

# October Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *October 2 - Week 39 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What is your favorite hobby?

### **New Testament**

1 Timothy 1 ~ 1 Timothy 2 ~ 1 Timothy 3 ~ 1 Timothy 4 ~ 1 Timothy 5

1. How would you describe your calling in life? Why do you think Paul starts 1 Timothy by describing his apostolic calling as a “command of God”? How might we live differently with such a perspective?
2. Paul calls Timothy “my true child in the faith” in 1 Timothy 1:2. Who is someone that was a spiritual “parent” to you? Who is someone you’ve sought to mentor, guide, encourage, and help as a spiritual “child”? What has made those relationships special and effective?
3. Why does Paul give so much attention to false teachers? What dangers do they pose? What are some false teachings you’ve noticed over the years or recently? How can we best recognize false teachers?
  - [www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-false-teachers](http://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-false-teachers)
4. Paul asserts that the “law is good” when used correctly, but that it is “for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine” (1 Timothy 1:9-11). How is the law good for those continuing in sin?
5. Paul describes his life before Jesus as “a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent” (1 Timothy 1:13). How would you describe your life before Jesus? How can Paul refer to himself as the “foremost” of all sinners (1 Timothy 1:15)? Apart from God, who is most aware of the depths of your sinfulness?
6. How do we avoid a “shipwreck of faith” like Hymenaeus and Alexander? (1 Timothy 1:19-20) Why would being cast out of church be referred to as “handed over to Satan” (1 Timothy 1:20 & 1 Corinthians 5:5)? How can church discipline help someone? Help the church? ([www.trustworthyword.com/church-discipline](http://www.trustworthyword.com/church-discipline) )
7. Who does God call us to pray for in 1 Timothy 2:1-4? Why? How should we pray for them? What types of people are the hardest to genuinely pray for?
8. Why is prayer and unity important among men in church life (1 Timothy 2:8)? Why is modesty and good works emphasized among women in church (1 Tim 2:9-10)?
9. Read 1 Timothy 3:12. In the context of churches, since pastors “teach” and “exercise authority over a man”, why is it controversial in some churches today to say that only men can be pastors? If our opinion on a subject differs with the Bible, who is wrong? When denominations begin to ordain women as pastors, why is that so concerning? Why does it inevitably lead that church or denomination towards other un-biblical steps like affirming LGBTQ marriages and pastors? Although this is a touchy issue, it is an important one. Here are some other helpful Scriptures to consider on this subject: [www.trustworthyword.com/women-pastors](http://www.trustworthyword.com/women-pastors)
10. Look at 1 Timothy 3:1-7 for pastors/overseers/elders and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Why do you think God gives so many specific details about what to look for in a pastor or

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- deacon? Why are the characteristics present-tense rather than past-tense? Who is a particular pastor or deacon that had a big impact on your life? Why?
11. God emphasizes the important role of His church by describing them as “the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:15). How does it encourage you to see the impact and importance God gives His church?
  12. Can you think of someone you once saw as a faithful Christian but now you are concerned about where they are at spiritually? What does it feel like to think of them? According to 1 Timothy 4:1-3 what are some of the reasons that people “depart from the faith”?
  13. Why is physical exercise so difficult? How is it helpful? What makes “spiritual exercise” successful? Why is it so important according to 1 Timothy 4:8?
  14. Did you ever have someone look down on you because you were younger? How did that feel? Did you ever have someone older than you show respect to you despite your youth? What are ways, according to 1 Timothy 4:12, that we can show spiritual maturity no matter our age?
  15. How do you think our church does at showing respect to older men and women? What can we learn from 1 Timothy 5 and apply to our church ministries to those who are older than us?
  16. According to 1 Timothy 5:17-20, the role of pastor is really important. Why is it essential for churches to care for their pastors? Why is it important for churches to publicly rebuke pastors who “persist in sin”? Why should churches be slow to ordain new pastors (1 Timothy 5:22)?
  17. Read 1 Timothy 5:24-25. Explain this verse in your own words. How does it help you make sense of examples you have seen in others or yourself?

