does this teach us about how Christians should treat one another within God's family? Note: the words “**brothers**” and “**sisters**”

Read 1 Timothy 5:3-16

3. Who does Paul say should be given proper recognition and care? (v3)
4. Who does Paul say has the first responsibility for caring for widows? (v4)
5. What is different about the widow who “**puts her hope in God**” and the widow who “**lives for pleasure**”? (vv5–6)
6. Why does Paul give Timothy these instructions, and what does he want him to teach the believers? (v7)

7. Verse 8 contains a very strong warning. What does Paul say about those who do not provide for their relatives? Why do you think he takes this responsibility so seriously?
8. What additional requirements does Paul give concerning widows who are put on the list? (vv9–10)
9. Why does Paul advise against enrolling younger widows? (vv11–15)
10. What does this passage teach us about the church's responsibility to care for people in need, while also recognizing the responsibility of families?

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-25

11. Which elders are considered worthy of “***double honor***” and why? (v17)
12. What do verses 18 and 19 teach about the treatment and protection of church leaders?
13. How should an elder who is sinning be dealt with? (v20)

14. Why does Paul insist that Timothy act without partiality or favouritism? (v21)
15. What does Paul mean by “***Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands***”? (v22)
16. What do you think Paul is saying to Timothy in verse 23? What does this verse tell us about the practical and personal nature of Paul's relationship with Timothy?
17. What do verses 24–25 teach us about the importance of taking time to assess a person's character?

Read 1 Timothy 6:1-2

18. How are Christian slaves instructed to treat their masters? (vv1–2)
19. Why does Paul say that their conduct is important, particularly when their master is also a believer? (v2)
20. What principle can we take from 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2a about living out our Christian faith in difficult relationships or circumstances?

21. **Ponder:** What responsibilities do we have towards elderly, vulnerable or lonely people within our church family?
22. How can a church balance generous care for people in need with encouraging families to take responsibility for their own?
23. How do the following passages relate to **1 Timothy 5:1-6:2a**?

Leviticus 19:32

Deuteronomy 10:17–19

Deuteronomy 24:17–22

Deuteronomy 25:4

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **1 Timothy 5:1-6:2a**?



What light globe moment did you have?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you that you are the same yesterday, today and forever. Thank you for your compassion, justice and mercy especially for the vulnerable, the weak, widows and the fatherless. Help us to have a heart of love and compassion and to provide for the needs of those who are most vulnerable. Thank you that in Jesus we have someone who showed love, compassion and mercy. Help us to imitate Him. In His Name, we pray. Amen.

Study 6 – Godliness with Contentment

1 Timothy 6:2b-21

(Sermon on 11th Oct 2026)

Read 1 Timothy 6:2b-5

1. How does Paul describe those who teach false doctrines? What is their attitude towards the teaching of Jesus Christ? (vv2b–4)
2. What does Paul say false teaching produces in a church? (vv4–5)
3. Why do you think Paul connects false teaching with an unhealthy interest in controversy and quarrelling?

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10

4. What does Paul mean when he says, “**godliness with contentment is great gain**”? (v6)
5. What reasons does Paul give for being content with what we have? (vv7–8)
6. What warning does Paul give about those who want to get rich? (vv9–10)

7. Verse 10 is sometimes quoted as “***money is the root of all evil***”. What does Paul actually say? What’s the difference? What’s the danger he identifies?

8. **Ponder:** What are some ways that the love of money or possessions can affect our relationship with God and with other people?

Read 1 Timothy 6:11-16

9. What does Paul tell Timothy to ***flee*** from, and what does he tell him to ***pursue***? (v11)

10. What does Paul mean by “***fight the good fight of the faith***” and “***take hold of the eternal life***”? (v12)

11. In verses 13–16, what reasons does Paul give Timothy for remaining faithful to his calling?

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

12. What instructions does Paul give to those who are rich in this present world? What’s the purpose of these instructions?(vv17–19)

13. What does Paul mean by “***taking hold of the life that is truly life***”? (v19)

Read 1 Timothy 6:20-21

14. What does Paul mean when he tells Timothy to “***guard what has been entrusted to your care***”? (v20)

15. What does Paul mean when he says that some who profess to have “***knowledge***” have “***departed from the faith***”? What warning does this give us about pursuing ideas that draw us away from the gospel? (vv20-21)

Reflection Questions

16. What are the things we are most tempted to put our security and hope in rather than God?
17. Paul tells Timothy to “***flee***” some things and “***pursue***” others (v11). What might we need to flee from, and what do we need to pursue more deliberately in our Christian lives?
18. How do the following passages relate to **1 Timothy 6:2b-21**?

Deuteronomy 8:10-18

Proverbs 30:7-9

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Philippians 4:10-13

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **1 Timothy 6:2b-21**?



What light globe moment did you have?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to flee from false teaching; the love of wealth and possessions; and instead pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Help us to become content in each and every situation whether we have plenty or very little. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.