

WITNESS – Reaching out to others
(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)

When travelling by car the open road lies before you, but the progress you make on your journey is governed by the speed limit.

Life also imposes restrictions on us. Circumstances appear to limit our responses to Jesus' command to "Go!" (Matthew 28.19)

Job, family and caring commitments keep us tied to specific locations and limit our time. Are we, then, unavailable for the Great Commission?

Consider the things that "restrict" you.
 Pray together in twos / threes, asking God to open your eyes to the opportunities available to you in this current season of your life.

1 TIMOTHY

True and False

1 Timothy 4:1–16

Purpose: To draw out the key elements of real Christian ministry, and help people discern it from the counterfeit.

WELCOME – Breaking the ice
(Aim for 10 minutes)

Is there an older Christian in your family or church who has given you good advice? What was it?

WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord
(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)

Suffering at injustice will not continue indefinitely. God has set a time for judgement. Every "wrong" will be put tight. Jesus will ride out as judge and nothing and no one will be able to stand in his way. Our knowledge of the gospel means we are perhaps more familiar with Jesus as a baby, Jesus as a man and Jesus as our crucified and resurrected Saviour. Jesus as judge can be uncharted territory.

Think of the suffering and injustice in the world today. What makes you angry? What really grieves you? What sickens you about life on the planet? Talk about these things together.

Read Revelation 19.11-16. Now worship Jesus the rider on the white charger, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The one who will put a decisive end to everything that opposes God's reign. Finish your prayers by reading revelation 21.3-4.

WORD – Applying the truth
(Aim for 40 – 45 minutes)

With this chapter Paul's strategy for Timothy starts to emerge clearly. Timothy's mission was to deal with the false teachers. Paul sees, however, that fighting false teachers with ideology alone is fruitless. The real mission is that the church be healthy so that Jesus Christ is communicated through it. So he spoke of prayer and leadership first. With that foundation in place, Timothy will be able to turn his attention directly to the problems at hand.

1. Read 1 Timothy 4:1–16. “Later times” means later than Paul's ministry. This time was at hand for Timothy. Read Paul's prophecy in Acts 20:29–30. What is Paul predicting?

2. What is the nature of the teachings described in verses 2–5?

3. When you think of “false teaching,” do you think of teachers who are morally too loose or too strict? Explain.

Which kind were these? Why?

④ Who are the modern examples of such leaders?

5. What was Timothy's personal life to be like (vv. 6–16)?

How was it to differ from that of the false teachers?

⑥ Why do you think you are motivated at some times and not motivated at other times for training in godliness (v. 7)?

7. What instructions is Timothy given for his public ministry (vv. 6, 11, 13, 16)?

8. Timothy was probably about forty years old at this point, and apparently some people thought he was too young. Paul encourages Timothy by citing a number of resources which are available to Timothy. What are they?

9. What results did Paul tell Timothy he could expect (v. 16)?

Why do you think Paul was so confident about this?

⑩ Timothy's primary ministry was teaching. What in this passage encourages you to develop and use your ministry gifts?