

## THE WHOLE BIBLE

### 2 TIMOTHY

This Bible study, one of 66 studies covering the entire Bible, is made up of one-page lessons covering short sections of the book. The electronic format (student's and leader's guides) allows adaptation to individual needs.

#### *Benefits of one-page lessons:*

- Hand out only what you need, relative to the length of the class session and how much content you wish to cover. Taken at a steady pace, a page can be covered in about 20 minutes.
- See at a glance all the material that pertains to the section being covered. Use the discussion questions as your basic outline and draw in material from the "Look" and "Apply" sections as you wish.

#### *Suggestions for using these lessons:*

- Teach an entire book, or teach just part of a book.
- Use a single lesson sheet for a "19 Minute" style Bible study.
- Use a single lesson sheet as a meeting opener, either as a devotion or a short Bible study.
- Build your own Bible studies. The possibilities are endless. For example:
  - Assemble all the lessons on the penitential psalms, psalms of praise, or David's early years.
  - Assemble sections that deal with predestination, and teach the pertinent passages in their context.
  - Study all references to mountains, cities, nations, etc., pointing out their importance in the lives of God's people.

Note: The appropriate pages in The People's Bible commentary volumes are referenced. However, the authors were given the freedom to develop their own studies, so these lessons are not, in a strict sense, study guides to those volumes.

We pray these lessons will help God's people grow in faith and in service to his kingdom.

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## 2 Timothy 1:1-14

### A veteran missionary encourages a young pastor

*(The People's Bible, 1,2 Timothy, Titus, pages 110-121)*

#### Look

Verse 1 This is Paul's last inspired writing. From a prison cell, facing imminent death, Paul wrote to Timothy. You may want to read Philippians 1:18-30, which was also written from prison. As you read through 2 Timothy, contrast it with the tone and spirit of Philippians.

#### Discuss

1. How did Paul use his time in prison?
2. What role did Timothy's family life play in his present circumstances? (Also see Acts 16:1.)
3. Describe the spiritual qualities God has given us. (verse 7) What role does each play in the work of the ministry?
4. Paul urges Timothy to follow his (Paul's) pattern of serving the Lord in the ministry. As Paul always does, he weaves the gospel into his encouragement and instruction. Give examples of how he does this in verses 8-12.

#### Apply

5. Often church members focus on techniques for doing evangelism work. This is fine, but it sometimes misses the point. Obstacles to Paul's work were fear of persecution and shame over the humble message of the cross. How do Christians overcome these obstacles?

*The apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to grow in grace and not be ashamed to preach the gospel clearly and courageously.*

## 2 Timothy 1:15–2:13

### Be faithful to your calling

*(The People's Bible, 1,2 Timothy, Titus, pages 122-131)*

#### Look

- 2:8            *“My gospel”*—By saying this, Paul was not claiming a gospel that was different from the gospel of Jesus Christ. Rather, Paul was alluding to his apostleship: the Lord had called him to preach the gospel.
- 2:11            *“Here is a trustworthy saying”*—A favorite saying of Paul. He used that expression three times in his first inspired letter to Timothy (1:15; 3:1; 4:9).

#### Discuss

1. Paul's ministry had ups and downs. How had he been treated by those living in the province of Asia? How did Onesiphorus and his household treat Paul?
2. Timothy was to follow Paul's life and teaching. What also did Paul want him to do?
3. What is Paul's point in comparing Timothy's work to that of a soldier? an athlete? a farmer?
4. Why did Paul not worry about his imprisonment keeping the gospel from being spread?
5. Paul repeats a saying that was probably familiar to Timothy. Explain each part.

#### Apply

6. Why is the teaching of election such an important teaching for missionaries and evangelists?

*Paul encouraged Timothy, and he encourages all pastors, to work hard in the kingdom, always focusing on the gospel and serving in a way becoming of God's representative.*

## 2 Timothy 2:14-26

### Be strong in the Lord

*(The People's Bible, 1,2 Timothy, Titus, pages 131-139)*

#### Look

Verse 19      *“God’s solid foundation”*—The context indicates that this refers to God’s church. God knows his own. He gathers them into his church, and no one can take them out of his hand. Those in the church must bear witness to their faith with their lives.

#### Discuss

1. In this section the subject of false teaching comes up. What does Paul mean by
  - “quarreling about words”?
  - “godless chatter”?
  - teaching that “will spread like gangrene”?
  - “foolish and stupid arguments”?
2. Now list the ways Timothy is to react to such talk.
3. What is Paul telling Timothy in verses 20 and 21?

#### Apply

4. Compare and contrast the ministries of a pastor who seeks the approval of people and a pastor who seeks the approval of God.

*A Christian pastor finds strength in God’s gospel to continue to preach that gospel. He is to rid himself of sin and be prepared to serve God in purity and humility, always reflecting Christ’s way of serving.*

## 2 Timothy 3

### Cling to Scripture as the evil days unfold

*(The People's Bible, 1,2 Timothy, Titus, pages 140-152)*

#### Look

- Verse 8 Paul repeats the traditional names of the Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses. (See Exodus 7:11,22; 8:7.)
- Verse 11 Acts chapters 13 and 14 provide greater detail of the persecutions that Paul mentions.

#### Discuss

1. What will people be like in the last days?
2. Agree or disagree. Conditions in the world today are more horrible than they were in Paul's day.
3. What does it mean to be always learning but never coming to a knowledge of the truth?
4. What will happen to everyone who, because of faith in Christ, leads a godly life?
5. What does it mean that "All Scripture is God-breathed"?

#### Apply

6. List some ways Christians are persecuted in our country and in countries around the world.
7. Sometimes Christians are too quick to turn to self-help books when they don't know what to do. (Comment on this in light of verse 17.)

*God's inspired Word is a compass to the truth, even in the last days of darkness and evil.*

## 2 Timothy 4

### The work of proclaiming God's Word must continue

*(The People's Bible, 1,2 Timothy, Titus, pages 152-173)*

#### Look

Verse 6 This was Paul's second imprisonment in Rome. He sensed that his life on earth would soon come to an end. Yet note his Christian confidence. He views his impending death as a "*drink offering*," referring to one of the offerings in the Old Testament sacrificial laws.

Verse 22 These are Paul's last inspired words. What a fitting end to his words and life.

#### Discuss

1. What does Paul charge Timothy to do?
2. What do people's ears itch to hear? Why?
3. What does Paul look forward to receiving from the Lord?
4. Comment on the people Paul refers to in his greeting. What lessons can we learn from this list?

#### Apply

5. What can we learn from the fact that many deserted Paul at his first defense?

*As his life was coming to its end, Paul was concerned that the preaching of the gospel would continue.*