



THRIVING – Living to Develop Sons in the Faith 8th November 2020 Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

“Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing”

Albert Schweitzer

1. Read [Philippians 2:19-24](#)
2. What matters to Christ?
3. ‘Lives that live for God’s purposes’; what does this mean?

Engage:

4. Read [Philippians 2:22](#)
5. Read [Acts 16:2-3](#)
 - The point of development is to carry real faith responsibility.
6. There are development opportunities in front of each of us:
 - *Circumstances may overwhelm you, but God’s love can lift you*
 - *Challenges may daunt you, but God’s word can guide you*
 - *Covid-19 may drain you, but the Holy Spirit will fill you*

“Act so as to encourage the best in others, and by so doing you will develop the best in yourself.”

Felix Adler (German Philosopher)

7. What is ‘influence’?
8. All Areas of Life can be impacted: for example, Conversation, Community, Friendship, Parenting. What other areas are there?
 - Every one of us can DEVELOP somebody else.
 - To be able to develop, we must first be open to our own development!
 - Paul saw potential in Timothy – He had a good Reputation
 - Paul demonstrated true spiritual leadership – establish strong reputation

9. Read [Proverbs 22:1](#)
10. Read [Acts 14:19-20](#)
11. The key components in Paul's life:
 - Courage
 - Character
 - Conviction
12. Ask yourself, how can I develop in order to influence people well? Take a moment to really think about this. Write it down so you can keep coming back to your answer.
13. Here are some ways you can develop yourself in order to influence people well:
 - Grow in genuine Faith (truly believe in Christ – His word and works)
 - Complain Less (don't make excuses, or blame others for my situation)
 - Listen More (Prayer, trusted spiritual leadership)
 - Align myself (BCC DARING values are a strong platform)
 - Build trust - by being trustworthy

“Your greatest accomplishment may not be something you do but someone you raise.”

Andy Stanley

Framework:

14. Read [2 Timothy 2:2](#)
 - Every one of us has the ability to motivate another person. But we need to be willing to look... Even in Lockdown.
15. Where are your current opportunities for connection inside the church?
16. Where are your current opportunities for connection outside the church?
17. Here are some practical opportunities to leverage:
 - Bring someone to Alpha
 - Lead someone through Essentials 1-1
 - Work with BCC life groups
 - BCC academy initiatives
18. Read [John 3:22](#)
19. Paul apprenticed Timothy the same way that Jesus did. We can influence through momentary reactions, or on a meaningful journey. Society increasingly expects instant responses, but kingdom journeys usually take much longer.
20. Where were you last year and where will you be in 12 months?

“The trouble with most people is that they will work their hardest and their best at the things they like doing, and will do practically nothing to do the things they do not like doing...”

William Petersen (The Discipling of Timothy, Page 88)

“But you know how Timothy has proved himself.”

Philippians 2:22

21. How are we proved (throughout life and testing times)?
22. Read [1 Corinthians 4:17](#)
23. The steps of Timothy’s experience with Paul:
 - Parent: What did this look like?
 - Partner: What did this look like?
 - Pioneer: What did this look like?

“When trust is built capacity can increase”

Mark Wiltshire

24. What difference did Timothy make?
25. Now let’s take a look at Paul’s TRUST in Timothy
26. **6 Letters ‘from’ Timothy (NLT references):**
 - **Phil 1:1** This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus.
 - **Col 1:1** This letter is from Paul... and from our brother Timothy.
 - **1 Thes 1:1** This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy.
 - **2 Thes 1:1** This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy.
 - **Philemon 1:1** This letter is from Paul... and from our brother Timothy. I am writing to Philemon, our beloved co-worker.
 - **2 Cor 1:1** This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy.
27. **2 Letters written ‘to’ Timothy:**
 - **1Tim 1:1** This letter is from Paul, ... I am writing to Timothy,
 - **2Tim 1:2** I am writing to Timothy, my dear son.
28. Timothy was a Pastor at Ephesus. What challenges did he face?
29. **3 letters ‘Refer’ to Timothy:**
 - **Rom. 16:21** Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you his greetings,
 - **1Cor 4:17** That’s why I have sent Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of how I follow Christ Jesus, just as I teach in all the churches wherever I go.
 - **Hebrews 13:23** I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released from jail.

Conclusion:

30. How does God Help us to Develop Sons?
 - **HE Strengthens Me** (personally) - Disciplines, Devotion (*prayer...*)
 - **HE Brings Opportunity** - Friendship with Intention – life/word

- **HE Strengthens You** (the other person) - Parent..., Partner..., Pioneer...
(*connectedness*)
 31. How do these 3 steps apply to you specifically?
 32. What will you and I be remembered for?
 33. Are we living to reproduce in others?

