



Unit 3 Guide

SERIES: LESSONS FROM THE CHURCH **Lesson #3: THE HOLINESS OF THE CHURCH**

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** Have people take turns coming to the board and collectively create a drawing of grace. (Discuss the drawing and how it relates to the strengths and weaknesses of the church.)

The Bottom Line: The church is a place to find mercy and grace.

LESSON PLAN

 Denotes “Apply”

Questions – Do you think the church should ever say, “We have arrived; we are everything Jesus wants us to be?” So how can we keep growing in grace to be true to Jesus’ body?

Transition: Let’s see what we can learn from Paul’s words to Timothy as He is instructing him on how to strengthen the church at Ephesus.

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-14

1. What prayer of thanks is Paul sharing with Timothy? **List answers the board**

- *for giving him strength (Discuss the reality of each of these 3 points. How has God given Paul strength and how has He given you strength?)*
- *for considering him faithful (What did Paul do that God would consider him faithful? How could you say that God considers you faithful?)*
- *for appointing him to serve Him (What position was Paul appointed to in serving Jesus? What position are you appointed to in serving Jesus?)*

2. What three sins had dominated Paul’s past?

- *Blasphemer (How had Paul blasphemed Jesus?)*
- *Persecutor (What are some of the persecutions Paul orchestrated?)*

- *Violent man (In what ways was Paul violent before Jesus confronted him?)*

3. Why did God show Paul mercy?

⦿ How have you been shown the grace and mercy of Christ abundantly?

Read 1 Timothy 1:15-17

4. Christ Jesus came into the world for what purpose?

5. If this truth, the purpose of Jesus, deserves full acceptance, how should that affect your Christian life?

6. How should it affect the church's purpose?

⦿ What are some ways the church can focus on saving sinners?

⦿ What are some ways you personally can focus on saving sinners?

7. What were Paul's previous sins before he was shown grace by Jesus?

8. Why did Jesus forgive such a ruthless sinner?

⦿ How can you use Paul's example to strengthen your faith?

⦿ How can you use Paul's example to strengthen the faith of others?

9. List the parts of the doxology that Paul breaks into at the end of his testimony.



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. (*Have each table work as a team to write a doxology to their God. Then have each table share their offering of praise.*)

Read 1 Timothy 1:18-20

10. After sharing his faith testimony with Timothy, now Paul tells him the purpose of this letter is to help him be true to his calling in the Lord for ministry. What will Timothy be able to do if He follows the Holy Spirit's instructions in this letter?
11. What has happened to some people who did not keep fighting the good fight, holding on to the faith and a good conscience?
12. What did Paul mean by saying he had, "handed them over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme?"

Paul names two who have been shipwrecked: Hymenaeus and Alexander. The former is mentioned again as a heretical teacher in 2 Timothy 2:17. Two Alexanders are spoken of in connection with Ephesus. The first was a Jew (Acts 19:34). The second is "Alexander the metalworker," who did Paul a great deal of harm (2 Tim 4:14). He may be the one intended here. The apostle had handed these two ringleaders "over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme." The language here is similar to that found in 1 Corinthians 5:5, where it seems to indicate excommunication from the church. The purpose was to jolt the offender into repentance, induced by the fearful thought of being turned over to Satan's control. Bernard observes, "It is certainly a disciplinary or remedial and not a merely punitive penalty in both cases" (Expositor's Bible Commentary).

- ⦿ How can we be sure the teachings of Christ about the church and our faith are presented in such a way that people do not wander from the truth? (See 2 Tim. 2:15)
- ⦿ What can you do to help people be more involved with fighting the good fight and holding on to their faith and a good conscience?



CARING TIME: SHARE AND PRAY

Close with a Praise Time: **"Lordship of Christ"** – Ask the Question: How can we grow in our abilities to offer grace in our community? **Pray for God to empower our efforts.**

Memory Verse: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen" (2 Peter 3:18).