



# 1 Timothy

## God's Plan for His Church

Sample Lesson #1  
and  
Leader's Guide Answers

Read—1 Timothy 1:1-7; other references as given.

The books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are commonly known as the Pastoral Epistles because they were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to pastors (elders, overseers) of local churches. They provide Christians with a treasury of biblical instruction regarding (1) the effective administration of a local church and (2) how Christians should relate to one another within an assembly of faith.

No church or Christian can truly honor God and be effective in Christian ministry without a resolute commitment to the authority of God's Word. In this first lesson the apostle Paul commands Timothy, a pastor at Ephesus (an ancient city located in what is now western Turkey), to stick to the Word. The command is clear, and the consequences of not following Paul's exhortation are also clear. And the application to the church and every believer is patently obvious—stick to the Word.

Now ask God to reveal Himself through His Word and give you the grace to accept what you will be learning.

1. No book in the Bible has a more clearly stated purpose for being written. Why did God direct the apostle Paul to write this letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 3:15)?
  
2. Paul refers to Timothy as his **true son** (1 Timothy 1:2) even though Timothy's biological father was an unsaved Gentile (Acts 16:1-3). What *do you think* Paul meant when he referred to Timothy as his son (Philippians 2:19–22)?
  
3. The phrase **grace, mercy, and peace** is a slight adaptation of an early Christian greeting that was often used by believers. It is, however, more than that. Grace is the sole basis upon which all God's gifts are bestowed upon man, mercy is the basis upon which God's holy wrath toward man is satisfied or assuaged, and peace is the result of being properly related to a righteous and loving God.
  - a. What is the source of all three gifts?
  
  - b. Take a moment to reflect upon your relationship with God.
 

Are you trusting entirely in God's <i>grace</i> for eternal life?	YES	NO	NOT SURE
Are you grateful for God's <i>mercy</i> in your life?	YES	NO	
Are you at <i>peace</i> with God?	YES	NO	NOT REALLY
  
4. The book of Acts concludes with the apostle Paul imprisoned in Rome (Acts 28:16, 20, 30). Many Bible scholars believe Paul was eventually released and continued his missionary work before he was recaptured and beheaded in Rome. During this interim period God used him to write two pastoral epistles to Timothy (1 and 2 Timothy) and one to Titus (Titus). Before Paul left Timothy at Ephesus and departed for Macedonia, what specific instructions did he give him (1 Timothy 1:3–4)?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. If Timothy allowed these men to continue teaching their false doctrines in the church, what would be two negative results?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Many of God's people are confused about the primary purpose of the church's teaching ministry. Some believe the primary purpose of the public presentation of the Word is the salvation of the lost. Others believe the goal is the systematic presentation of truth so that God's people might gain a better knowledge of the Bible. Others

believe that the purpose of biblical instruction is merely to encourage the saints. Still others believe the goal of biblical instruction is primarily social reform—the proclamation of moral and ethical ideals so that God’s people might be salt and light in a corrupt world.

a. What is the purpose of all biblical instruction (1 Timothy 1:5)? Please be complete with your answer.

b. What three things must be present in a believer’s life before there can be a consistent manifestation of godly love?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

To what extent are these three qualities present in your life? Circle one:		
Not too much	I’m growing	No problem— I do all three

7. Christians can become disillusioned when they realize there are false teachers within the body of Christ. Some believers even become cynical and develop a critical spirit toward all teachers of the Word. What word or phrase did Paul use to assure Timothy (and us as well) that not all religious teachers are “wolves in sheep’s clothing” (1 Timothy 1:6)?

8. It is significant that the first chapter of 1 Timothy begins with the need for correct doctrine or theology within the church. It has been said that a church that is careless with its doctrine will be corrupt in its daily living. A lack of emphasis on the Scriptures in the church is not only shortsighted—it is a dangerous omission that will inevitably lead to heresy and apostasy. Why weren’t the false teachers in the Ephesian church able to interpret the Scriptures correctly (1 Timothy 1:3–7)?

