

## 2 TIMOTHY

LET'S EAT!



## TEACH IT TALK SESSION 9

This talk guide is just that: a guide. It's not intended to be a manuscript to read aloud. It's here to give you ideas, structure, and stories to blend with your personal study (Prep It) as you prepare your talk.

The content complements the other Teach It guides and allows you to give a talk on the same topic students are studying in other settings, such as small groups, without too much overlap.

### 1. Materials (Optional)

A set of dumbbells or other portable exercise equipment, such as a jump rope.

### 2. Optional Openings

#### VISUAL ILLUSTRATION

Begin by doing a few arm curls with the dumbbells (or jumping rope or doing another exercise activity) while you talk about wanting to get in better shape. Talk about how something has suddenly motivated you to be in better shape: maybe an upcoming beach vacation or being better fit for your spouse. Express some excitement and explain what got you excited about being in shape. After a few minutes stop the exercise because really, you're not sure you want it that bad. It's just too much work.

#### QUOTATIONS

Share a few of the following quotations or Scriptures to introduce the idea that God's Word should have an important place in our lives.

**The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian.**

—A.W. Tozer (1897-1963, American pastor, author)

**When you have read the Bible, you will know it is the Word of God, because you have found it the key to your own heart, your own happiness, and your own duty.**

—Woodrow T. Wilson (1856-1924, 28th President of the United States)

**When you read God's Word, you must constantly be saying to yourself, "It is talking to me, and about me."**

—Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855, Danish philosopher and theologian)

**Here, then, is the real problem of our negligence. We fail in our duty to study God's Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.**

—R. C. Sproul (1939-present, American theologian, pastor, founder of Ligonier Ministries)

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

—Hebrews 4:12

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

—Jesus, in Matthew 7:24

For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.

—1 Peter 1:24-25

### 3. Digging In

Continue—

I often wonder what it'd be like to have enough money to buy any car I want. Plus, I'd like a hot tub and a bigger porch. It'd be nice to have enough money to fly off to Hawaii any time I want; in fact, it'd be nice to own a private jet. The reality is that I'm not willing to work as hard and take the risks needed in order to have that kind of money. I value my time with my family too much. I value my downtime too much. I've seen the people who work incredibly hard and make wealth their top priority. I just don't want that for myself. I'd like the benefits, but not the hours.

I'd like to be 20 pounds lighter and a hundred pounds stronger on my bench press. I'd like to run a marathon. I'd like to finish a triathlon. I'd like to do all of these things, but I haven't proven that they were that important to me by doing the time in the gym. I'd love to lose weight. But I'd hate to skip my double bacon cheeseburger.

My relationship with my wife is sometimes like my relationship with the gym. It's easy to get busy doing “me” things and neglect my relationship with my wife. As much as I love her, there's still some discipline involved with spending some of my “me” time asking about her day. I need to take time out of every day to think about how I can love and serve her more. I need to put in the effort to be a better husband.

In the same way it's easy to neglect my relationship with God, even though I love him and desperately want to know him on a deeper level. I want to hear his voice. I want to feel his leading. I want to see his direction in every situation and follow him. I badly want that. The reality is that my actions don't always prove that. I know this: If I were more disciplined about spending time with him, thinking about him, and reading his Word, I'd know him on a level that I don't currently know him.

Continue with—

It's one thing to want a deeper relationship with God; it's another thing to work toward getting to know him better. But listen to what happens to us when we make that our goal:

#### OPTIONAL MIX-INS

You may want to point out a few expositional points about 2 Timothy:

*-The Greeks had a word they used when they wanted to describe something as thoroughly prepared—in the best shape possible.*

*-They would use this word to describe such things as: a ship ready for battle, a torn fishing net that's been completely repaired, a broken bone that's been totally mended, and a house that is thoroughly furnished.*

*-The New Testament uses this word to describe spiritual preparation, being in the best shape spiritually. You'll see this word translated as “equipped.”*

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

Think for a minute about what it would be like to be “thoroughly equipped for every good work.” When Scripture uses the word “equip,” it’s expressing a complete preparation. And in this passage it’s not only a complete preparation, but a thoroughly complete preparation for every good work. There is no stone left unturned in preparing us for good work.

