

BIBLE SMASH!

Study: 1 Timothy 4:7-12

Memorize: 1 Timothy 4:12 and Ephesians 5:1

Notes:

Analyze: The background information...

Topic: Imitators of Christ

1 Timothy 4:7-12

1 Timothy was a letter written to Timothy from the apostle Paul. Timothy, about the age of 30, was a young pastor in a church in Ephesus and Asia Minor. Paul, now about 70, was writing to him to give him some advice on how to be a good pastor.

In these verses, Paul is trying to save the church against heterodoxy. Heterodoxy means “those that preach against what we believe to be true as Christians”. We as Christians believe that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Ephesians 5:1

Paul wrote Ephesians while he was in jail, for the first time, in Rome. He had visited the church there and knew many of the people. It is thought that this letter may have been intended as a circular letter, meaning that it would be read in many churches, to give advice and help to many churches rather than just one.

Ephesus was a large city and was a strong commercial, political, and religious center. There were many temples there to other gods, one of the largest being to Artemis (A Greek god. The Daughter of Jupiter and Latona; a virgin goddess who presided over hunting, chastity (sex), and

marriage.) It was a very large trade city.

Statistically, the people that can have the most influence over a child are their parents. Consider that when reading the verse.

In this verse the word “imitators” (NIV) means: “to walk the way of”. That is the original intent of these verses as they were originally written. Some versions of the Bible may have the wording “followers of” which is too bad because the meaning is not the same or as strong. To follow someone is not the same as to be like someone.

Share: Is there anything that you have learned that you would like to share with others or anything that have learned from listening to someone else share? Write it here...

Honor: Make this your prayer

Dear God,

Help me proclaim your Power, whose majesty is over Israel, and all the world, and whose power is in the skies. You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary; The God of Israel gives power and strength to His people.

**Praise be to God!
Amen.**

Based on Psalms 68:34-35

Leader's Guide: Questions for discussion...

1 Timothy 4:7-12

- 1) What do you think verse 7 is trying to say? (Make sure your priorities are straight – God first)
- 2) What is godliness? Why does Paul think it is more important than physical training?
- 3) What are some major similarities between training our self physically and training our self spiritually? (Growth only comes when we exercise, so we need to exercise spiritually also)
- 4) Verse 11 tells us to command and teach “these things”.
 - a. What do you think they mean?
 - b. When you think of the word command what do you think of? What is a military commander? (someone with authority)
 - c. And how might WE, as teens, teach them. (look for real answers that can be applied to them – not the “Sunday school” answer that a student may give because that is what they think you want to hear but will never put into practice)
- 5) What do you think the word “young” refers to in verse 12? (When Paul wrote this he was about 70 and Timothy was about 30 so the term is relative)
- 6) Why must we set examples of what a good believe should be like? (It can be common for older people to look down on younger people due to the fact that older people have more “life experience” and younger people sometimes, even with good intentions, make mistakes by not paying attention to what they are doing. By setting a good example of what it means to be a Christian it will not give others something to put us down for.)

Ephesians 5:1

- 1) Who are God's children?

- 2) Could the verse read "...as followers..." instead of "...as children..."?
 - a) Would it mean the same?
 - b) Can I follow someone's teachings without ever having met the person?
 - c) Under normal circumstances you would know your father – natural or adopted. Which relationship is stronger: to know someone you have heard about or to know your father?

- 3) In the NIV version of the Bible it reads to be imitators of God? (students will probably answer that it means to be just like God)
 - a) Do you think it is truly possible to us to do this?
 - b) (explain what it means to be an imitator – its in the analyze section of this lesson)
 - c) Based on the definition you just heard for the word "imitators" now do you think it is possible?

- 4) What are some things we can do to walk in the ways of God the Father?

- 5) How much do you think God loves us? (John 3:16) What does that mean to you to be loved that much?

- 6) What are some ways we can show the love to others? Will you practice these ways? Challenge each student to list 1-3 things they will try to do between now and the next Bible SMASH to show God's love to others. (you can use that to open the next Bible SMASH with)

Credit

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