

1 TIMOTHY



THE GOOD
FIGHT

“Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”

(1 Timothy 3:14–15)

The Good Fight – 1 Timothy

Bad theology kills and good theology is something worth fighting for. What you believe about God (your theology) will ultimately determine what you believe about good and evil and will determine the choices you make in life. 1 Timothy is a letter, written by the apostle Paul, to a young pastor called Timothy who served in a church in the Greek town of Ephesus. In this letter Paul charges Timothy with the difficult task of confronting leaders who have bad theology and presents a wholistic vision of what God's church should be.

The letter is divided up into four main sections of encouragement and rich theology. In Chapter 1, Paul confronts the bad theology going around the church with good teaching about Jesus and the grand story of the whole Bible. He then gives some instructions to the church in Ephesus designed to encourage peace and harmony in the community so that they can get on with the vital work of knowing Jesus and making Jesus known. The next section of good theology encourages the church to focus on caring for widows, rebuke drunkenness among some Christian men, and to work together as family groups to champion the good news of Jesus. Chapter 6 is Paul's commission for Timothy to keep fighting the good fight by confronting bad theology and living simply: in the footsteps of Jesus.

Good theology brings life. The church should be known for its integrity and service to the poor out of its devotion to King Jesus.

As you read through this book and complete the studies my hope is that your love for Jesus and for good theology increases. The good fight that we're called to in 1 Timothy is not one of violence and intimidation: it's one of love and self-control. May the Holy Spirit flow through you as you read this book and apply it to your life. May the example of Jesus and the commissions of this book, which still apply to us today, spur you on in Godly living and faith filled obedience to God. May God almighty bless you richly as you read this book and may He equip you to fight the good fight of the faith.

Grace be with you all.

Rev'd David Browne
Dalby Anglican

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

WEEK 1 - HOLD FAST

Warming Up

What sort of things are worth 'fighting for' in life? What sort of things are not?

Read: 1 Timothy 1

1. Who wrote this letter and who is it addressed to?
2. What are some of the main points made in this first chapter?
3. Doctrine means 'teaching'. What do vv.3-7 tell us about false doctrines and the goal of true doctrine? How can we guard against false doctrines today?
4. How does the law of God and the grace of God help us understand vv.8-11?
5. What do you think is meant in v.9 when it says: '*the law is not made for the righteous but for sinners and rebels*' (NIV translation)?
6. How does the author of this letter's own story tie in with his message in chapter 1?
7. In vv.15-17 does the author consider himself a righteous person? How does your perspective of yourself affect your relationship with God?
8. In vv.18-19 we hear about fighting the good fight. What does this fight look like for Timothy?
9. Why does following Jesus sometimes seem like a battle? What does 'fighting the good fight' look like for us today?
10. If you were to pick a favourite line in this chapter what you it be and why?

Rubber hits the road

How can you 'fight the good fight' in the week ahead? Write down three things you are fighting for (e.g., family, workmates, my neighbours). Write down three things that might come against you. Write down three things you need to do.

Prayer

Loving Lord Jesus, please help me to fight the good fight of this faith this week. Thank you that you are King over all things and that in you there is hope and peace. Help me to love like I have been loved and share your goodness with others. **Amen.**

Family Time

Watch: 'God's Story: Timothy' (Crossroads Kids' Club)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4GSFluzBSA>

Talk: Who was Timothy? Was he old or young when Paul wrote to him? Does God only care about kids or only older people? How can kids help in God's church?

Do: 'Follow the leader'

You will need: Just yourselves

Paul encouraged Timothy to follow him just like he followed Jesus. He also encouraged Timothy not to let people look down on him because he was young.

Start this week's game by picking a leader. Then get the rest of the group to follow the leader in a line. The leader will then do actions like pat their head as they walk. The rest of the people need to follow that action. Take turns at following the leader.

At the end of the game talk about what you need to do to follow a leader. Is it easy or is it hard? What are some tips you have for playing follow the leader? What are some tips you have for following Jesus?

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you that you let us follow you. Please forgive us when we do a bad job of following you or when we forget to follow you. Please help us Holy Spirit to know you and love you more and empower us to follow Jesus faithfully wherever we go. **Amen!**

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

WEEK 2 - ORGANISED RELIGION

Warming Up

When we come to worship together, what do you think are the most important things to remember and prioritise?

