

W O M E N ' S B I B L E S T U D Y

# Equipped

F O R T H E F I G H T

## Sound Doctrine

### 1 Timothy 1:1-11

Lesson 1

Another great Women's Bible Study year lies ahead of us as we join together again to investigate and apply God's Word to our everyday lives! This year, we will journey with the great Apostle Paul through the books of 1 Timothy, Titus and 2 Timothy. Paul wrote these books to Timothy and Titus who were pastors and needed help and encouragement in their calling. These epistles are often referred to as the Pastoral Epistles for this very reason. But, don't be fooled by that title! These letters are packed with powerful instruction not only for pastors and leaders but for all Christians who love the Lord Jesus Christ and desire wholeheartedly to serve and follow Him.

In this week's opening verses, Paul addresses Timothy who is located in Ephesus. Timothy had a tough job as Ephesus abounded with false teachers who were all too eager to lead Christians astray. These early Christians had been taught sound doctrine, but now heretics had entered the church and they were doing all they could to lead these believers off course. Sadly, the same scenario exists today. Satan has no new strategies. He is still seeking to water down the truth which causes Christians to compromise and draws them away from the pure Word of God.

It is heartbreaking when believers stray from truth and lean toward believing what Paul refers to as "vain jangling or meaningless talk" (1 Timothy 1:6). In the year ahead, we will study and grow together in the sound doctrine of God's holy Word. We will learn to discern between truth and hearsay. Young Timothy was part of a big city church with all kinds of people and all kinds of problems. Instead of feeling overwhelmed and ready to quit, he chose to listen to the inspired words of the Apostle Paul which equipped him to fight the good fight of faith. We pray that you too will learn to stand on the Word of God and hold fast to the truth no matter what comes your way in this life.

**Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer**

**This Week's Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:1-11**

*“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, <sup>2</sup>To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>3</sup>As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, <sup>4</sup>nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. <sup>5</sup>Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, <sup>6</sup>from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, <sup>7</sup>desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. <sup>8</sup>But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, <sup>9</sup>knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, <sup>10</sup>for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, <sup>11</sup>according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.” NKJV*

**This Week's Memory Verse:**

***“Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart,  
from a good conscience, and from sincere faith.”  
1 Timothy 1:5***

1. What title does the writer of 1 Timothy give himself? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. By whose commandment was this title given? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. “Our Savior” and “our hope” are used to describe the One who had sent Paul out. How does knowing these truths about our Lord give us the encouragement we need to begin and continue our service to Him? \_\_\_\_\_  
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*“Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life in fear; rather look to them with full hope that, as they arise, God, whose you are, will deliver you out of them. He is your Keeper. He has kept you hitherto. Hold fast to his dear hand, and he will lead you safely through all things; and, when you cannot stand, he will bear you in his arms. Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. Our Father will either shield you from suffering, or he will give you strength to bear it.”*

*– Saint Francis of Sales (1567–1622)*

2. What did Paul urge Timothy to do and for what purpose (v. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

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a. What examples did Paul give of unsound doctrine in verse 4? \_\_\_\_\_

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b. What was Paul’s reason for not giving in to these false teachings? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group Discussion**

In our modern world, we do not get caught up in endless genealogies or even fables. However, we do often end up in disputes within the church. List some modern day examples of how we can apply 1 Timothy 1:5 – “The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.” NLT \_\_\_\_\_

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*“Love feels no burden, thinks nothing of trouble, attempts what is above its strength, pleads no excuse of impossibility; for it thinks all things lawful for itself, and all things possible. It is therefore able to undertake all things, and warrants them to take effect, where he who does not love, would faint and lie down.”*

*– Thomas à Kempis (c. 1380–1471)*

3. According to verses 6 and 7, what caused ungodly discussions among the believers?

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a. What do you think was at the root of this kind of attitude which led to idle talk?

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4. Paul’s instruction to Timothy in verses 8-11 now turns to an explanation of the law and its purpose. Read this portion of scripture and answer the following questions. Note: Use the NLT Bible for further explanation.

a. How does verse 8 describe God’s law? \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Whom is the law for (v. 9)? \_\_\_\_\_

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c. How are the recipients of the law referred to in verses 9 and 10? \_\_\_\_\_

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d. How is wholesome teaching then described (v. 11)? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Given what we have learned so far about the church in Ephesus, why is it so important that we adhere to sound, wholesome teaching in today’s church? \_\_\_\_\_

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