## General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

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## *October 9 - Week 40 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What is the best piece of advice you ever received?

### **New Testament**

1 Timothy 6 ~ 2 Timothy 1 ~ 2 Timothy 2 ~ 2 Timothy 3 ~ 2 Timothy 4

1. Have you ever worked in a workplace where it has been hard to maintain a Christian witness or influence? What were some of the challenges you have faced there? Why is it important to treat your boss as “worthy of all honor” according to 1 Timothy 6:1? Why is that hard to do with some bosses? Why is it extra important to be good employees when working for a Christian boss or organization? (1 Timothy 6:2)
2. 1 Timothy started out with a warning about false teachers and finishes with a warning about false teachers in 1 Timothy 6:3-10. What are some ways to recognize false teachers? What are some false teachings you’ve noticed today? How do we protect ourselves from false teachers and false teachings?
3. Why do you think Paul encourages Timothy to “fight the good fight of faith”? (1 Timothy 6:12) What does that look like?
4. If someone gave you something valuable, how would you protect it during your lifetime? How would you protect it beyond your lifetime? What does it look like to “guard the deposit entrusted to you”? (1 Timothy 6:20). Why do you think this theme continues on into 2 Timothy 1:14? What are some ways the “good deposit” is described? Who passed on the “good deposit” to Timothy? How does this encourage you to think about your own spiritual legacy? How do you want to be more intentional?
5. Why do you think Paul refers to a Christian as a “good soldier of Christ Jesus”? (2 Timothy 2:3). How has this been part of your experience? How does this connect with the commands and truths within Ephesians 6:10-20?
6. Read 2 Timothy 2:5. How does this description help us to think about the Christian life? Compare it with 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Who is the prize we are running after? What does spiritual “self-control” and “discipline” look like? Why is it so important and helpful? Read Hebrews 12:1-2 and connect its commands to the idea of life as a “race that is set before us.”
7. How does 2 Timothy 4:6-8 help us more clearly understand and apply this imagery of soldier, athlete, farmer to our own lives? What does it mean that genuine Christians have “loved His appearing”?
8. In 2 Timothy 2:14-26 we are warned of ways we might get attacked or tempted. Which warning stands out to you?
9. How does 2 Timothy 3:1-9 sound similar to the times we are living in? How is it different? What is the solution presented in 2 Timothy 3:10-17? How has God strengthened and matured you in a similar way over the years? How do you aim to continue to grow in future years that the Lord gives you?
10. Who might God be calling you to be more “ready” to speak the Word of God to? What does it mean to “reprove”? “Rebuke”? “Exhort”? (2 Timothy 4:2). Why is patience needed in such situations?

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11. What does Paul mean by “itching ears” in 2 Timothy 4:3-4? How have you noticed this happening today? On what issues? What topics do “teachers to suit their own passions” avoid? What do such teachers sound like?
12. How is Demas described in 2 Timothy 4:10? Have you known anyone like this who was once a faithful Christian but now is “in love with this present world”? Why should we be urgently concerned for people such as Demas? How can we best pray for such people? Love such people? Speak truth to such people?
13. (John) Mark is described by Paul as “useful to me for the ministry” (2 Timothy 4:11) after previously abandoning Paul on a missionary trip (Acts 15:36-40)? How does this example of restoration after failure encourage you?
14. Paul explains that “Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm” but trusts that “the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.” (2 Timothy 4:14). How is this instructive to us in our attitudes towards our enemies and those who have hurt us deeply? Why is a warning to others (2 Timothy 4:15) sometimes needed?
15. Paul was abandoned for awhile (“no one came to stand by me” 2 Timothy 4:16) but yet knows that “the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth.” (2 Timothy 4:17). How does this encourage your faith for seasons of loneliness? What Old Testament story/figure does it seem to reference? How does Paul’s ultimate focus on “The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom.” (2 Timothy 4:18) help him? How will that perspective help us move into the challenges of the future?

## General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

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## *October 16 – Week 41 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What is the best costume you ever dressed up in?