Read: 1 Timothy 2

1. Paul again 'urges' Timothy, just as he did in 1:3. What feeling does this give you as to Paul's attitude, desires, and intensity?
2. In this chapter, Paul gives instructions for public worship. Why do you think he starts "first of all" with instructions on prayer?
3. What do vv.3-4 tell us about what God desires and is pleased with?
4. What do vv.5-6 tell us about what Paul sees as "truth"?
5. Why do you think Paul tells us in v.7 what his purpose is, and states that he is not lying about it?

These next verses are some of the most controversial in all the Scriptures. As we study them, we must first pray and ask God for his wisdom and understanding. Secondly, by his grace discern what are eternal truths and what are transient cultural claims. Here, we will assume that each of Paul's instructions involve both these things – a mixture of eternal truths (unchanging principles) and transient cultural claims that we may – prayerfully and not quickly – put aside.

6. What do you see as an unchanging principle in v.8?
7. What do you see as an unchanging principle in vv.9-10?
8. What do you see as an unchanging principle in vv.11-12?
9. Regarding v.15, John Stott writes that the most likely understanding of this verse is that "women will be saved through the Birth of the Child... If Mary had not given birth to the Christ-child, there would have been no salvation for anybody." What are your thoughts on this understanding?

Rubber hits the road

Take some time this week to ponder how you can ensure that you come to Sunday worship with the right motivation, attitude, and priorities.

Prayer

God of all wisdom and love, we acknowledge the great privilege it is to join in worshipping and praising you. We are sorry for those times when we have come with wrong motivation, attitudes, and priorities, and for the times when we have been self-seeking. By your grace, help us to honour and serve you. May we give our whole hearts in love for you and our neighbours. **Amen.**

Family Time

Watch: '1 Timothy 2:1-7 for Kids - Praying for Our Leaders' (Kid's Bible Lessons)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9Do-gF06Do>

Talk: Who are some of the people who can tell us what to do? What kind of things do our leaders tell us to do that we like to do? What kind of things do our leaders tell us to do that we don't like to do?

Do: 'Praying for our leaders'

You will need: A piece of paper; pencils/crayons.

On your piece of paper write down who is in each position in your life. Then write down some prayer points for them.

Examples of leaders:

- Prime Minister
- Premier
- Church leaders
- Teachers

Talk about how important it is for us to be praying for our leaders. When they make good choices, everything is better for everyone. ☺

Pray: Living Lord, thank you that you are my Saviour and King. Please bless the leaders in my life and help them make wise decisions for the good of all people. Help me to support those in my life and to become a leader with love like Jesus. **Amen.**

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

WEEK 3 - LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Warming Up

Do you personally know someone who is a great leader? What makes them a great leader?

Read: 1 Timothy 3

1. The title 'overseer' is also translated in other places as 'elder' – someone who held a leadership position amongst local churches. Why do you think Paul makes a point of calling this position a “noble task”?
2. Why do you think the list of qualifications for an overseer is so demanding?
3. Do any of these qualifications surprise you? Do you disagree with the need for any of these qualifications amongst church overseers today?
4. In vv.6-7, Paul twice mentions a warning associated with the devil. Why do you think Paul puts particular emphasis on these two instructions?
5. A deacon usually refers to someone who assists an overseer – primarily in acts of service. What differences do you notice between the qualifications for an overseer and a deacon?
6. Most scholars believe that “women” in verse 11 refer either to women in leadership (deaconesses), or the wives of the deacons – both of which add context and understanding to 2:11-12. What do you notice about her qualifications?
7. In vv.14-15, what reason does Paul give for writing this letter to Timothy?
8. How does Paul describe the church and the truth we are to believe?

Rubber hits the road

In the week ahead, ask God to grow within you the fruit of the Spirit so that you might live a life that reflects his goodness.

Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for giving us your instructions for right and holy living. Please pour out your Spirit upon us and grow within us the fruit of your Spirit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. As we live according to your instructions, may our lives reflect your goodness. **Amen.**

Family Time

Watch: '1 Timothy 3:15 NIRV | Bible Adventure Memory Verse' (LifeKids)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aq3NGLA20A4>

Talk: Who is part of the church? Who makes us part of the church? How should we treat the people in our church family?

