

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

'Progress Check'

8th April 2018

Key Scripture: 1 Timothy 4

4 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. 3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

6 If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters,[a] you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. 7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. 8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 9 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. 10 That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe.

11 Command and teach these things. 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

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Questions:

Don't take too long on these but do give enough time for good conversation, challenge and reflection.

1. Are there specific things that have stuck with you from our 'Year of Growth' teaching so far? If so, why do you think they have stuck with you?
2. Have those things had any practical impact on your life? Do you have a story to share here?
3. How have you been creating the best environment for growth over the last few months?
4. In January we talked about the significance of time. Taking time with God and knowing that time is our friend. How is your perspective of time doing at the moment?

Take a chunk of time to focus on our key scripture for this week

5. What are the things that strike you as you read/hear this passage?
6. How do you reflect on verses 7-8?
7. Progress is powerful. How do verses 12-16 paint that picture for us?
8. What key things out of this reflection week can you take into the second half of this year?