

Small Group Questions

Discovering Life In The Kingdom – Week 1

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11

What was your takeaway from the message Sunday?

Big Idea: This epistle was penned by apostle Paul and given to Paul's protege, Timothy. Likely it was written after the events recorded in Acts 28. Timothy was the leader of the church in Ephesus, and Paul instructs him on the importance of doctrine, leadership, and order in the church. In this series we will discover life in the kingdom of God.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why does Paul make such an issue of the fact that he is an apostle? What is an apostle and why were these men so important to the church? See Luke 6:12-13; Acts 9:15-16; 22:14-15; 1 Corinthians 4:1; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 1:11-12.
2. Read 1 Timothy 1:3-4. Relying on just these two verses, describe what was going on in the church in Ephesus at this time.
3. How would you define doctrine and why is it important? What would you say are the most important doctrinal beliefs we hold to as Christians? How does doctrine help a church?
4. What does “sound doctrine” (v. 10) mean to you? Who determines what would constitute sound doctrine as compared to what would be described as a false doctrine (v. 3)?
5. What about Timothy marked him for such an important position as the leader of the church in Ephesus (he is mentioned in 9 of Paul’s Epistles)? See Acts 16:1-5; 17:14-15; 18:5; 19:22; 20:4; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10. What do we learn from Timothy about selecting church leaders today?
6. What would have qualified a person to be a teacher in the church in Ephesus? (vs. 7). What would qualify a person to be a teacher in a church like Bethany today?
7. **Why does this matter to me?** How would you say these first 11 verses of 1 Timothy chapter 1 challenge you to live differently during the coming week? Will it change a belief, an attitude, or a behavior?

Pray as a group that we would live out the love described here in 1 Timothy 1 and point people to the glory of an amazing God.