

ADULT STUDY GUIDE

This is the adult component of the Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum. This piece follows the **same scope and sequence** as the other levels: **Early Childhood, Elementary, and Youth**. This alignment presents some amazing opportunities.

- First of all, it helps all ages speak a **common theological language**.
- Second, it helps God’s people build an understanding of the **lifelong nature of learning God’s Word**—that we don’t just learn the narratives once or twice before moving on to other matters.
- Third, and critical to this curriculum, it helps **equip households** to teach the faith at home.

If parents and other adults spend time meditating and discussing the narratives of the Bible while the younger generations in the congregation study the same narratives, then there will be greater opportunity throughout the week to **reflect together** upon what the narrative says and what it means. In other words, studying the narratives of the Bible as adults is a blessing in and of itself, but it also helps **equip parents and faith leaders** to be more confident and feel empowered to extend those conversations into the household.

FEATURES OF THIS STUDY

This study guide is meant to provide some guidelines and springboards for discussion in your Bible study groups.

- The **first page** of each lesson provides the central focus statements, not only for the Adult level, but also for the other levels. Use this as a way to orient yourself to the **main themes and goals** of the lessons across all levels. You’ll also find helpful **tips for preparation**.
- The **middle two pages** begin with an introductory “**Launch**” section, which provides prompts for beginning the study and an open-ended reflection question to kick off group discussion. The following “**Learn & Live**” section breaks down the text into three to five narrative sections. Each one of these sections has some additional commentary, a reflection question, and some helps to better understand possible answers to the reflection question. The “**Leave**” section provides prompts for a final reflection question and some other considerations to close the lesson. The **sidebars** include leader tips and bonus activities to help you think through options for extending the lesson.
- The **final page** of each lesson is the student piece. Copy one lesson handout per learner, and distribute this at the beginning of class.

TIPS FOR USE

This study guide is designed primarily to help give you, the leader, some thoughts and prompts to help guide and assist facilitation of the class. Below are some tips for how to use it.

- This is meant to be a Bible study, so each learner will need access to a Bible. Encourage your learners to bring their own to class.
- Don’t neglect the lesson handout. The primary reason for this page is to create some space for each learner to reflect and engage the questions on his or her own. Often, any given group will have one or two vocal learners and others who may not speak up. Consider using techniques to help engage all learners in the process, such as having each learner write down his or her reflection privately before sharing, having each learner share with a partner before opening up discussion, or changing the seating arrangements to create small groups.
- Use the opening reflection question as a time to build community. Adult learners, generally speaking, desire to share their experience with one another, and this lesson starter provides an opportunity for this.
- For each narrative section, ask volunteers to read the text aloud while the rest follow along. Don’t force anyone; adults, like children and youth, may be self-conscious about their reading or public speaking ability.
- Download the Enduring Faith Page from the online digital resource center and hand out copies to your learners. Near the end of the lesson, talk through the prompts, which help the learners extend the lessons in their households throughout the week. Encourage learners to take this page home along with the lesson handout to be used throughout the week.

TO A NEW GENERATION

Paul Writes
to Timothy
2 Timothy 1; 3:14–17
AD 68

BIBLE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit teaches us through God's Word.

LEARNER GOAL

I can consider and appreciate the importance of God's work through His Word in the life of the Church.

BIBLE VERSE

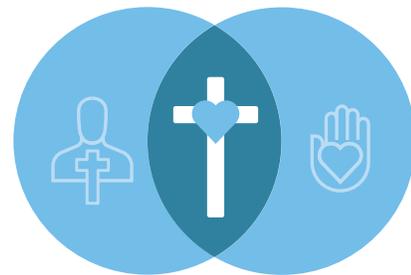
All Scripture is breathed out by God. 2 Timothy 3:16

LAW & GOSPEL

In my sin, I am ashamed of God and His Word. **God forgives me of my sins and equips me to share His Word with others.**

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Paul writes this instructive letter to his spiritual son, Timothy. As the pastor of the Church in Ephesus, young Timothy relies on Paul's experience and advice. Paul's words to Timothy encourage all believers in Christ: "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost" (1 Timothy 1:15).



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God gives me His Word to prepare me to serve Him.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can serve the Lord as I encourage and support those in the Lord's ministry.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can consider and appreciate the importance of God's work through His Word in the life of the Church.

YOUTH

I can give examples from the text that show how the Holy Spirit teaches us through God's Word.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God raises up special leaders for His Church.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God works through His Word to help my faith in Jesus grow.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read the narrative and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)*.

MORE TIME Read **2 Timothy 2** in *TLSB* with study notes.

IN DEPTH Read **2 Timothy 3:1–13** and **4** in *TLSB* with study notes.



LEADER NOTE

Encourage your group to take some time with this opening reflection, possibly breaking them down into small groups to draft a short message. Tell them they can use bullet points or write something out completely, but that they do have to think in terms of an actual message of warning, instruction, and/or encouragement for them. Then, after some time, bring it back to the large group and look for similarities. After that, lead them into the text, where they will see Paul's final message to a young pastor, and consider what that means to us in Christ's Church today.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Before really digging into the lesson, consider taking a brief look at the role of Timothy by reading **Acts 16:1–5** and/or doing a Bible word search looking up the word *Timothy*. Talk about how he was an able young man who became a pastor but also was useful to Paul as a helper in different congregations.

