

JESUS FOLLOWERS FAITHFULLY PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: LIVING IN PURSUIT / SERIES: 2 TIMOTHY

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS FAITHFULLY PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Mark 16:15; Matthew 10:7; 28:18-20; Luke 9:60; Romans 10:8; Acts 20:27

BIBLE VERSE: 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-2

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."

BIG IDEAS

- Faithful proclamation reproves, rebukes, and encourages others with patience and teaching.
- Faithful proclamation loves the truth.
- Faithful proclamation requires endurance.

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

TRANSFORM - LIVING IN PURSUIT

In High School, the Transform Year is an exploration of what it looks like to have transformed influence as we seek to live for a Kingdom that is greater than our own. First, we recognize that we will never be transformed if we are not Living for Jesus. To do this, we must first know who Jesus is by looking at who He says He is (John 8:58), and then look at what the Bible says about how in Him, we live by faith (James 1:6). Next, we recognize that to have transformed influence means that we must live as disciples in pursuit of Christ and His Kingdom over ourselves and our own kingdoms.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- God never leaves or forsakes His children
- Holiness makes us ready for every good work
- God's Word equips us for every good work



Every student should feel...

- Strengthened and ready for the fight of the Christian life
- Love for God's Word which changes our lives
- Responsible to use their influence for Jesus alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read the entire book of 2 Timothy
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Recognize and flee forms of counterfeit godliness



Every student should want...

- To grow in how to rightly handle God's Word
- To faithfully face weakness so that God's strength would be on display
- To remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, in all they do and in all their conversations

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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JESUS FOLLOWERS FAITHFULLY
PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL**BIBLE VERSE: 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-2**

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."

God is present and at work in believers' lives.

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom..."

- God is present in the lives of His followers through His Spirit. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer and works inside of them to make them more and more like Him. He is always at work in them to sanctify them and grow them to be more like Him.
- God uses His Spirit to weed out sinful habits and to grow their faith and Christlikeness. God works in His people to help them leverage their lives for His purposes, which are to share His truth in all the world. His Spirit guides His people to faithfully proclaim the Gospel in all the world.

Believers are to proclaim truth always.

"preach the word; be ready in season and out of season..."

- As God uses His Spirit inside of His followers, He commands them to be prepared always to speak His truth. His truth is found in His Word and His people are to be ready always to speak His Word to those around them.
- We are ready to speak truth when we know truth. We know truth by preparing our hearts and minds to hear His truth and by hiding His truth in our hearts. When we do this, we can be ready always to speak His truth. We are to be aware of this command and to live our lives ready to tell others about Jesus.

Believers are to speak correction and encouragement always.

"...reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."

- Not only are believers to be prepared to proclaim the Gospel, but they are to be prepared to speak correction and encouragement to fellow believers. This is part of being in the body of Christ. To be a member of Christ's body is to be prepared to reprove and encourage other believers. This requires that we live in such a way with one another that we are familiar with one another's lives.
- When we are ready to speak correction, we are prepared to do so with patience and in love. When we speak encouragement, we do so with love and when it is appropriate. We do not miss the opportunity to encourage.

JESUS FOLLOWERS FAITHFULLY
PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL**BIG IDEA #1: FAITHFUL PROCLAMATION REPROVES, REBUKES, AND ENCOURAGES OTHERS WITH PATIENCE AND TEACHING.¹****[THIS]**

In 2 Timothy 4:1-2, Paul admonishes Timothy to preach the Word of God and to do it faithfully. Paul begins his admonishment by reminding Timothy that when he preaches the Word of God, he does so in the very presence of God and Jesus Christ. Paul reminds Timothy of the weight of teaching others God's Word and the importance of getting it right because we are all judged on how we teach others God's Word. It is that important that we faithfully proclaim Scripture to the world around us. Paul teaches Timothy what faithful proclamation looks like. It looks like reproving and rebuking. To reprove someone is to scold or correct someone gently or with kindly intent. It is to speak the truth in love and with the hope of seeing life change. To rebuke is to check or turn back and is meant to serve as keeping a fellow brother or sister in Christ from veering from the path of following Jesus. In order to faithfully proclaim the Word of God, we will have to reprove and rebuke the people we live life with. We will do these things in love with patience because this is how God our Father interacts with us.

[THEREFORE]

How has hearing a sermon or someone teaching the Word served as a rebuke or corrected your behavior in some way?

2 Timothy 3:16 teaches us that all Scripture is profitable for teaching and correcting. This means that when we hear it preached and taught, it can and should serve to correct our sinful behavior. Proverbs 6:23 reminds us of the power of Scripture to correct our behavior and guide our hearts to the Lord.

[THIS]

The faithful proclamation of Scripture involves encouraging others with patience. Faithfulness is no easy task and if we are to be found faithful, we must discipline ourselves to be students of God's Word ourselves. Paul taught Timothy this and encouraged him to teach others faithfully. In 2 Timothy 4:2, Paul encourages Timothy to exhort people with the Word of God. When we exhort our fellow brothers and sisters, we are strongly encouraging them to live faithfully for Jesus. We need people to encourage us to live for Jesus as much as we need to strongly encourage others to do the same. This type of encouragement requires patience. It is not something that can be done once or twice. It is something that must be done again and again. It must also be combined with the teaching of the Word of God. As the Word is taught, we will be encouraged to live faithfully for Him.

[THEREFORE]

How has the lie that you are too young kept you from faithfully proclaiming the Word of God to someone?

If we have the Holy Spirit, we all have the ability to learn God's Word in a way that enables us to teach others His truth. Colossians 3:16 and 1 Peter 4:10 remind us that it is our responsibility to know God's Word and to be found faithfully proclaiming it.

What keeps us from encouraging one another more faithfully? Why do we grow weary in encouraging one another?

When we become distracted with ourselves or the things of this world, we will grow weary in doing what God commands us to do. Galatians 6:9 and 2 Thessalonians 3:13 remind us to remain steadfast in doing what God calls us to do and Colossians 3:2 tells us to keep our minds on things above.

1. 2 Timothy 4:2: When we faithfully proclaim, we also faithfully reprove and correct others.

JESUS FOLLOWERS FAITHFULLY
PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL**BIG IDEA #2: FAITHFUL PROCLAMATION LOVES THE TRUTH.²****[THIS]**

In 2 Timothy 4:3-4, Paul warns Timothy of people who will fall away from the truth. Those people will grow tired of hearing God's truth. They will have what Paul calls "itching ears." Itching ears are ears that long to hear something new or different than the truth they have been hearing. This happens when people do not love and truly believe God's Word. When a person doesn't really trust God's Word and believe that it is absolute truth, they will desire to hear something else. They are drawn away by whatever new and interesting philosophy or spiritual thing is popular at the time. Paul warns Timothy to beware of these people. They do not love God or His truth. They are not faithful to Him. People who are like this do not faithfully proclaim the truth. You won't faithfully preach the Word of God if you don't really love it and believe it's true. These people fall away and seek other things. They trade the truth of Jesus Christ for the lies of this world. This is folly and leads to destruction and eternal death.

[THEREFORE]

Is it possible to have faithful proclamation without truth? How do we try to do this?

We can water down the Gospel by leaving out parts that we think will offend others. We can let the current culture dictate the truth we tell and when we do this, we aren't really faithfully proclaiming the Gospel. John 17:17 tells us that God's Word is truth and makes us like Him. