



## WEEK 2

### Ready for Amazing Grace

Every good soldier has a story about how they joined the army and why they fight. Paul shares his incredible story with Timothy – how he went from being Christianity’s biggest enemy to becoming one of its greatest champions. Paul had been hunting down Christians and trying to destroy the church, but Jesus saved him and completely changed his life. This wasn’t just a nice personal experience – it was God showing the world that His grace is powerful enough to transform anyone. Paul’s story becomes ammunition in the spiritual war. When Timothy remembers what God did for Paul, he’ll be ready to fight with confidence, knowing that the same amazing grace that saved Paul is backing him up in battle.

### THE SCRIPTURE: 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20

<sup>12</sup> I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, <sup>13</sup> though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. <sup>18</sup> This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, <sup>19</sup> holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, <sup>20</sup> among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> **blaspheme** – Should the false teachers turn from their ways, salvation remains possible for them. Paul’s aim here is Church discipline that stems from love and aims to restore the wayward individuals to fellowship with the Lord. While there’s no clear evidence that these false teachers spoke directly blasphemous words against God, their distortion of divine truth certainly constitutes a form of speaking against him.

## LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 2

### OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of a time when someone's personal testimony had a significant impact on your faith?
2. What's the most dramatic transformation you've witnessed in someone's life?

### DIVING DEEPER

3. In verses 12-14, Paul describes how Christ "appointed" him to service despite his past. What specific things does Paul thank Christ for? Why is gratitude essential for being spiritually ready? Can you find yourself relating to Paul in any ways?
4. Verse 15 contains what Paul calls a "trustworthy saying." What does he mean when he writes that this saying is "deserving of full acceptance"? How does this truth prepare us for spiritual warfare?
5. Paul calls himself the "foremost" of sinners (v15). Is this just humility, or is there a deeper purpose? If we were to make the same claim about ourselves, how would that make us more ready for battle?
6. According to verses 16-17, what was God's purpose in showing Paul mercy? How does understanding your own transformation equip you to better speak to others?

7. In verses 18-19, Paul gives Timothy a “charge” based on prophecies about him. What two things must Timothy maintain to “wage the good warfare”? Why are both necessary?
8. Take verses 18-19 and in the space below re-write them in language you understand personalizing them as if Paul wrote them to you.
9. Verses 19-20 mention Hymenaeus and Alexander who “made shipwreck of their faith.” What led to their downfall? What warning does this give us about staying alert in our walks with Christ?
10. The phrase “good warfare” appears in verse 18. How is fighting for the gospel different from worldly fighting? What makes spiritual warfare “good”?
11. Considering verse 20, under what circumstances would you continue to pursue a professing believer who is living in disobedience? When would you “hand them over,” and stop pursuing?