

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

(1 Tim. 4:11 – 16)

Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer. Ask God to work in your group to deepen commitment to him in the life of each group member.

- I. Read 1 Tim. 4:11, 13, 15. Paul has delegated authority to Timothy and put him in charge over the church at Ephesus. He's a kind of "commander in chief" – Note: (1 Tim. 1:3, 5; 6:17 -18) In what sense is the Christian life following commandments? What are the main commands of Christ – (Mt. 28:20; Jn. 14:15). What does our obedience reveal? Why do Christians sometimes disobey Christ's commands?
- II. Read 1 Tim. 4:12. Timothy's life must speak louder than his words. What kinds of things should be exemplary of a Christian leader in their Speech? Conduct? Love? Faith? Purity? What happens in a church when the leader's lives are good examples? In contrast, what happens when a leader sets a poor example?
- III. Read 1 Tim. 4:15 – 16. Paul tells Timothy that his life will directly influence others. What kind of progress would others possibly see in him? What does progress look like for us as individuals? As a congregation? What is diligence and how might this be a key to progress in the Christian life? Any examples? Note (Gal. 6:9; Rev. 2:1 – 3).

*Finally, in verse 16, Paul reemphasizes the point. What does "life" signify? What does "doctrine" signify? How does someone persevere in life and doctrine? According to this verse, what is at stake here?

Close your group by praying for greater diligence in obedience to Christ. Pray for steady progress (growth) in our personal lives and in our church.

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