### **New Testament**

Titus 1 ~ Titus 2 ~ Titus 3 ~ Philemon ~ Hebrews 1

1. In Titus 1:1 Paul calls himself a “servant of God” for what purpose? How is our purpose the same? Different?
2. What is Paul’s relationship with Titus? (Titus 1:4) With whom has God place you into a similar relationship? What responsibilities and privileges come in such relationships?
3. Why does Paul give such specific commands to Titus about the role of pastor/shepherd/overseer/elder in Titus 1:5-9 as he gave to Timothy (1 Timothy 3:1-7)?
4. What does it mean to “hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught” (Titus 1:9)? How does that happen? Why is it so important? What happens if you hold onto something “loosely”? What happens if you hold on to the wrong teaching? Why is that extra important for pastors?
5. Paul gives Titus a warning of “many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers” (Titus 1:10). Why are they dangerous to a church? What is Paul’s command to Titus of how to respond to their presence and teaching (Titus 1:11)? How is this best done? What is the goal of such a confrontation (Titus 1:13)? What are some of the symptoms to watch for in the lives of bad & false teachers (Titus 1:14-16)? Why is this relevant today?
6. Look at the commands to older & younger men and women in Titus 2:2-8. If you had to pick one of these goals for your own life, what would you prioritize and why? How is Titus 2:9-10 important to our workplace ethics today? Why?
7. What does it look like to “renounce ungodliness and worldly passions”? What does it look like to “live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age”? (Titus 2:12) Why is this so challenging on a daily basis? How does the reality that we are “waiting for our blessed hope” (Titus 2:13) help with this daily battle for holiness?
8. How can we be “submissive to rulers and authorities” (Titus 3:1) if they are anti-God and evil in many of the things they say and do? How does such an attitude towards the government help our witness? Why is it important to our witness to “speak evil of no one, avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people” (Titus 3:2)? Do you struggle with this? How can you do better?
9. Paul writes Philemon about Onesimus, urging him to forgive Onesimus and to receive him as a Christian brother despite his theft and wrongdoing. Why is forgiveness so hard? Paul seems confident about Philemon’s forgiveness and generosity (Philemon 1:21). Why do you think that is? How does that connect with Paul’s start to the letter? (Philemon 1:1-7)
10. Read the beginning of Hebrews 1. What stands out to you? Impacts you? Why? What amazes you about who Jesus is? That the Creator speaks to us? That He is a better messenger than all of the prophets and the angels?

### **General Discussion Questions**

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

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## *October 23 - Week 42 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What is one thing you would want to be sure to do before you die?

### **New Testament**

Hebrews 2 ~ Hebrews 3 ~ Hebrews 4 ~ Hebrews 5 ~ Hebrews 6

1. Watch this great video explanation of Hebrews: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fNWTZZwgbs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fNWTZZwgbs)
2. Have you ever gone swimming in the ocean? What happens when you ignore the pull of the tide? Why are we warned that “we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard”? (Hebrews 2:1)
3. Read Hebrews 2:6. What amazes you about Jesus paying attention to you and caring for you?
4. How does it comfort you to know that, even though we “do not yet see everything in subjection to” Jesus, God “left nothing outside his control” (Hebrews 2:8)? How is Satan ultimately defeated (Hebrews 2:15)?
5. What does it mean that Jesus made “propitiation for the sins of the people” (Hebrews 2:17)? Why is it so significant that Jesus “had to be made like his brothers in every respect” (Hebrews 2:17) and “he himself has suffered when tempted” (Hebrews 2:18)?
6. When you look at a building, isn’t it obvious that there is an architect and a builder? Why then do atheists look at Creation and try to deny the existence of a designer and Creator? Why is important that we have the reminder that “the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself” and that “the builder of all things is God” (Hebrews 3:3-4)?
7. When have you been tempted to “harden your hearts” against God (Hebrews 3:8)? What are some symptoms of a hardened spirit? What are the dangers?
8. How do we avoid and warn others about turning away “from the living God” by “the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:12-13)? How are we deceived by sin? What does it promise? What does it actually do?
9. Read Hebrews 3:14. What is one evidence of true, saving faith? Why is the example of Israel’s rebellion in the Exodus used to help us understand this reality? How is Jesus better than Moses? Why then is our rebellion against Jesus more serious than Israel’s rebellion against Moses? Why is Heaven described as where we enter God’s rest (Hebrews 4:3-4)?
10. As you have grown as a Christian, how have you experienced the Bible to be “living and active” (Hebrews 4:12)?
11. Why is it important to understand that Jesus is our “great high priest”? What does that mean? How is he better than any other priest in all of history? (Hebrews 4:14-5:10)
12. How do babies progress from milk to solid food? Why is it important? How is spiritual maturity seen? Why is spiritual maturity so important (Hebrews 5:11-14)?
13. How has Jesus been “a sure and steadfast anchor” to your soul (Hebrews 6:19)? How can we better share and show that testimony of hope in Jesus’ finished work on the cross?

### **General Discussion Questions**

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

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## *October 30 - Week 43 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What phone app do you use or like the most?

### **New Testament**

Hebrews 7 ~ Hebrews 8 ~ Hebrews 9 ~ Hebrews 10 ~ Hebrews 11

1. Who was Melchizedek? (Genesis 14:18-20, Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 7) Why is Jesus compared to Melchizedek? Do you think Jesus appeared (theophany/Christophany) as Melchizedek to bless Abraham? (see [www.gotquestions.org/Melchizedek.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/Melchizedek.html) ).
2. What does it mean that Jesus “has become a priest” by “the power of an indestructible life” (Hebrews 7:16)? How is Jesus “a better hope” with “a better covenant” than the law was (Hebrews 7:19, 22; Hebrews 8:6)? Why does it make it so serious to reject Jesus as the ultimate “high priest”?
3. If you asked the average person how they might get to heaven, what do you think they would say? Do you think many Jews were thinking they could go to Heaven simply by being a good person by keeping the law and making sacrifices? Why then do you think all of this attention is given to Jesus as a priest?
4. How can you tell that every human already has the law of God in their minds and on their hearts (Hebrews 8:10, Romans 2:14-15)? Why does the law “speak to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped” (Romans 3:19)?
5. If you are a Christian, how have you experienced Jesus’ new covenant of knowing Him, being His people, and experiencing His mercy (Hebrews 8:10-12)? How does it feel to know that Jesus chooses not to hold your sin against you any longer (“I will remember their sins no more” (Hebrews 8:12)?
6. What confuses you about all of the Old Testament descriptions of rules for worship and sacrifice (Hebrews 9)? What was the purpose of the various sacrifices? Were they enough (Hebrews 9:9-10)? How is Hebrews showing us that Jesus is far better than any sacrifice (Hebrews 9:11-14)? Why then is it so serious to reject Jesus?
7. Why does an inheritance only pass on at death? How does this help us to see what Jesus accomplishes in His death to allow us an “eternal inheritance” and “the forgiveness of sins” (Hebrews 9:15-22)?
8. How does it make you feel to think that “it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgement” (Hebrews 9:27)? Should Christians fear death? Judgment? Why or why not? Why is it a good description of those who are saved to be “eagerly waiting for him” (Hebrews 9:28)? What distracts us from this focus?
9. Do you think the book of Hebrews is an easy or hard book to understand? Why? How have you discovered it to be important and helpful?
10. How does it help you to have the reminder to “hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23)?
11. Is church attendance important? Why or why not? Why do we need the encouragement to “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24–25)? What happens when we regularly miss church gatherings?

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12. Read Hebrews 10:26. What does this mean? Why is an unbeliever described as “one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:29) How has Hebrews showed us that unbelief is this serious?
13. Although God gives us abundant and overwhelming evidence for His Creative work, why do we still need faith to understand Jesus as Creator? (Hebrews 11:3). Why is this important to understand when talking to someone who believes in Darwinian evolution or atheism? Who are they ultimately trusting and having faith in? Where does that faith lead to?
14. Read Hebrews 11. Why does God give us these examples from across the Scriptures? Why is this summary given to us? Which example stands out to you or encourages you particularly? How are you impacted by reading of the Christian suffering in Hebrews 11:35-38)?

## General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)