

# A Journey to Remember

No one wakes up one day and decides to run a marathon. Runners need months or even years to train their bodies to run a long distance. Similarly, a believer shouldn't think he is just going to naturally live for God. He needs training. This quarter you will learn many truths about godly living, and you will be given lots of opportunities to practice so that you will be ready to handle difficult life situations.



**The Real Faith in Life Devotional Bible Study** is designed to help you dig into God's Word. Each lesson offers devotions for Monday through Saturday, along with an In-Class

worksheet to be completed during your group study.

In order for you to gain the most out of your devotional time, use the following tools along with your student book.



**Journal:** Purchase a journal or notebook to record your personal thoughts and prayers. Bring your journal and student book to class each week so that you can take notes during the

lesson or write any special insights you gain from a particular activity. You may also use the journal for sermon notes or for prayer requests.



**Bible study tools:** In order for you to dig into God's Word, consider using a Bible dictionary and a concordance. If you are not familiar with these helpful guides, ask your pastor or youth leader for a recommendation.

Or visit an online Bible tools Web site, such as [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org).

This site offers commentaries, maps, and many other tools to help you in your Bible study. (This recommendation does not constitute a blanket endorsement by RBP.)

## Why We Fight

There are many causes that people advocate in our world: cancer research, world hunger solutions, equal rights, preservation of the environment. The advocates devote themselves to these causes because they firmly believe in the value of what they're fighting for. As a believer, you've been called to fight for an even greater cause than all these, a fight for something eternal, the fight to defend God's truth. Study your devotions this week to learn more about this fight worth fighting.

### Memory Verses:



*"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck" (1 Timothy 1:18, 19).*

## Monday

### Read 1 Timothy 1:1 and 2.

1. Who wrote 1 Timothy?
2. How did he refer to Timothy?

**Before you plunge into a study of 1 Timothy, learn about who Timothy was and how he got involved in ministry. Read Acts 16:1–5.**

3. What do you learn about Timothy's background?
4. What do you learn about Timothy's reputation?



*Timothy's circumcision would have gained him an audience with Jews who might otherwise be skeptical of him because of his Gentile father.*

5. With what kind of work did Timothy help Paul?

As Paul and Timothy traveled and ministered together, Timothy became a great help to Paul. Paul frequently sent Timothy as a messenger to churches. Our society tends to be very individualistic. We admire people who can make it on their own, and don't need anyone else. This is an imbalance in our culture. Even the apostle Paul knew that he needed others to be more effective in ministry. Do you sense your need for other believers? How can you connect with someone in your world, in order to draw closer to God and to be more effective in the ministry God has given you?



**Memory Verse Activity:** As you memorize the first verse of this week's memory verses, picture Paul speaking to Timothy on a battlefield. As you memorize the second verse, picture Paul showing Timothy a catastrophic shipwreck. Why do you think Paul used these two word pictures?

## Tuesday

Just like churches today, the New Testament churches had distinct histories and characteristics.

1. According to 1 Timothy 1:3, where did Timothy minister, and how did he come to settle there?

**This city received a lot of Paul's attention during his second missionary journey. Read about Paul's work here in Acts 18:18–21.**

2. Whom did Paul initially leave in Ephesus?



*These two were faithful proclaimers of the gospel. Undoubtedly, much of Timothy's ministry rested on the ministry they had already started in Ephesus.*

**Read Acts 19:8–32 and describe the following:**

3. The length of Paul's stay in Ephesus

4. Paul's ministry in Ephesus

5. Paul's opposition in Ephesus

6. According to Acts 19:10 and 20, what was the ultimate outcome of Paul's ministry in Ephesus?

The church at Ephesus was well grounded in the Word, but from the beginning it had faced opposition. First Timothy is like a small instruction manual written by Paul to Timothy to help him continue to establish the church while dealing with opposition to the gospel.

# Wednesday

**The Diana-worshippers were not the biggest threat to the Ephesian church. Read 1 Timothy 1:3–7.**

1. For what specific reason had Paul left Timothy in Ephesus?
2. What characterized the false teachers' doctrine?
3. What does Paul desire for these false teachers, and for the church in general (v. 5)?
4. How does this goal contrast with the goal of the false teachers (vv. 6 and 7)?
5. Paul says that one problem with these false teachers is that their conversations had turned to "vain jangling," or meaningless discussions. Are there conversations that take place in churches today—perhaps even spiritual-sounding conversations—that could be characterized as "vain jangling"? What might some of those be?

# Thursday

**Paul had described the false teachers as those who wanted to be teachers of the law, but they didn't understand the law. He then included a brief paragraph about the true purpose of the law. Read 1 Timothy 1:8–11.**

*The law refers to the writings of Moses, most specifically to the Ten Commandments. False teachers in the early church often taught that believers—Jews and Gentiles alike—were to conform to the law to obtain a right standing before God. They did not understand the law's relation to Jesus Christ or the truth that righteousness comes through Christ alone.*



1. When is the law good?
2. Whom did Paul say the law was *not* for?
3. List the people Paul said the law was for.
4. Read Galatians 3:24. How does Paul describe the law in this verse?

How does this work? Take murderers, for example. The sixth commandment forbids murder. Murderers have broken this commandment, making them guilty and unholy before God. There's no way for them to become innocent or holy on their own, so they have to accept Jesus' sacrifice on their behalf in order to enter into a right standing with God. In this way, the law is instrumental in bringing a person to salvation, but only Jesus Christ can save.

5. Explain why the law is not for the righteous.



*This does not mean that believers can completely disregard God's law. It is no longer a believer's tutor, but it reflects God's holiness, which is the goal of every believer (1 Peter 1:16).*

6. What was Paul's ultimate source of truth (1 Timothy 1:11)?

Unlike the false teachers, Paul didn't stake his teachings in human reasoning or popular opinion. He always made God's Word his standard.

## 4 Real Faith in Life

# Friday

The difference between true doctrine and false doctrine was not a take-it-or-leave-it issue for Paul. The glorious gospel had radically changed his life. Read 1 Timothy 1:12–17.

1. How did Paul describe his life before his salvation?

2. What had God done for Paul?

3. In verse 15, what did Paul write about Jesus Christ?

himself?



*Notice that Paul didn't say "of whom I **was** chief," but "of whom I **am** chief." Paul always remembered that he was "only a sinner, saved by grace."*

4. For what purpose did Paul find mercy?

5. Paul couldn't contain his praise. What attributes of Christ did he lift up in verse 17?



*False doctrine could never have brought about this change in Paul.*

What is your attitude toward false teaching? Is the defense of God's truth personal to you like it was to Paul? Can you give testimony of the way true doctrine has transformed your life? Does it bother you that others around you are missing out on that transformation because they're holding on to false teaching?

# Saturday

In a small amount of space, Paul had described the false teachers' doctrine, had explained the result of true doctrine, had given a mini-lesson on the law, and had testified of the gospel's effect on his life. Then he had a pointed command for Timothy. Read 1 Timothy 1:18–20.

1. What did Paul charge Timothy to do?



*This kind of charge would have come as no surprise to Timothy. He had been previously recognized by other godly leaders as one who would minister for God.*

2. What war was Timothy to fight?

3. How does this charge coincide with the reason Paul had left Timothy in Ephesus (v. 3)?

4. According to verse 19, what two qualities was Timothy to uphold while fighting this war?

5. What had happened to those who had disregarded these two things?



*Paul's examples of Hymenaeus and Alexander were intended to warn Timothy of the real danger of forsaking the truth. "Delivered unto Satan" probably means that Paul excommunicated these people from the church, thereby resigning them to the world, which is Satan's realm. Paul could not have taken away these men's salvation if they were already believers.*

There are a multitude of causes to fight for in this world, but the war for God's truth is the ultimate fight worth fighting. Paul's charge was not just for Timothy. It's for you too.



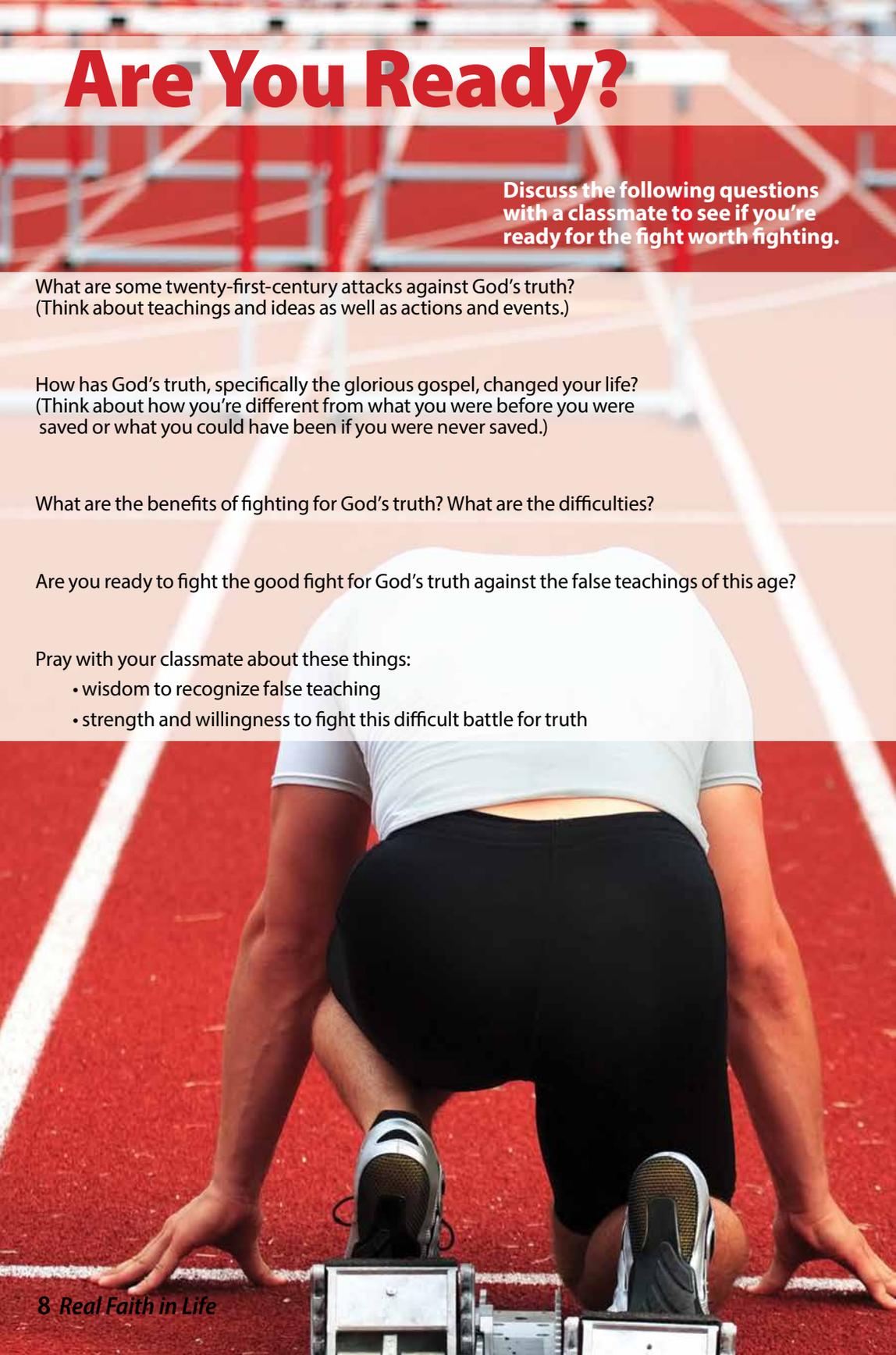
**To be ready, I must understand that the war for God's truth is a fight worth fighting.**



# Journal Notes



# Are You Ready?

A person is shown from behind, in a starting crouch on a red athletic track. They are wearing a white t-shirt, black shorts, and white sneakers. Their hands are on the ground, and their feet are on starting blocks. The background is a blurred red track with white lane markings.

Discuss the following questions with a classmate to see if you're ready for the fight worth fighting.

What are some twenty-first-century attacks against God's truth? (Think about teachings and ideas as well as actions and events.)

How has God's truth, specifically the glorious gospel, changed your life? (Think about how you're different from what you were before you were saved or what you could have been if you were never saved.)

What are the benefits of fighting for God's truth? What are the difficulties?

Are you ready to fight the good fight for God's truth against the false teachings of this age?

Pray with your classmate about these things:

- wisdom to recognize false teaching
- strength and willingness to fight this difficult battle for truth