LAUNCH

WELCOME

Welcome the group, and open in prayer. It may be a good time to take prayer requests and pray, either now or at the conclusion.

REVIEW

Review the Bible Truth, Bible Verse, and Learner Goal. Then, begin with the opening question.

OPENING REFLECTION

Imagine that you knew you would die soon and had to leave a final message to the next generation of the Church. This is not a final message for all people; it is for the next generation of Christians. What message would you leave them, and why?

LEARN & LIVE

2 TIMOTHY 1:1–7

BIBLE COMMENTARY

Paul is in a tough place. Some time has passed since the ending of the Book of Acts and the writing of this, his last letter before his execution. Though the details are not entirely clear, it seems that after his first trip to Rome Paul is set free by the emperor Nero. Paul then possibly goes from Rome to Spain for a time before returning to congregations he started in Greece and Asia Minor, ceaselessly ministering to and supporting the leaders there. As years pass, however, the emperor Nero grows hostile to Christians, persecuting, arresting, and murdering them. Tradition says that first Peter is killed in Rome, then Paul is arrested as the other main leader of Christianity and is also brought to Rome for his execution. Now it appears that in the persecution many have abandoned Paul, and only Luke has accompanied him here to the end. Though it would be easy for Paul to despair, he instead begins the letter to Timothy by remembering God's faithfulness to Timothy, his "child" in the faith, and asking Timothy to remember his call to preach the Word. Timothy has been useful to Paul for many years, serving in different congregations where the Church needed him, and as Paul nears the end of his life, he encourages Timothy to continue in this important work.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Looking at the text, what role does memory or the act of remembering play in Paul's letter to Timothy here? What can we take away from this in the Church today?

REFLECTION HELPS

Paul remembers Timothy through prayers, remembers his faith and his family, and asks Timothy to remember his pastoral call. Christians at all times live in a constant state of remembering and thanking God for our identities in Christ, and turn back to where God has always revealed Himself to us, His Word, for faith and life.

2 TIMOTHY 1:8–18

BIBLE COMMENTARY

Paul continues by encouraging Timothy. At first, this seems like Timothy could be despairing of his faith or possibly ashamed. This potential is unfounded. Timothy is secure in his identity and calling. Paul's encouragement is to bolster the younger pastor in Christ because Paul's time is short and Paul knows all too well the hardships that Timothy will likely face. As he has done before on many occasions to different people, Paul exhorts Timothy to cling to the Gospel, the work of Christ, the sound Word of God, and the work of the Holy Spirit. The tone is that of a mentor or coach encouraging a student or athlete who will carry on his work. Though Paul is in great physical discomfort and feels the weight of being abandoned by many while in prison, Paul begins what will be for the rest of the letter counseling and instruction to Timothy in fortitude and leadership in the Church during the upcoming times of continued persecution.

REFLECTION QUESTION

According to Paul's encouragement in the text, what should Timothy keep in mind as he goes about his pastoral work? What do these same things mean for us today as God's redeemed children in Christ?

REFLECTION HELPS

Timothy should remember his calling, God's gift in Christ, His power, the sound Word of God, and the work of the Holy Spirit in his life through that Word. Today, as we are tempted to abandon the faith, we, too, should continually return to God's Word and be renewed in our Christian identity through the Spirit.

2 TIMOTHY 3:14–17

BIBLE COMMENTARY

In light of the context of this, Paul's final letter and encouragement to Timothy before Paul's execution, it is only fitting for Paul to remind Timothy of the centrality of God's Word in the Church. He encourages Timothy to continue in not only the faith of his childhood but also the faith that was nurtured through Paul's mentoring. This centers on the sacred writings, the Word of God, that has been breathed out by God, like the wind in the sail of a ship. God alone delivered it through prophets, and God has and will continue to use it to grant faith, correct error, and train up the next generation in righteousness for daily, lifelong discipleship.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What does this section reveal specifically about the importance and use of God's Word in His Church? How are we equipped and trained in God's Word, and what is one way that you can more intentionally abide in God's Word in your daily life this week?

REFLECTION HELPS

God's Word is not only sacred, it is the only way people come to faith in Christ. In addition, it is not only useful for teaching and preaching, but also in correcting and directing others as well as training people to be fully equipped for the Christian life. Personal challenges will vary.

LEAVE

FINAL REFLECTION

In your own words, note down why God's work through His Word is so important in the life of the Church.

TAKE HOME

Equip your learners with ideas for taking the lesson into their households by giving them access to the Enduring Faith Pages.

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

If you haven't yet, take prayer requests, or encourage a volunteer from the class to pray as you prepare to leave.



BONUS ACTIVITY

The issue of the inspiration of Scripture is confusing for many. Some time during the lesson, potentially after the reflection question on 2 Timothy 3:14–17, consider stepping back and looking over Questions 6–9 in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017). If you do not have copies available, either encourage your learners to pick up a copy to read or lead a brief time of teaching on the Lutheran understanding of the doctrine of interpretation.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Christ delivers the gifts He won for us on the cross by His Word working through the power of the Holy Spirit.



LEADER NOTE

Possibilities include these: God's Word gives eternal life, the Scriptures form the core of our worship, and God's Word is useful for giving and sustaining faith for life.

