

Living Stones - Timothy
South Jersey Small Group Guide

Warm-Up Questions

1. What's something you committed to in the past (gym membership, team, hobby, job, etc.) that was exciting at first but harder to stick with long term?
2. When you hear the word *commitment*, what's your first emotional reaction — excitement, pressure, hesitation, resistance? Why?

Key Passage: Acts 16:1-5; Philippians 2:19-22

Recap

This week, we looked at the life of Timothy in Acts 16 and Philippians 2. Timothy didn't start as a flashy leader or spiritual giant. He started as someone willing to be faithful. When Paul invited him into the mission, Timothy agreed to be circumcised—not because it was required for salvation, but because it removed barriers for the gospel. He cared more about the mission than his comfort.

Paul later describes Timothy as someone who genuinely cared about people, proved himself over time, and served like a son with his father. Timothy's faithfulness wasn't dramatic—it was consistent. He stayed when it was hard. He owned the mission not as a job, but as a calling rooted in belonging.

As a church in the middle of the Living Stones campaign, we're being invited into that same kind of ownership—not perfection, not hype, but long-term, faithful, sacrificial commitment.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Timothy chose discomfort so the gospel wouldn't be dismissed. Where in your life is comfort competing with calling right now?
2. The sermon mentioned that hesitation toward commitment often comes from weariness, not rebellion. Do you resonate more with resistance or exhaustion? Why?
3. Paul says Timothy "genuinely cared" for people. What makes it difficult to care deeply for others in this season of your life?
4. Eugene Peterson describes discipleship as "a long obedience in the same direction." Where are you tempted to quit or pull back because the excitement has faded?
5. What's one area where you've seen the fruit of consistency over time — spiritually, relationally, or professionally?
6. Paul describes Timothy as serving "like a son with his father." What emotions does that language stir in you — comfort, longing, skepticism, gratitude? Why?
7. Owning the mission means living like you belong. In what ways do you still relate to church more like a consumer than a family member?

8. As we approach Commitment Sunday, what fears or questions surface for you around financial sacrifice? How can this group pray for you specifically?

Pray