



Unit 9 Guide

SERIES: LESSONS FROM THE CHURCH **THE DEDICATION OF CHURCH LEADERS** **1 Timothy 4:9-16**

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What do you think of when I say the word, “dedicated?”

Transition: This passage is particularly aimed at the one who is preaching. Obviously, the same call is also important for all the leaders and teachers as well.

The Bottom Line: God expects a serious devotion from His leaders. The leaders of the church are called to a life of godly dedication so their example teaches as powerfully as their words.

LESSON PLAN



Denotes “Apply”

Read 1 Timothy 4:9-10

1. For what does Paul say Jesus’ disciples labor and strive?
- 🌐 To labor meant strenuous work and was used by Paul to express an athlete’s exhaustion. To strive meant to suffer or endure reproach, oppression or resistance. How is that true of anyone who wants to seriously lead the charge of preaching and teaching?
- 🌐 How is that true for every Christian who takes being the salt and light of the world seriously?
- 🌐 Can you give any personal or specific examples of times when you or someone you know has labored and endured resistance because of their hope in the living God?

2. How does Paul say this saying on putting our hope in the living God, who is Savior of all men, should be accepted? (



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following questions: *What can you remember from the sermon series on "Hope" that reaffirmed your confidence in God's hope?* Then have each table share their ideas.

3. Paul says that God is the Savior of all and *especially* of those who believe. Why would he make that distinction and what could it mean?

Read 1 Timothy 4:11-14

4. Timothy is to do what two things with this truth about man's hope?
5. What does Paul say about Timothy's young age?
- 🗎 What happens in churches when a very young person becomes the preacher?
- 🗎 So what would God say to a young preacher today?
- 🗎 What would God say to older Christians who don't take a young preacher seriously?
6. How was Timothy supposed to combat this doubt in his teaching because of his young age?
7. Paul is planning to come to Ephesus. Until he comes what does he tell Timothy to focus on?
- 🗎 What should you expect out of your ministers after seeing these things?

Read 1 Timothy 4:15-16

8. What does Paul once again command Timothy? (*Be diligent in your spiritual growth, your witness and your calling to preach and teach. He is to be so focused on growing that everyone sees his growth.*)
 - 🗎 Obviously this same calling to grow in the Lord and in our witness is true for all Christians. Who here has discovered a spiritual growth plan that works? Share it with the class.

9. Paul tells Timothy that his obedience in these areas of ministry and faith can save himself and those who hear him. How is that true?



CARING TIME: SHARE AND PRAY

Close with a Prayer Time: *“Lordship of Christ” – Pray for each other at our tables to have a hunger and a plan for spiritual growth.*



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise” (Psalm 111:10).

