

Scripture and Background Information for May 20-26

Group members should use these scriptures to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns in our new Discussion Guide. This assignment should take less than 30 minutes.

For future reference, your group should study and discuss the following passages during the weeks of...

May 20-26	1 Timothy 4:12-16
May 27-June 2	Luke 24:44-49
June 3-9	Psalm 8
June 10-16	Exodus 19:3-6 and 1 Peter 2:9
June 17-23	John 17:20-25
June 24-30	2 Corinthians 3:12-18

Background Information for 1 Timothy 4:12-16

On Sunday, May 27, our service will be led by our Student Ministry and we will celebrate our high school seniors. Nate Gustafson will bring the message.

Before Sunday, May 27, we would like each group member to personally study 1 Timothy 4:12-16 and to discuss it as a group.

Timothy was a young man from Lystra and was probably converted during Paul's first missionary journey. When Paul returned to Lystra a year or so later, Timothy was recommended by the other believers, and Paul invited Timothy to come along on the journey (Acts 16). From that point on, Paul and Timothy are associated, and over time Timothy is given increasing responsibility.

When Paul discovers some problems in the church in the city of Ephesus, he leaves Timothy there to help the church recover. Paul writes this letter from Macedonia to encourage and guide Timothy. Paul's primary focus is on the kind of character that Timothy should be looking for in the leaders of the church.

Paul's focus in 1 Timothy 4:6-16 is reminding Timothy of the responsibilities of a good minister of Christ. In vs12-16, Paul challenges Timothy to set an example as a growing Christ-follower. Paul reminds Timothy that his faithfulness to that calling will have eternal consequences for himself and for all those he is leading.