

Phillip D. Jensen

1 & 2 Timothy

Guard the Gospel



 7-Session Bible Study

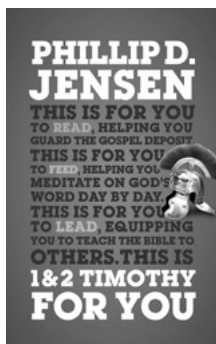
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1 & 2 Timothy

Guard the Gospel



📖 **7-Session Bible Study**



1 & 2 Timothy For You

If you are reading *1 & 2 Timothy For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *1 & 2 Timothy For You*:

Study One > Ch 1-2 Study Five > Ch 8-9
Study Two > Ch 3-4 Study Six > Ch 9-10
Study Three > Ch 5-6 Study Seven > Ch 11
Study Four > Ch 7

Find out more about *1 & 2 Timothy For You* at:
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1 & 2 Timothy: Guard the Gospel

A Good Book Guide

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Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God’s word as “a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we’ve discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They’re perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let’s take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you’re invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you’ve seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven’t got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you’ll find a **Leader’s Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God’s light-giving word.

Why Study 1 & 2 Timothy?

The two letters Paul wrote to his protégé Timothy were inspired by God for our learning. As Paul talks to his closest colleague, these letters give us a deep insight into the thinking of the great missionary apostle to the nations.

Nowhere can we get closer to Paul's mind than when he's talking to his true child in the faith, Timothy. While the two men were often separated, as they were when Paul wrote these letters, they also travelled together and spent time with each other (2 Corinthians 1:1; Colossians 1:1). And their closeness is nowhere more evident than in 2 Timothy, when Paul is coming to the end of his missionary endeavours and wishes to pass the baton on to his "son".

Yet these letters were not for Timothy alone—they reveal God's plan for our lives as well. Paul wrote 1 Timothy with a consciousness of a wider audience than that one man; and even the more private 2 Timothy contains the apostle's teaching, to be handed down to others who will in turn teach still others (2 Timothy 2:2).

The context of 1 and 2 Timothy is the Christian mission. Christianity is missionary at heart. Jesus himself was on a mission: he was sent by his Father and "came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15).

All Christians are missionaries. A missionary is not somebody who travels overseas. The essence is not the travel but the purpose-directed life of taking the gospel to others. To be a disciple of Jesus is to be a missionary.

1 and 2 Timothy are classic examples of missionary letters. In 1 Timothy Paul tells Timothy how to conduct himself in Paul's temporary absence (1 Timothy 3:14-15). In 2 Timothy Paul tells Timothy how to succeed him in the mission after he has gone (2 Timothy 4:1-8).

Because all Christians are engaged in the mission of Christ, the letters of the great missionary apostle, Paul, are obviously important to us. In particular, his advice and instructions to his closest colleague are invaluable in framing our own lives as missionaries, as we seek, like Timothy, to guard the gospel.



1 & 2 Timothy 49-68 AD

- c. 49-52 — Timothy joins Paul's mission team; a church is planted in Ephesus
- c. 60 — Paul writes his letter to the Ephesians from prison in Rome
- c. 60-62 — Paul is released; he sends Timothy to lead the church in Ephesus
- c. 63-66 — Paul writes 1 Timothy
- c. 66-67 — Paul, in prison in Rome again, writes 2 Timothy
- c. 68 — Paul is executed

1

Christ Came to Save

1 Timothy 1:1-17

Talkabout

1. Imagine writing to a younger Christian living in a different country. Think of three things you might want to tell them.

Investigate

 Read 1 Timothy 1:1-7

DICTIONARY

Apostle (v 1): “apostle” means “sent”.
The apostles were sent by Jesus to continue his mission to save sinners.

Doctrine (v 3): teaching.

Genealogy (v 4): line of descent from an ancestor.

2. How does Paul describe himself (v 1) and Timothy (v 2)?

- What does this tell you about these two men?

3. What does Paul want Timothy to do (v 3-4)?

- How does this compare with the reason why Paul writes his letter? (See 1 Timothy 3:14-15.)

Apply

4. Increasingly today, any opinion that may divide or even cause any offence in society is silenced. But Paul says the aim of his charge to Timothy is *love* (v 5). So how can we lovingly challenge false teaching when we come across it?

5. Paul warns Timothy about “vain discussion”, when people are without any real understanding of what’s being said (v 7). It’s good to ask questions as we discuss the Bible with others, but how can we avoid that becoming pointless discussion?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

When are you particularly tempted to get involved with vain discussions (either directly with others or online)?

How can you avoid getting into such situations?

Investigate

 Read 1 Timothy 1:8-17

DICTIONARY

Blasphemer (v 13): someone who speaks in an evil way about God.

6. Paul says that the law is good (v 8). Who is the law not for (v 9)?

7. Verses 9-10 list the reasons why a lawless world needs the law. This list largely follows the pattern of the Ten Commandments, but it uses strong and extreme examples for each of them. Fill in the gaps in this table:

The Ten Commandments (from Exodus 20)	Examples of lawless behaviour from 1 Timothy 1:9-17
No other gods (v 3)	
No idols (v 4-6)	Sinners (v 9)
No blasphemy (v 7)	
Keep the rest day holy (v 8-11)	

The Ten Commandments (from Exodus 20)	Examples of lawless behaviour from 1 Timothy 1:9-17
Honour parents (v 12)	
No killing (v 13)	
No adultery (v 14)	The sexually immoral (v 10)
No stealing (v 15)	
No false witness (v 16)	
No coveting (v 17)	(Not included in ch. 1, but Paul does address greed in 1 Timothy 6:9-10.)

Explore More | OPTIONAL

Paul says that the law is good (v 8).

- How would you answer the following two wrong views of the law?
 - We don't need the law because we have the Spirit. (See Galatians 5:16.)
 - We don't need the law because we are justified by grace. (See Galatians 5:13-14.)

8. How does Paul describe himself in verses 13 and 15?

- Why was such a view crucial for him then, and why is it crucial for us now, in order to receive the gospel (v 15)?

9. Twice in verses 12-16, Paul says that he "received mercy". What reason does he give each time?

- v 13

- v 16

- Is this what you expected? Why / why not?

10. When Paul was still known as Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-2), he didn't believe in Jesus, and he hated those who followed him. How did Jesus change Saul (v 14)?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Paul received mercy because of Christ's "perfect patience" (v 16). Looking back at your own life, how was Jesus patient with you before you came to faith? Or, if you can't remember a time when you didn't love and follow Jesus, how has he patiently enabled you to grow in your love for him?

Think of someone who doesn't yet know Jesus. Pray that Jesus will patiently bring them to himself. Pray that you will play your part in sharing his gospel with them.

Apply

11. List two people you want to share the gospel with. In each case, do you think they need to receive mercy because of ignorance (they genuinely believe that their views on Jesus are correct) or defiance (having heard the gospel, they choose to turn their backs on God)?

12. For each person named in question 11, write down one thing you will do this week to help them move on in their understanding or to challenge them in their defiance.

Pray

"To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Timothy 1:17)

Take each section of verse 17 in turn and use it to praise and thank God.