

Scriptures for Personal Study and Group Discussion

Group members should use these scriptures to complete the GOD'S WORDS and MY WORDS columns in our new Discussion Guide. This assignment should take less than 30 minutes.

For your group to study and discuss during the week of...

April 29	2 Timothy 4:6-13, 16-18	Loneliness
May 6	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Guilt
May 13	Jeremiah 17:5-8	Insecurity

Background Information for 2 Timothy 4:6-13,16-18

We are preparing for our second week in the new series called "Silent Killers."

We are looking at four things that can be the silent killers of the Abundant Life Jesus offers. Worry, loneliness, guilt and insecurity are not the most obvious obstacles to the life of faith in Christ, but they can be deadly to our souls.

This week we'll talk about **loneliness**. **Before Sunday, May 6**, we would like each group member to personally study the passage and then discuss it as a group.

2 Timothy is a book that seeks to encourage Paul's protégé, Timothy, in his ministry at Ephesus. Much like with Philippians, Paul would have been writing this from a prison cell. In fact, it was one of the last letters that Paul wrote that still remain with us today. The primary theme of the letter is the need for faithfulness in the face of hardship. Paul focuses on leaving his legacy in Timothy by teaching him how to endure the race with faithfulness.

Within the passage you'll notice that Demas and Alexander are mentioned as having abandoned Paul and not continued to follow Christ faithfully. It may be necessary to point out that even Paul dealt with those who walked away from the Lord. **As easy as it could be to get bogged down with those details, we would encourage you to focus your discussion on Paul** as he reflects on his own life and his example for us in how we might live when we encounter seasons of isolation and loneliness. Even faced with certain death, Paul reflects with fondness and peace, on the life that he has led. In the rest of the verses, Paul tells Timothy that he is completely alone. But in 17-18, Paul makes clear how he has been comforted in this time of loneliness and stays hopeful in this life and the life to come.