

## Small Group Outline

(1 Timothy 1:1 – 11)

### Opening

Start your group by checking in with one another. Share any updates or summaries of each other's summer. Ask God to meet with you during your group study of 1 Timothy.

I. Paul's letter to Timothy is called a Pastoral Epistle. What do we know about Timothy? Where is he pastoring? What is Paul's reason for writing according to 1 Tim. 3:14 – 15? What issues or ideas come to mind when you think about conduct in churches today?

II. Read 1 Tim. 1:3 – 5. What "false doctrines" might Paul have been referring to? (Note v. 6 – 7). In what sense can a pastor command people in his church? Any examples? What "false doctrines" threaten our churches today?

III. Read 1 Tim. 1:8 – 11. Paul tells Timothy to differentiate between the "righteous" and lawbreakers". Review the list of sins recorded in verse 9 – 10. Suggest opposites for each example (i.e. religious for irreligious). How does the gospel transform a sinner? Be specific. When you hear "sound doctrine" (v. 10) what do you think of? (As opposed to false doctrines (v. 3)). Are we teaching "sound doctrine" at Bethel Gilead? How can you be sure? What difference should sound doctrine make in people's lives?

Conclusion: This fall we will study the book of 1 Timothy. Our goal is to carefully define leadership and to call our people to aspire to lead others. Close your time by praying for our church. Ask God to work each of us in a way that we will reject false doctrines and live out our calling as modern followers of Jesus Christ.

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