Do: 'Build a church'

You will need: Blocks, cardboard, or playdough

Using materials you have at home, build a model of a church building. You can do this together, or each make your own.

Once you have a rough model, write down things that are important to have in a church. You might start with things like 'Bibles' but make sure you also include things like 'faith', 'hope', and 'love'.

Place the things you've written down into the model church and talk about what it means that the church is the family of God.

Pray: Generous Jesus, thank you for the gift of your church. Sometimes it's hard to love her because we all make bad choices and mistakes all the time. Still, you love us all the same and we pray that you would inspire us Holy Spirit to love the church like you love her too. **Amen.**

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

WEEK 4 - HEALTHY GOD TALK

Warming Up

Who are some of the pastors who have influenced you and cared for you? What made them effective in your life?

Read: 1 Timothy 4

1. What parts of this parable stick out for you? Are there parts you don't understand?
2. What is the Spirit warning us of in this passage? What sort of false teachings are named in this passage? What sort of false teachings affect the church today?
3. In this passage an older and more experienced minister (Paul) is giving advice to a younger minister (Timothy). What are some key pieces of advice in this passage?
4. What sort of advice would you like to give to some of the leaders in your life? (Feel free to gently share this advice with your pastors or people in leadership)
5. What does spiritual training look like and why is it important?
6. What does v.10 tell us about the mission of a Christian and the church at large?
7. In v.12 Paul tells Timothy: "don't let anyone look down on you because you are young". What sort of leaders do people look down on today and what impact does this have on the church?
8. In vv.13-16 Paul give some parting advice to Timothy. What do these verses tell us about the role of pastors and leaders in our churches?

Rubber hits the road

How can you refine and encourage the pastors and leaders in your life in the week ahead? How can you be praying for those in leadership?

Prayer

Lord Jesus thank you that you are the good shepherd. Thank you for the pastors and clergy in your church. Please help them to become more like Jesus and guide them in paths of righteousness for your name's sake. **Amen.**

Family Time

Watch: '1 Timothy 4:12 – Young' (Seeds Family Worship)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HI-P0uRlcPQ>

Talk: What sort of things are kids not allowed to because they're too young? What sorts of things can kids do because they are young? What sort of things can Christians of any age do?

Do: 'Look what I can do'

What you will need: Lots of creativity and a little bit of courage.

Host your own talent show at home. Spend 5 minutes thinking about what you will do for the family and then perform it. You may share a memory verse you've learned, sing a song, do a dance, or perform a skit.

Whatever the performer does, the audience should be affirming and build up the person who shared their talent.

Talk about our talents and what kids can do to build up the church. Also talk about what we can do what people try to stop us doing things in church because we are young.

Pray: Great God in heaven, thank you that you have given me gifts so that we can let your light shine. I'm sorry for times when fear have kept me from sharing by gifts with others. Help me not to let anyone look down on me because of what age I am. Help me, Holy Spirit, to share your light with those around me. **Amen!**

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

WEEK 5 - CARING COMMUNITIES

Warming Up

Do you find it easy or difficult to trust other people and their motivations? Why?

Read: 1 Timothy 5

1. At the end of chapter 4, Timothy was instructed to give himself wholly to teaching the hard truths of the Scriptures. Why do you think Paul now tells Timothy to exhort his congregation like family? What will this cause Timothy to do?
2. Vv.3-4 focuses on taking care of our own families. What does Paul write regarding care for those who are widows in our own families?
3. Vv.5-10 give instructions on how to identify a widow in need of the church's assistance. What qualifications does Paul note? What do you agree/disagree with in relation to widows today? Discuss.
4. How would you summarise vv.11-15? What is Paul's underlying message?
5. In v.16, it seems that Paul is giving us an example of a friend caring for a widow. Why is it important that friends would care for one another just like families?
6. Paul now moves from explaining how to care for widows to how we are to care for those in leadership. To do so, Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 25:4 and Luke 10:7. Why do you think he quotes from these verses?
7. Why are the teachings in vv.19-21 significant?
8. Considering vv.19-21, "Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands" is thought to be referring to ordination – the calling of someone into official and honourable leadership. Why must we be cautious when placing someone in leadership?
9. Vv.24-25 tell us that people's good points and bad points often take time to surface. Why is time helpful in discerning someone's true character?

