

Transition:

Paul had many companions on his missionary journeys, but Timothy is probably the most well-known. We read two of Paul's letters to Timothy in the New Testament and Timothy helped co-author a few of Paul's other epistles. Paul refers to Timothy as his "true son..." and we are about to see how this relationship began.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. How was Timothy already a disciple when Paul arrives?
2. Why do you think Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him?
3. Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised?

Fundamental:

Discipleship – In the Great Commission, Jesus commanded His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. A disciple is ultimately a learner. Jesus, as a rabbi, had many disciples that followed Him everywhere. They listened to His teachings, believed He was the Messiah, obeyed His commands, worked miracles with Him and then had disciples of their own. It is a wonderful thing to realize that the chain of discipleship that began with Jesus has made its way to us! There are no shortcuts to discipleship – only time.

1. What is the chief aim of the Church?
2. How can each area of the Church support this chief aim?
3. What happens to a Church that does not make discipleship its chief end?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Commit yourself to being a disciple. Do not look for shortcuts.
2. Please read Acts 17 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

You cannot force someone to be a disciple. The Holy Spirit must put the desire within them and bring that conviction.

Prayer:

Pray that no one in your small group desires to walk alone. May we all understand what the Lord has designed through discipleship in the Church.

Extras:

The Lost Art of Disciple Making by Leroy Eims