

## Discussion Questions for weeks of May 8, 2016



### **BIG IDEA:**

In the book of 2 Timothy, Paul speaks to a younger friend about the great adventure of spiritual leadership and the theme is "it's your turn now." Paul spends four short, powerful chapters passing the baton and giving Timothy tips and pointers at how to maximize the experience of spiritual leadership. If you're ready to take your turn at the exciting, fun, and rewarding endeavor of spiritual leadership, 2 Timothy is the book for you!

One of the greatest ways we can lead is by sharing our story of how God has transformed our life through Jesus Christ and sharing how He is challenging us currently through His Word. We want to help you know your own story of grace and practice sharing it with others!

### **ICE BREAKER:**

Tell about a time something crazy or amazing happened and you couldn't wait to share it with somebody.

*Leaders – This week we want students to learn how to share their story and how to use scripture to encourage and challenge others. A great way to start is to share your own testimony or ask ahead of time one of the students to lead out in this way. If you have done this recently, you could have them fill out the "My Turn Now" form to share in a different way how God is growing them through Scripture and leading in the lives of others. Make sure you leave enough time for them to share. Can even split up into smaller groups.*

### **Why your story?**

Your story is INTERESTING because it is a real, local human drama. Your story is UNDERSTANDABLE to those around you because it is current and observable. Your story is UNDENIABLE because it is based on facts that actually happened! God wants to use your personal story to lead other people to his love! It should be our goal to present what Jesus has done in our lives in such a clear, simple, and attractive way that those who hear about our life will not only want to know God, but they will also know how to begin a real relationship with Him.

### **Life Before Knowing Christ.**

1. What were you like before you came to Christ?
2. What made you start thinking about God and if He could make a difference in your life?

### **How You Came to Know Christ**

3. When and where did you find out about Jesus Christ?
4. Specifically, how did you ask Jesus into your life?

### **Life After You Received Christ** (changes He has made, what He means to you now).

5. How did your life begin to change after you started your relationship with God?
6. Compare your life now to what it might have been if you hadn't trusted Christ. What are the benefits you've experienced since you became a Christian?
7. What are one or two special verses that God really used to teach you about Him?
8. What is God teaching you right now in your relationship with Him?

### **Tips for sharing your story:**

1. Ask God to help you and make your words the right ones he wants you to say.
2. Speak loudly and clearly in a natural, relaxed tone of voice.
3. Avoid mannerisms when you speak, such as rubbing your nose, jingling coins in your pocket, swaying, clearing your throat and using "uh's" and "ah's."
4. Be prepared. Practice sharing your story lots so it becomes natural.
5. Keep it simple & short.
6. Make sure your story is authentic and easy to imitate.
7. Limit the use of Christian phrases or "church talk" that others might not understand.

### **Getting ready to tell your story?**

Stop and Pray: Ask God for wisdom and guidance as you prepare. If you're going to tell others your story, you need to be prepared ahead of time and you're going to need God's help. The main point of your story should be how you met God and what your relationship with Him has meant for you so far. An easy way to prepare and share is to answer the following questions about your life with Christ:

*You can write in your answers to these questions on the back of this sheet.*

**Life Before Knowing Christ.**

1. Before I came to Christ I...

2. I started thinking about God when...

**How You Came to Know Christ**

3. I heard the full story of Jesus Christ when...

4. I asked Jesus into my life at...

**Life After You Received Christ** (changes He has made, what He means to you now).

5. Some of the ways my life began to change after I started a relationship with God were...

6. If I hadn't trusted Christ and became a Christian my life would have....

7. Some special verses that God really used to teach me about Him are...

8. Right now God is teaching me that...

## My Turn Now

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I believe that God has called me to join with the Apostle Paul and countless other leaders in the task of telling people about Jesus. The book of 2 Timothy says that "God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and self discipline." It also says not to be ashamed of the testimony that God has given you. I have decided to come here today to boldly speak about some of the things God has taught me and done in my life. God has been teaching me lately to:

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2 Timothy 2:4 says that "Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them." I want to please God but I have to admit that sometimes I get tied up in things of this world. Some examples of worldly things that distract me from God are:

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I understand that in order to lead others I must first lead myself. Paul charges Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:13 to "follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard" from your teachers and leaders. One place I'm growing in leading myself spiritually is:

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Paul also tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:5 to "endure suffering, and do the work of an evangelist." We are called to preach the Word and live out the gospel in our daily lives, not just at church. One way I'm boldly leading others is:

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2 Timothy 4:2-4 says to "Preach the word of God" and to "Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching." It says that "a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will reject the truth and chase after myths." Harrison has asked me to share one verse from anywhere in the Bible that I think would correct or encourage you even if it isn't something that everyone would like to hear. I have chosen \_\_\_\_\_ because I think that my peers really need to understand the truth that:

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Thanks for giving me a chance to share my heart and listening.