



DISCUSSION GUIDE

2 Tim 3:1-9 – Be Discerning

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

What does it mean or look like to be discerning as a Christian? Why is discernment crucial for us today as followers of Jesus?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What idea, context, Scripture do you think could have been expanded on, or included in the message?

In what way does 2 Tim 2:14-26 challenge and/or encourage you to handle conflict and controversy differently?

Dave highlighted two ways that we can become more discerning about those that may exercise spiritual influence. *1. Pay attention to what people do more than they say and 2. Do they advantage themselves, or take advantage of others.*

1. How do you see these grounded in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus?
2. What typical ways do we tend to think we are being discerning in our lives and with our faith?
3. Why was this so important for Timothy to prepare for? How is it important in our day and age?
4. In what way can you be more discerning?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [2 Timothy 3:1-9]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What did Paul call to our attention? (3:1)

What will people be like in the last days? (3:2)

What will people in the last days lack? (3:3)

What will people in the last days love instead of God? (3:4)

What should we do with the kind of people Paul described? (3:5)

How do false teachers exploit others? (3:6)

What controls the kind of false teachers Paul described? (3:6)

What are false teachers doing? (3:7)

Why do certain people oppose the truth? (3:8)

To what historical figures were these godless people compared? (3:8)

Why will false teachers not get very far? (3:9)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What does it mean to live in the last days? How is this different from other “signs” that Jesus or Revelation give? Why does it matter?

Why are there people like the ones Paul described? What does it say about those who would lead others astray?

We all can struggle with some of the characteristics that Paul describes in vv 2-5, but considering this is written by Paul to Timothy to be aware and be more discerning about others who spiritually influence the believers. (which is part of our role as disciplers). Which characteristic or quality is most concerning to you and Why?

How can someone act religious and yet deny its power? Why is this important?

False teachers/religion is one that takes advantage of those who are disadvantaged. (vv 6-7). How is this contradictory to the gospel and Jesus? Why is this a good way for us to be more discerning to who and what influences us?

In what way will “false teachers” foolishness, motives and character matter? Why is this important for us to understand?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage? How can you be more discerning? Is there something or someone that you need to “stay away from”?

How can we pray for each other?