

Family • Faith • Holy Spirit • Mission

Small Group Preview

Jesus community where **God's kingdom** is realized on this earth



시애틀형제교회
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEATTLE

To the Small Group Leaders

In this season of thanksgiving

In Seattle, the season of thanksgiving and the beautiful autumn of November are deepening. As we watch the once-green trees change into lovely shades of yellow and red, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to God, who has gifted us this season. As we move toward Thanksgiving, I hope that as we gather small reasons for gratitude in our lives, our families and life groups will be filled with joyful memories. Looking to God, who has led us graciously thus far and will continue to lead us into even better paths, we begin this month with hope.

As we look back on the past year, we are reminded once again of the countless blessings and reasons for thanksgiving that God has poured out upon us. I sincerely thank the small group leaders and district leaders who have embraced their members with the Word and with prayer, and who have stood by them not only in joyful moments but also in times of difficulty, serving with warm and faithful hearts.

Surely, each of us has faced challenging seasons in life. Yet because of the small group leaders who cared for each person with love and embraced them with the heart of Christ, our community has grown deeper in love and stronger in faith.

The Bible says, "Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me" (Psalm 50:23). In this season of thanksgiving, may we recall the hidden graces throughout our lives and gently offer up the fruits of our gratitude to God. I pray that the peace and thanksgiving that come from the Lord will overflow in your lives, families, and small groups.

With love and blessings, **James Kwon**



Embracing the members with a shepherd's heart

Small Group Preview

Small Group Usage

| Living Life Weekly Bible Study 1, November 4th Scripture, P178 |

Main Focus

Those who pursue a holy life and devote themselves to the truth are approved by the Lord.

Examine God's Word

Read 2 Timothy 2:14–26 together. Circle or underline repeated words or phrases that carry significant meaning.

Understand Setting

The Apostle Paul wrote 2 Timothy around AD 66–67 while he was imprisoned in Rome for the second time. During this period, a great fire broke out in Rome for reasons unknown, and Emperor Nero used Christians as scapegoats, launching a severe persecution against the church and believers. Paul sensed that he would not be released again and began to prepare himself for martyrdom. Timothy, a young pastor serving in Ephesus, was known to have a gentle and humble nature. Paul therefore exhorted Timothy to lead with spiritual strength, courage, and the character of God. In particular, 2 Timothy contains Paul's specific warnings and instructions regarding false teachers who spread untrue doctrines. Through today's passage, we will explore what God's people must pursue and what they must turn away from.

Meditate the Text

1-1 Observation According to verse 15, what kind of mindset does Paul urge Timothy to have as he serves in preaching the Word of truth?

1-2 Application What is the difference between living a life approved by God and living a life seeking approval from people? Share honestly—whose approval do you find yourself desiring more?

2-1 **Observation** In verses 22–23, what does Paul tell Timothy to avoid and to flee from? What does he encourage him to pursue instead?

2-2 **Application** Is there anything in your life right now that God is prompting you to avoid or let go of? Or perhaps something He is calling you to actively pursue? Share openly.

Review the Text

The Apostle Paul urged Timothy, who was pastoring in Ephesus, to correct those spreading false teachings and to stop engaging in meaningless quarrels. Just as in Timothy's time, even today there are people who promote unbiblical or anti-biblical teachings. As God's people and His workers, we must be firmly grounded in the Word so that we can clearly discern the truth. Moreover, we are called to gently correct others and help them draw closer to God. As a community, we should strive together to walk in the path of faith and peace that pleases the Lord.

Pray through the Text

- 1 Lord, help us to firmly hold on to the true doctrines taught in Scripture.
- 2 Lord, make us people who can discern false teachings and gently correct others in Your grace.



Small Group Preview

Leader Usage

| Living Life Weekly Bible Study 1, November 4th Scripture, P178 |

Main Focus

Those who pursue a holy life and devote themselves to the truth are approved by the Lord.

Examine God's Word

Read 2 Timothy 2:14–26 together. Circle or underline repeated words or phrases that carry significant meaning.

