

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

- What can you do this week to strengthen your relationship with God or take it to the next level?
- In your current situation, what do you think God is calling you to do? What steps can you take to either more clearly know what God is asking you to do or to more fully obey him?
- What can you do to grow as a 'true son' or daughter to the 'Paul' or 'Pauls' in your life?
- Have you identified your 'Ephesus', the place and people you are called to serve? What can you do this week to fulfill or function in your assignment to serve them?

## PRAYER

- Ask God to show you the people he wants you to serve and share life with and to give you compassion for them.
- Ask God to show you who the 'Paul' in your life might be and to help you become a true son or daughter to them.
- Ask God who you might be a 'Paul' to and to give you wisdom to mentor them as a spiritual parent.

## NOTES

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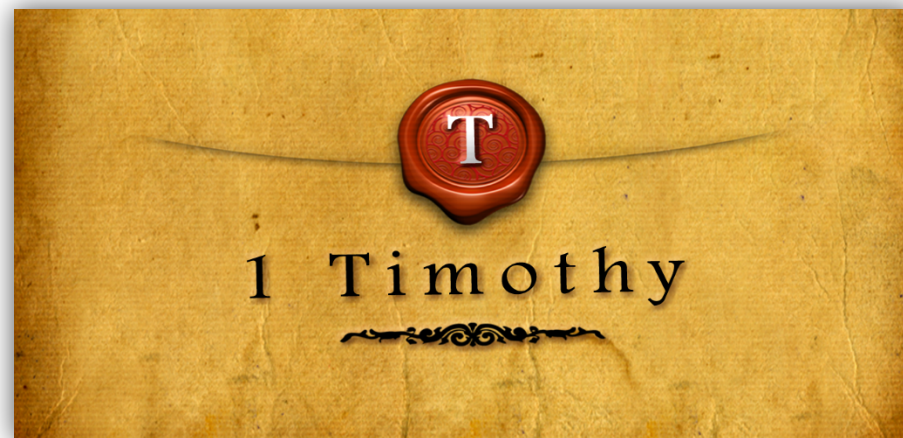
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## SPIRITUAL SONS & DAUGHTERS

### CONNECT

- Would you say your relationship with your parents is close, distant, or somewhere in between? What are two words you would use to describe your relationship with them?
- Would you describe your current job as your 'true calling', a 'temporary provision', or 'a necessary evil'? Why?
- What is a 'family obligation'? Have you ever had to do something uncomfortable or unpleasant due to a family obligation?

### WHAT

God has always loved us, even in the times when we were unaware of him, far from him, or even rebelling against him. God's desire is that we would live as his sons and daughters in the faith, according to his calling for our lives. Often this begins by finding a spiritually and naturally mature mentor who we can help to guide us toward growth in our relationship with God, a process called discipleship.

Paul's relationship with Timothy is a great example of discipleship. Over the next few weeks we will learn about discipleship through the study of Paul's letter to Timothy. It is an extremely rich study and has much that we can apply to our lives. Let's get started!

## WORD

*"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer."*

**1 Timothy 1:1-3 (NIV)**

### 1. We are called by God.

*"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*

1 Corinthians 1:9

God called Paul into fellowship with him, then invited him to follow his commands into the life of an apostle. It is out of God's love for us and that he calls us into relationship with him. How has God called you into relationship with him? How have you responded to that call? Do you have an idea of what God is commanding you to do?

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### 2. We are called to faith.

*"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*

Hebrews 11:6

Faith is trusting God to do what he said he would do and to act in accordance with his character. Just as trust is essential to any healthy relationship, faith is essential to a healthy relationship with God and to living the life we were created for. How would you describe the level of your faith, your trust in God, right now? Are you diving in head first? Testing the waters? Scared to go near the water?

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### 3. We are called to true sonship.

*"...To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer."*

1 Timothy 1:1-3

Paul called Timothy a 'true son in the faith' and urged him to continue in the assignment given to him earlier. We too are called to be like Timothy. Every one of us needs a 'Paul' in our lives and every one of us has an assignment God would like us to walk out. What do you think it means to be a 'true son' or daughter? Have you identified a 'Paul' in your life? Are you relating to them like a 'true son'? Like Timothy's assignment to serve the people of Ephesus, God's assignments always involve serving other people. Do you know who God has assigned you to serve? How are you doing at serving them?

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