9. Throughout the history of the church false teaching has been the source of innumerable problems. There are at least three reasons why these false teachers would likely have been able to gain the spiritual confidence of the Christians at Ephesus. What are they (1 Timothy 1:3–4, 7)?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 1:3)
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 1:4)
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 1:7)

10. Even today many Christians are willing to believe false teachers. Please give at least four reasons why *you think* this happens.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

11. What *do you think* a Christian can do to protect himself or herself against false teaching?

## 1 Stick to the Word

1. God instructed Paul to write 1 Timothy to instruct Timothy (and all believers throughout the ages) and the church at Ephesus how to conduct themselves within an assembly. Paul also told Timothy that the church was to be the pillar and foundation of the truth.
2. Timothy demonstrated childlike obedience to the apostle Paul. Timothy was loyal and devoted to Paul and served him the way a loving son would serve his father.
3.
  - a. God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - b. Answers will vary.
4.
  1. Paul told Timothy to instruct certain religious teachers in the Ephesian church to stop teaching false doctrines.
  2. Timothy and other believers in the church weren't to listen to the fables or endless genealogies.
5.
  1. These false teachings would only produce disputes and conflicts (1 Timothy 1:4).
  2. The church would not experience spiritual growth (1 Timothy 1:4, **rather than godly edification**).
6.
  - a. The goal of all Bible instruction is godly behavior that is motivated and characterized by Christlike love. Paul's goal in his preaching and teaching was to see lives changed into the image of Christ—the embodiment of love (1 John 4:8). This should be the goal of all spiritual instruction. Those who are given the opportunity to teach the Word of God should teach to transform rather than to simply inform (Hebrews 4:1–2).
  - b.
    1. A pure heart.
    2. A good conscience.
    3. A sincere faith.
7. “from which some”
8.
  1. The false teachers focused their spiritual teaching on theological speculations (fables) and placed an inordinate emphasis on human tradition (endless genealogies) rather than God's Word (1 Timothy 1:4).
  2. They were not careful to maintain a close personal walk with the Lord. As a result, they allowed sin to exist in their lives and their consciences became defiled which resulted in a shallow and insincere faith (1 Timothy 1:5).
  3. The focus of their spiritual instruction was fruitless discussion, and they did not understand the relationship of the OT Law to the NT believer (1 Timothy 1:6–7). Consequently, they were theologically confused on the subject of law and grace.
9.
  1. The false teachers delved into an area of theological discussion in which there are no definitive answers. They led their followers into endless speculation where confusion is king.
  2. The false teachers' emphasis on the religious regulations of the OT Law would have been perceived as spiritual zeal and dedication rather than what it was—error (Galatians 3:1–3).
  3. The false teachers spoke boldly, which gave the impression that they possessed strong biblical convictions (1 Timothy 1:7).
10.
  1. Many believers are not willing to personally study the Scriptures to determine what the Bible really teaches. They become easy targets for false religious teachers.
  2. Many Christians only want to hear positive things about God and themselves (2 Timothy 4:2–4). As a result, they turn away from the rich teaching of the Word to nonbiblical topics.
  3. Many Christians are confused about God's means of communicating His word in this age. Some false teachers promote the idea that they have received special revelation from God (visions, new insights, dreams, etc.; Hebrews 1:1–2; Jude 3).

4. Some false teachers have focused their entire teaching ministries on practical applications without teaching the foundational doctrinal beliefs (“The six easy steps to successful Christian living” or “The five easy steps to financial freedom,” etc.). This has produced a shallow church that does not see the need for a solid theological foundation on which to evaluate the practical teachings they receive.
  5. Many false teachers have charismatic personalities and are winsome communicators. Other answers could apply.
11. A Christian should study God’s Word daily, be an active part of a Bible-believing church, pray that God would not lead him or her into temptation, and serve the Lord faithfully. Answers will vary.