Rubber hits the road

What are some ways that you can care for those in our parish who are in need this week?

Prayer

All knowing God, nothing is hidden from you. We thank you for offering us your wisdom, and for training us in love and care for one another. Please help us to be diligent in caring for those who are in need – both in our parish and out in the community. As we seek to raise up leaders in our community, please grant us discernment, patience, and courage. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

Family Time

Watch: 'Kids Talk 'We are Family' 1 Timothy 5, Aug 21' (Alison Young)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrEiETQDOj4>

Talk: Who is part of our family? What are some of the best things about our family? What are the best things about our church family?

Do: 'Family member Pictionary'

You will need: Some paper and crayons

In 60 seconds draw a member of your family. The rest of the family needs to guess which person you've drawn. Make sure you include cousins, uncles, aunties, and grandparents.

Talk about the people in your family and pray for them.

Pray: Thank you Lord Jesus that we have been adopted through Jesus into your family. Please help us to grow closer together as a family and to love and trust one another. Thank you that you have given us a church family to belong to. Holy Spirit please give us the energy, patience, and creativity to care for and build up our church family. In Jesus' name. **Amen!**

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

WEEK 6 - FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Warming Up

If you were the pastor of your church, what is the first message you would share with them? Why?

Read: 1 Timothy 6

1. In v.1, how does Paul challenge the relationship between a slave and their master?
2. Why would Paul instruct a slave with a Christian master to “serve them even better”?
3. What does Paul write about people who teach and insist on things other than what Paul has written in this letter?
4. What do you think Paul means in v.6? See vv.7-8 and also 4:8-10.
5. In vv.9-10 why does Paul write that we must be careful of prioritising and loving money?
6. How is Timothy – the man of God – to live differently from the false teachers and those who love money?
7. Why do you think Paul adds vv.13-16?
8. What does Paul command Timothy to instruct the rich in doing?
9. What is significant about Paul’s repeated call for Timothy to “guard” what has been “entrusted” to him?

Rubber hits the road

How can you encourage the leadership team at your church to keep fighting the good fight of the faith, and to keep leading in the ways of Jesus?

Prayer

Jesus, we acknowledge today that you are the Head of our church and the King of our lives. We thank you for the leadership in our church and we ask for your blessing to be upon them today. Please give the leadership in our church unwavering commitment to raising us up as the mature body of Christ. Empower us by your Spirit that we may walk in your ways and glorify your holy name. In Jesus’ name we pray, **Amen.**

Family Time

Watch: 'The Rizers – 1 Timothy 6:12 (Scripture Song)' (The Rizers)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkqXYOzQ5oU>

Talk: When is fighting a bad idea? What sort of things in life are worth fighting for? What does fighting the good fight for Jesus look like?

Do: 'Good fight pillow fight'

You will need: Pillows; blind folds; and a safe space for a pillow fight.

Take two 'fighters' and blindfold them. Get both fighters to spin around 5 times. Then give them 60 seconds to find each other and hit each other with pillows. Make sure someone who is not blindfolded is there to 'referee' and keep fighters from breaking anything and stay safe.

Talk about how fighting for Jesus can be hard and yet some things are worth living for.

Pray: Lord Jesus, thank you for our studies through 1 Timothy. Help us to fight the good fight of the faith, loving others as Jesus has loved us. Please forgive us for when we hurt others and get angry. Guide us by your Holy Spirit to fight for things that matter in ways that bring healing and wholeness wherever we go. **Amen.**

Notes

Write your thoughts, questions and reflections here!

Daily Prayer

*Just as we eat, sleep and work every day,
prayer has a place in our daily routine.
Find a place in your home – inside or outside –
that you can make your ‘prayer space’.*

*Include all the members of your family – partners, children, animals – in this space.
Feel free to also include music in this time.*

PRAISE

God is love. Since God loves us, we should love one another.