NIV	GOD'S WORD	ESV
<p>14 Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.</p> <p>15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.</p> <p>16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.</p> <p>17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,</p> <p>18 who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.</p> <p>19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."</p> <p>20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use.</p>	<p>14 Remind believers about these things, and warn them in the sight of God not to quarrel over words. Quarreling doesn't do any good but only destroys those who are listening.</p> <p>15 Do your best to present yourself to God as a tried-and-true worker who isn't ashamed to teach the word of truth correctly.</p> <p>16 Avoid pointless discussions. People who pay attention to these pointless discussions will become more ungodly,</p> <p>17 and what they say will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are like that.</p> <p>18 They have abandoned the truth. They are destroying the faith of others by saying that people who have died have already come back to life.</p> <p>19 In spite of all that, God's people have a solid foundation. These words are engraved on it: "The Lord knows those who belong to him," and "Whoever worships the Lord must give up doing wrong."</p> <p>20 In a large house there are not only objects made of gold and silver, but also those made of wood and clay. Some objects are honored when they are used; others aren't.</p>	<p>14 Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.</p> <p>15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.</p> <p>16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,</p> <p>17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,</p> <p>18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.</p> <p>19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."</p> <p>20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.</p>

21 Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

21 Those who stop associating with dishonorable people will be honored. They will be set apart for the master's use, prepared to do good things.

22 Stay away from lusts which tempt young people. Pursue what has God's approval. Pursue faith, love, and peace together with those who worship the Lord with a pure heart.

23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments. You know they cause quarrels.

24 A servant of the Lord must not quarrel. Instead, he must be kind to everyone. He must be a good teacher. He must be willing to suffer wrong.

25 He must be gentle in correcting those who oppose the Good News. Maybe God will allow them to change the way they think and act and lead them to know the truth.

26 Then they might come back to their senses and God will free them from the devil's snare so that they can do his will.

21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,

25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Understand Setting

The Apostle Paul wrote 2 Timothy around AD 66–67 while he was imprisoned in Rome for the second time. During this period, a great fire broke out in Rome for reasons unknown, and Emperor Nero used Christians as scapegoats, launching a severe persecution against the church and believers. Paul sensed that he would not be released again and began to prepare himself for martyrdom. Timothy, a young pastor serving in Ephesus, was known to have a gentle and humble nature. Paul therefore exhorted Timothy to lead with spiritual strength, courage, and the character of God. In particular, 2 Timothy contains Paul's specific warnings and instructions regarding false teachers who spread untrue doctrines. Through today's passage, we will explore what God's people must pursue and what they must turn away from.

Meditate the Text

1-1 **Observation** What mindset did Paul urge Timothy to have as he preached the Word of truth? (v.15)

Paul told Timothy to present himself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, and who correctly handles the Word of truth.

Explanation The phrase “correctly handle” literally means “to cut straight.” Paul emphasized Timothy’s responsibility to interpret and teach God’s Word accurately. In the first century, when Christian doctrine was not yet fully established, many false teachers were spreading unbiblical ideas within the church. Thus, Paul urged Timothy to approach God’s Word with reverence, interpret it correctly, and teach it gently and clearly to the believers.

1-2 Application What is the difference between living a life approved by God and a life seeking approval from people? Whose approval do you find yourself desiring more?

Explanation Paul encouraged Timothy to strive to present himself before God, not people. Human approval is fleeting—no matter how much praise we receive, it fades and leaves us empty. But when the infinite and glorious God acknowledges and commends us, our hearts overflow with true joy and gratitude. Only God’s approval brings lasting fulfillment and peace.

2-1 Observation What did Paul tell Timothy to avoid and to flee from, and what did he encourage him to pursue instead? (vv.22–23)

Paul instructed Timothy to flee from youthful passions, avoid foolish and ignorant controversies that lead to quarrels, and instead pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Explanation The term “youthful passions” does not refer only to sensual temptations, but also to the immature tendencies of youth—such as impatience, overreacting, or being argumentative. Paul exhorted Timothy to join with believers who call on the Lord sincerely and to pursue the virtues of righteousness, faith, love, and peace. These qualities are gifts that flow from a close relationship with God and are meant to be cultivated within the community. Paul also lists the gift of leadership, which involves guiding others with diligence. True biblical leadership means carrying out one’s responsibilities with faithfulness and perseverance.

Finally, Paul mentions the gift of mercy. This is the Spirit-given ability to care for the poor, the sick, and those who are vulnerable or weak.

2-2 Application Is there anything God has recently told you to avoid or let go of? Or something He is calling you to pursue?