That sounds like something all of us might want to shoot for. But notice what it takes to get there: letting Scripture get into our lives for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. *Teaching. Rebuking. Correcting. Training.* I don’t know about you, but that sounds like a lot of work to me. But the question is: How badly do you want to be in the best spiritual shape possible—thoroughly prepared for whatever life throws at you? Another question you could ask: How badly do you really want to know God’s will?

Dawson Trotman, the founder of the Navigators, a worldwide Christian ministry, once said, “the more Scripture one memorized, the more channels of communication the Lord had at His disposal.”<sup>1</sup> He memorized Scripture so that God would have one more pipeline to speak to him with each verse he committed to memory.

#### 4. Taking It Inward

Continue—

Did you notice in 2 Timothy 3:14-17 what it is that actually equips you? It’s Scripture. It’s not “15 minutes a day thinking thoughts about God” that equips you; it’s Scripture. Think about your last four or five quiet times or personal devotion times. Did anything happen to you on the inside? Would you describe your time as Oh, wow! or Ho-hum? When I get with God, I’m looking for Oh, wow! That’s what I want to happen—not something that feels random, or pointless, or ho-hum.

To guarantee Oh, Wow! I want to suggest something. The next time you open your Bible, ask God to use his Word to do what Paul said it can do in 2 Timothy 3:17. Really do it. Ask God these four requests from 2 Timothy:

- God, teach me. What do you want me to learn from the passage I’m reading?
- God, rebuke me. What do I need to clean up or repent of?
- God, correct me. What adjustments are you asking me to make in this passage?
- God, train me. What new muscle am I building as a result of what I’m reading?

If you make those requests, you’re giving God a chance to equip you with his Word.

There are Bible missionaries who spend 20 to 30 years living with tribes that have no written language. These missionaries will learn a tribe’s language—from scratch—and first build an alphabet of the sounds in the language. They’ll then listen to how the people in the tribe use the sounds to describe things and communicate with each other. From that they build words from the alphabet. Can you even imagine that process? It can take years. Then once they have the words,

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<sup>1</sup> Betty Lee Skinner, *Daws: A Man Who Trusted God* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1994), 63.

they translate the Bible into the tribe's language—another process that takes years. Finally, there comes a day when printed Bibles—in the language of this tribe that has never had a written alphabet—are dropped in by a missionary airplane or floated down a river in a canoe. And the tribe has a nationwide celebration. A Bible in their own words.

There are countries in this world where you can be thrown into jail or executed if a Bible is found in your home or on your person.

All you and I have to do is go to the nearest bookstore and buy a Bible. Or go to a shelf in our bedroom. It's just another thing you and I take for granted because of the nation we were born in, the life we get to live. The next time you're alone with your Bible, have yourself a celebration. Celebrate the fact that you're able to read the Word of God—the very words of God—in your own language. Thank God that he has given you something that will teach you, rebuke you, correct you, and train you in how to have a good life and a right relationship with him.

## 5. Wrapping It Up

Finish with—

Wouldn't it be great to give God an extra 15 minutes a day to get into his Word and give him some uninterrupted time to speak to you? Maybe a half hour? Forty-five minutes? Whatever is a stretch for you, I encourage you to take that step. But don't just add more time. Add more quality. Let's step up our training. Let's push through—whatever it takes to know God. Let me give you some ideas:

1. If the Bible seems like a huge sea of words, just lock in on a one-chapter book, such as Jude or Philemon. Make it your goal to own that book this week. Ask God to teach you, rebuke you, correct you, and train you through that book. Become your family's authority—a resident scholar—on that book. Drive them crazy with the new info you learn in that book.
2. Memorize a verse that you've never tried to memorize before. Create a new pipeline in your life that God can use to speak to you.
3. *Do the Sermon on the Mount.* (You'll find it in Matthew 5-7.) The Sermon on the Mount contains some of Jesus' most practical teaching. Whenever you read something Jesus says to do, ask God to help you build new muscle while practicing that action.

If you do one of these things this week, I guarantee that by next week you'll be in better spiritual shape than you are right now. And if that's the case, you'll be even closer to knowing and doing God's will. You'll be stronger in beating temptation. You'll be bolder with your faith—even without saying a word.

Here's a little saying you might want to write down:

The Bible...  
Know it: in your head.  
Stow it: in your heart.  
Sow it: in the world.  
Show it: in your life.

Speaking of the Sermon on the Mount, I want to leave you with these words from Jesus: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6).