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Turn for help to the Lord your strength:
and constantly seek God’s presence.
Remember the marvellous things the Most High has done:
the wonders, and the judgments God has given.
Psalm 105:4-5

BIBLE READING

At the end of the reading:
Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

PRAYERS

Loving God, thank you for this day.
Thank you for your love and care for us.
Thank you for making each of us special.
Help us today to be kind to each other. **Amen.**

God of mercy, we are sorry that we have not always done what you wanted us to do.
We have not loved you with all our heart, and we have not cared enough for other
people. Forgive us, for Jesus’ sake. **Amen.**

A COLLECT

In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father,
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR GOD'S LIGHT

Eternal God, shed your light on us who watch for you,
that our lips may praise you,
our hearts bless you,
and our lives glorify you,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Include your own personal prayers.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all. **Amen.**

‘Bible in Two Years’ Reading Plan

(*Days 600-730*)

600. Luke 1	644. James 2-3	686. Colossians 1-2
601. Luke 2	645. James 4-5	687. Colossians 3-4
602. Luke 3	646. Acts 13	688. Philemon; Hebrews 1-2
603. Luke 4	647. Acts 14-15	689. Hebrews 3-6
604. Luke 5	648. Acts 16	690. Hebrews 7-8
605. Luke 6	649. Acts 17-18; 1	691. Hebrews 9-10
606. Luke 7	Thessalonians 1	692. Hebrews 11
607. Luke 8	650. 1 Thessalonians 2-4	693. Hebrews 12-13
608. Luke 9	651. 1 Thessalonians 5; 2	694. Titus
609. Luke 10	Thessalonians 1-2	695. 1 Timothy 1-4
610. Luke 11	652. 2 Thessalonians 3;	696. 1 Timothy 5-6
611. Luke 12	Galatians 1-2	697. 2 Timothy 1-3
612. Luke 13	653. Galatians 3-4	698. 2 Timothy 4; 1 Peter 1
613. Luke 14-15	654. Galatians 5-6	699. 1 Peter 2-3
614. Luke 16-17	655. Acts 19; Philippians 1	700. 1 Peter 4-5, Jude
615. Luke 18	656. Philippians 2-4	701. 2 Peter 1-2
616. Luke 19	657. 1 Corinthians 1-2	702. 2 Peter 3; 3 John; 2 John
617. Luke 20	658. 1 Corinthians 3-4	703. 1 John 1-3
618. Luke 21	659. 1 Corinthians 5-6	704. 1 John 4-5
619. Luke 22	660. 1 Corinthians 7-8	705. John 1-2
620. Luke 23	661. 1 Corinthians 9-10	706. John 3
621. Luke 24	662. 1 Corinthians 11-12	707. John 4
622. Mark 1	663. 1 Corinthians 13-14	708. John 5
623. Mark 2-3	664. 1 Corinthians 15-16	709. John 6
624. Mark 4	665. 2 Corinthians 1-2	710. John 7
625. Mark 5	666. 2 Corinthians 3-5	711. John 8
626. Mark 6	667. 2 Corinthians 6-8	712. John 9
627. Mark 7	668. 2 Corinthians 9-11	713. John 10
628. Mark 8	669. 2 Corinthians 12-13	714. John 11
629. Mark 9	670. Romans 1-2	715. John 12
630. Mark 10	671. Romans 3-4	716. John 13-14
631. Mark 11	672. Romans 5-7	717. John 15-16
632. Mark 12	673. Romans 8	718. John 17-18
633. Mark 13	674. Romans 9-10	719. John 19
634. Mark 14	675. Romans 11-12	720. John 20-21
635. Mark 15-16	676. Romans 13-14	721. Revelation 1-2
636. Acts 1-2	677. Romans 15-16	722. Revelation 3-4
637. Acts 3-4	678. Acts 20	723. Revelation 5-7
638. Acts 5-6	679. Acts 21	724. Revelation 8-10
639. Acts 7	680. Acts 22-23	725. Revelation 11-12
640. Acts 8	681. Acts 24-25	726. Revelation 13-14
641. Acts 9	682. Acts 26-27	727. Revelation 15-17
642. Acts 10-11	683. Acts 28; Ephesians 1	728. Revelation 18-19
643. Acts 12; James 1	684. Ephesians 2-4	729. Revelation 20
	685. Ephesians 5-6	730. Revelation 21-22



Anglican
Church
All Saints' Booval

Anglican
Church
Dalby