Explanation Through Scripture, God continually reveals His good and pleasing will. We are called to flee from temptation and selfish desire, and to follow the direction of His Word. Walking in the path God points out is the essence of a genuine life of faith that pleases Him.

Review the Text

The Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy, who was pastoring in Ephesus, to correct false teachers and avoid meaningless quarrels. Just as in Timothy's time, our world today also has those who spread unbiblical or anti-biblical teachings. As God's people and workers, we must build our discernment on the firm foundation of Scripture. With gentleness, we are to guide others and lead them toward God. Together as a community, let us strive to walk in faith and peace—the path that pleases the Lord.

Pray through the Text

- 1 Lord, help us to firmly hold on to the true doctrines taught in Your Word.
- 2 Lord, make us people who can discern false teachings and gently correct others in Your love.

Word Studies

Verse 14 **Remind them of these things** Apostle Paul expressed to Timothy “remind them of these things,” which means repeated mention and teaching. In other words, it means teaching repeatedly to stop quarrels. There are two reasons to stop quarrels: first, they are useless, and second, they cause ruin to those who hear them. “Paul outlined two results of such verbal quibbles. First, it accomplishes no good purpose [“is useless,” NASB; “is of no value,” NIV]. Second, it works to the ruin of those who participate in it [“brings destruction on those who hear it,” Williams]. The word for “ruins” (*katastrophē*) describes the tearing down of believers.” _Thomas Lea, 1, 2 Timothy in NAC, 166.

Verse 15 **A worker approved** Apostle Paul used the word “worker” when exhorting Timothy, which at that time meant a laborer in farming. Paul encourages Timothy to be humble and to do his best even in small tasks. “The term “workman” is frequently used in reference to an agricultural laborer (e.g., Jas 5:4), but here Paul used the term to describe a laborer for God. Paul was urging his Christian friend to work with such diligence that he would have no fear of shame for poor quality work.” _Lea, 1, 2 Timothy in NAC, 166.

Verse 16 **Empty and worthless talk** Empty talk refers to arguments unrelated to truth and meaningless disputes. Paul expressed to Timothy in the present imperative to avoid empty talk, indicating that Timothy must always be alert to the threat of heresy. “The use of the present imperative for “avoid” suggests that Timothy had to remain continually alert to the threat of heresy.” _Lea, 1, 2 Timothy in NAC, 167.

Verse 17 **Gangrene** Apostle Paul likened heretics spreading false truth to a malignant tumor. The term malignant tumor refers to tissue gradually dying due to lack of blood supply. Therefore, corrupt heretical teaching can harm the church in Ephesus, the body of Christ. We must be cautious of false teachings regarding the truth. “Paul compared the spread of the heresy to the spread of gangrene through the body. The term for gangrene, used only here in the New Testament, describes the death of bodily tissues due to the loss of blood supply.” _Lea, 1, 2 Timothy in NAC, 167.

Verse 19a God's firm foundation The phrase "firm foundation" used by Paul refers to the whole church in Ephesus. Secondly, it may also refer to the content of faith in Jesus Christ revealed by God.

Verse 19b Sealed In the Bible, "seal" refers to a mark or stamp that proves definite ownership. This signifies that God knows and cares for His people. "A seal is a sign or a stamp of approval that shows genuineness or attests ownership. Paul pictured God's people as stamped with two seals." _Lea, 1, 2 Timothy in NAC, 167.

Verse 20 Large house PThrough the expression "large house," Paul represents the church. That house contains many types of vessels: gold, silver, wooden, and clay. Gold and silver vessels are used for noble purposes, while wooden or clay vessels are for common or lowly purposes. The "articles of gold and silver" refer to valuable and commendable Christians, while the "articles of wood and clay" refer to shameful or spiritually unfaithful people, i.e., those to be avoided. "In using the expression "articles ... of wood and clay," he spoke of unworthy Christians, who were to be avoided. Paul was suggesting that the church contained both faithful and unfaithful believers." _Lea, 1, 2 Timothy in NAC, 169.

