

Facilitator:

1. Open with prayer.
2. Welcome any newcomers.
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour at the most.

Facilitator: Encourage your members to **BRING THEIR BIBLES** and use them during Connect Group.

CONNECT Group study questions for Aug 26, 2018

Title: “Do Something Great”

Read 2 Timothy 4:5-7.

1. Paul was facing the reality of his own death. How should we as Christians think about our own deaths? How should we think about death in the world? Brainstorm with your group how you might share these truths and the hope we have in Christ with someone who is dying or has suffered the loss of a loved one.

Facilitator: Paul teaches us how to think about life and death. Paul sees his death as a rescue “from every evil deed” (2 Tim 4:17-18), but Paul also sees staying alive and serving Christ as a great thing (Phil 1:21-25). This is only natural. We want to live but we rest in the hope of a resurrection to a glorious new life. The rest of the world does not have this hope, nor share our “rest.” We have to tell as many people as we can about the hope we have, and we have to trust in the goodness and justice of God for the rest.

As your group brainstorms about how to share with those who are suffering, keep their attention focused on two things: 1) the gospel and 2) love and service. We must always speak the truth about God and the gospel. We must always hold on to our hope of a resurrection to a glorious new life. But in the midst of grief, most people don’t need a sermon or a theology lesson at first. They need a shoulder to cry on and a hot meal. We can demonstrate the love of Christ and his gospel to them by taking care of them in their time of need.

2. In 2 Timothy 4:7 Paul gives three reasons why he is confidently ready to meet death: 1) he fought the good fight, 2) he finished the course, and 3) he kept the faith. What do those reasons mean to you? How can you “fight the good fight” this week? How can you “finish the course” this week? How can you “keep the faith” this week? Be as specific as you are comfortable with being.

Facilitator: Take these questions slowly, giving ample time to flesh out answers for each one. Give everyone a chance to share. As they share in the abstract (i.e. what those reasons mean), gently nudge them to make it personal. If the discussion leads to only looking at big picture answers, lead them to think of smaller steps that can be taken. You should lead the way. How are you specifically going to fight the good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith this week?

This question and Peppy’s reference to a race harkens back to the sermon on July 8th about being a champion. If your group discussed steps they could take regarding the questions from that week, check in with them on how that process is going and help them incorporate those answers as well. Those questions can be found in the Connect Group Leadership group under resources on Planning Center.

3. This Sunday was an exciting Sunday and we will likely have dozens and dozens of new people joining our discipleship ministry. Brainstorm how your group can prepare to add new people. And if you don't get any new people from the Sunday morning sign-up, brainstorm which of your lost friends and neighbors you can pray for and invite to your group.

Facilitator: As you think through this, remind your group of what we talked about at the Quarterly Discipleship Training meeting on making sure your group is "invite friendly." As a reminder, you can also find those notes on Planning Center.