



LESSONS FROM 1&2 TIMOTHY

05.21 – YOUR LEADERSHIP MATTERS

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to week two of our *Lessons from 1 & 2 Timothy* series! Remember, these two letters are written from Paul (a founding pastor) to Timothy (the guy he left in charge after he left). Within them are a variety of leadership lessons Paul aimed to instill in his successor. Together, let's spend some time digging into the 10 lessons Pastor Jesse unpacked with us.

DISCUSSION

1. Take a moment to think back on the leaders in your life. Who was your favorite? Your least favorite? What was it about their leadership that shaped your growth and your perception of them?
2. Do you view yourself as a leader? Why or why not? Each of us carries influence and will have the opportunity to lead others at various points in our lives. Where might you already be leading right now?
3. Pastor Jesse's 10 Leadership Lessons from 1 & 2 Timothy are provided below. Take a moment to review them and rate your health in each as "Red" (unhealthy), "Yellow" (increasing/decreasing in health), or "Green" (healthy). Share the why behind your ratings and any themes you notice with your group.
 1. Leaders exist because problems exist.
 2. At some point, leadership leads to confrontation.
 3. Leaders exist because people drift. Remind, redirect, repeat.
 4. Leaders don't settle for less than loving people.
 5. Leaders take the time to get below the surface.
 6. Be careful what you chase—and who is chasing with you.
 7. Good leaders are good at picking the right battles.
 8. You can't lead if you aren't kind.
 9. Lead with gentleness. Unless gentleness is your first step, you'll misstep.
 10. Know your leadership limits. There are things only God can do.
4. **Revisit and read 1 Timothy 1:3-5.** Do you view love as the basis of leadership? How does this affirm or change your existing practices? How might it shape your interactions with those you lead?
5. **Revisit and read 2 Timothy 2:22-25.** Paul gave clear and specific instructions for those in Timothy's church. What if we, "the Lord's servants," lived this out in each of our Little Iowas – our unique spheres of leadership and influence? What impact would this kind of leadership have in your family, school, workplace, and neighborhood?

APPLICATION

- **Practice Picking the Right Battles.** Start internally by growing in your own self-awareness. Work to know both your strengths and areas of growth; this will help you assess if a battle is important or whether it's a trigger to fight or flee from something else. When it is time for confrontation, battle well with integrity and love.
- **Practice Kindness and Gentleness.** You could be an exceptionally qualified leader, but without kindness and gentleness, people won't want to be led by you. This can be another area for growth in self-awareness. Work to learn where you're naturally more compassionate and where you're more prone to anger or cynicism. Proverbs 15:1 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 are great verses to return to when you need reminders that love is the goal.
- **Just Practice!** Ask God to make you increasingly aware of the leadership opportunities in front of you. As you begin to see the responsibility of your influence, invite God into the thoughts, feelings, and goals for each of these relationships or teams. Ask for His strength, clarity, and wisdom as you grow in these Leadership Lessons.