

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

2 Timothy Series

These questions are for the **June 9, 2024** message, "Remembering Jesus." Please read the sermon passage (2 Timothy 2:8-13) together out loud.

Passage Outline

AS WE DEVELOP SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE, REFLECT UPON . . .

1. The supremacy of Jesus Christ. (8-9)
 - a. As Paul "runs" his race, he makes certain his "torch is lit" until the end.
 - i. Listen to the message for further insight into this analogy.
 - ii. We must be fresh, intentional and fruitful no matter our age or circumstances.
 - b. Paul does not complain about politics or oppression because he will suffer (like Jesus).
 - c. Jesus, risen from the dead, ensures life and light for all who trust him.
 - i. The Word of God is free and unhindered by my afflictions and suffering.
 - ii. In fact, often, the Word of God flies to its goal because of our suffering.
2. The salvation we have in Jesus Christ. (10)
 - a. We are inspired and fueled by the victorious suffering of Jesus Christ.
 - b. The location of our hope is not merely Christ's example, but "in Jesus Christ" himself.
3. The saying about Jesus Christ. (11-13)
 - a. POSITIVE: die to self, live in Christ; endure and live. (God's eternal faithfulness)
 - b. NEGATIVE: if we deny, he denies us; faithless-faithful. (God's temporal faithfulness)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Our torch (faithfulness, motivation and endurance) can be extinguished by frustration, criticism and cynicism. How does Jesus' example, particularly in the last week of his life inspire you? Do you ever criticize believers? Political leaders? In what ways has suffering "extinguished" your torch?
2. Based on #1, above: Suffering is not an outlying rarity to be avoided or denied, suffering (like Jesus) is the crucial center, the prescribed and powerful means which communicates Jesus fruitfully to our friends and neighbors. Why is our message diluted when we complain about suffering? Why is our megaphone dampened? How can you grow in suffering faithfully?
3. Based on #2, above: We are not merely inspired by the example of Jesus, instead, we are fueled by the very person of Jesus Christ, living in us. What's the difference between being inspired by an example versus being strengthened by Jesus himself? (One example: the difference between a battery and being plugged-in.) What is the location of your strength?
4. Based on #3, above: Jesus is able to distinguish between betrayal (like Judas) and denying (like Peter). He faithfully forgives and strengthens those who fail temporarily, and faithfully judges those who fail permanently. Why is it so crucial to let verses 11-13 become an anthem of thankfulness to God? How does this distinction motivate pure worship to God in your heart?