Verse 21 Purify oneself Apostle Paul exhorts Timothy and the church to distinguish false teaching and separate from it. It is important to note that while false doctrine should be discerned, people should be instructed correctly. "His emphasis on what Timothy should avoid in 2:14, 16 related more to the content of the false teaching than to the person of the false teacher. Later in this chapter Paul would appeal for Timothy to instruct false teachers so that they could repent of heretical views [2:24-26]." _Lea, 1, 2 Timothy in NAC, 169.

Verse 22 Flee youthful passions Apostle Paul used the imperative to tell Timothy to flee the "evil desires of youth." This word refers less to physical temptations and more to attitudes arising from immaturity in youth, such as hasty reactions, long arguments over trivial matters, or anger. "Young men can be characterized by partiality, intolerance, half heartedness, and unwarranted self-assertion. These were the qualities Timothy was to avoid." _Lea, 1, 2 Timothy in NAC, 169.

Verse 23 Avoid foolish and ignorant controversies Paul is not forbidding healthy discussion to understand the truth. He exhorts to abandon meaningless disputes that are useless and create division by questioning alone. "Paul was not prohibiting intelligent, probing theological discussion but useless wrangling over recondite questions that divide and confuse. We must cultivate a judgment that can distinguish between these options." _Lea, 1, 2 Timothy in NAC, 170.

Verse 24 Gentleness Apostle Paul mentions the virtues a servant of the Lord should have. A servant of the Lord should teach truth without quarrels and with gentleness. The gentleness here means firmly holding the truth of the gospel while giving warm, tolerant instruction. "The call for gentleness demands a tolerance in spirit without a weakening of evangelical orthodoxy." _Lea, 1, 2 Timothy in NAC, 171.

Verse 25 Lead to repentance Paul exhorts Timothy to correct with gentleness. The goal of gentle correction is that unbelievers or those who believe false doctrines recognize their wrongdoing, repent, and dedicate themselves anew to God. "Paul wanted the false teachers to experience repentance so that they would acknowledge the truth. To acknowledge the truth involved understanding the gospel so that they might experience a genuine commitment to Christ." _Lea, 1, 2 Timothy in NAC, 171.

• Ministry Prayer Request for November •

Major Ministry Schedule

- Pray for all the pastors and leaders attending the KIMNET Conference (11/10–12) that You would grant them spiritual and physical strength, that they may embrace the world in their hearts and move forward in missions that please God.
- Through the one-on-one outreach (11/6–9), establish a healthy one-on-one discipleship team at Central Washington Korean Presbyterian Church.
- Through the 50th Seattle Father's School ministry (11/14, 15, 21, 22), raise up English-speaking members as spiritual leaders in their families, pleasing to God.
- Through the Mission Banquet "God's Story" (11/9), help us organize the great stories of mission God has accomplished through our church and provide an opportunity to renew our sense of mission.
- Through the Evangelism Explosion Outreach (12/3–15), may the gospel be powerfully spread in Cambodia, and may many members be trained as workers in evangelism.
- Through the Small Group Leaders & District Leaders Retreat (12/6), grant the wisdom for communication and the wisdom to overcome obstacles that are necessary for small group leaders.
- Through the New Families Dinner (12/7), help newly registered members to meet a spiritual family and settle in healthily.
- Through the Special Early Morning Prayer (12/8–13), let all members deeply encounter God in the Word and gain new strength through prayer.
- May the English worship experience be filled with special anointing so that English-speaking members and the community grow more deeply in the Lord's grace and love.

Next Generation Prayer Requests

- Through the BTW (Bible Together Wednesdays) program at Sonlight in November, help the children grow in identity as God's people and as spiritual leaders, and through the Christmas musical (12/24), help them experience God's deep love.
- Through the banquet prepared by Coram Deo students, let them come together as one and bring glory to God.
- Fill the leadership established in NEXT PTA with wisdom and the Holy Spirit, and through preparation for the banquet (11/13), let each grade unite to glorify God.
- May EW College students overcome the various trials they face in the world through God's Word and guidance.
- Through the Nehemiah sermon series beginning at NeWave, may revival occur in worship and may the Thanksgiving Feast (11/23) foster spiritual growth in the community.

Family • Faith • Holy Spirit • Mission

Retreat for Small Group Leaders and District Leaders



Date & Time Saturday, December 6, 2025, 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Location Bothell Campus, Main Sanctuary

Who Should Attend All small group leaders, district leaders, and their spouses are kindly asked to attend.



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