Grace Group Guide

United Purpose: Together we will designate time and place to deepening our desire for God, caring for and urging each other to action!

United Actions: WL Groups...
-Scripture: Be in the Word together
-Encouragement: One another each other
-Prayer: With and for each other and the lost
-Accountability: Now What? Put it into action!

-**ICEBREAKER**-

- What is a task that you've struggled to finish or a challenge that you've struggled to persevere through? What made this difficult? How did you make it through?
- Have you ever been pushed back or challenged about your faith in Christ? If so, how? And how did you respond? If not, why do you think that is?

Transition: Last week we began a new sermon series on ***2 Timothy.*** This week, we'll look at *2 Timothy 2:1-13*. In this passage, Paul encourages Timothy to be strengthened by the grace of Christ and endure suffering in his ministry. We are going to read through this passage, discuss it, and think about how we can apply it to our lives so that we, too, can live boldly for Christ and endure until to the end.

-**DISCUSSION**-

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-13

- What are the three illustrations given in ***verses 1-6***? What do you think Paul is communicating with these illustrations?
    - Paul compares Timothy to a soldier serving Christ.
        - We must be willing to suffer for Christ.
        - We must serve, listen, obey, and please Christ as our Commander in battle.
    - Paul compares Timothy to an athlete.
        - We must compete according to the rules that Christ has given us. *How* we accomplish our task matters just as much as accomplishing our task. Don't take shortcuts!
            - ***Note:*** Emphasize that Scripture gives us the rules, instructions, and guidelines to follow. So, we need to know it well! If we're going to follow the rules, we need to know them!
    - Paul compares Timothy to a farmer.
        - We must work hard!

Leader Note: Read ***verse 7*** again, then give your group time to reflect and ask God to help them understand these verses. Encourage them to specifically reflect on whether they are acting like the soldier, athlete, and farmer in these verses. And if not, why?

- Looking at verses 8-10, why is it important to remember Christ and the gospel?
    - ***Possible Answers:***
        - This gives us needed perspective as we suffer.
        - This gives us the drive we need to endure suffering like Paul.

As a group, try to summarize what this passage/topic teaches us in one to two sentences.

-**REFLECTION**-

- What is hindering you from being a bold witness for Christ?
- Circle back to your earlier time of reflection. Are you like the soldier, athlete, and farmer? Why or why not?
- What would it look like if everyone at WL Grace Church lived like this. What if all of us committed to boldly proclaiming the gospel to others and endure suffering for Christ? What would look different?

-**APPLICATION**-

- Take time to reflect on 2 Timothy 2:1-13 and ask the Lord to help you understand what Paul is expressing. Look at verse 7 again and pray through this over the next week.
- Think about someone you could share the Gospel with and pray for them. The next time you see them, be ready to boldly and clearly articulate the Gospel in love.
    - ***Leader Note:*** Discuss how you would go about sharing the Gospel with someone who is not a believer.

-**PRAY**-

- Lord, thank you for the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and what that means for us. Holy Spirit, help us to better understand the truth of the Gospel and what that means for our lives. Help us to live boldly proclaiming Christ in every aspect of our lives regardless of surrounding circumstances.
- Lord, help us soften our hearts daily to the amazing News we have received through Jesus Christ so that we would not shy away from sharing this with others. We recognize that we do not always live boldly but we ask that you would help us through your Holy Spirit.