

Small Group Discussion Guide

(1 Timothy 5:1 – 15)

Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer. Be sure to thank God for good things he is doing in your lives.

- I. Read 1 Tim. 5:1. Paul previously told Timothy to set an example for the church in 1 Tim. 4:12. In what way is good etiquette a good representation of our faith? Notice the family style relationships Timothy is to cultivate with other believers. Do we have that at Bethel Gilead? How can we strengthen these kinds of brother – sister relationships?
- II. Now read 1 Tim. 5:2 – 16. Why might the ministry to widows have been a big deal at that time? Note (Ac. 6:1, Jas. 1:27). According to Paul (v. 9 – 10), who should qualify for assistance? Who should not qualify? What do we do if someone takes advantage of Christian charity? Do we have this problem with our local food bank?
- III. Now notice the Christian obligation to care for our family. Read again 1 Tim. 5:4, 8, 16. In what way has social security and government programs supplanted the church and the family? Where is the right balance for us today?
- IV. Finally, read 1 Tim. 5:7, 14. And 6:1. Why is Paul so concerned about appearances? Whose reputation is at stake? In what ways could bad Christian examples open us up for slander? What does this do for our witness for Christ? (Note vs. 15).

Close your group by praying for those with physical needs in our congregation. Ask God to show us how to better help those who are unable to help themselves. Watch for practical answer to our prayer.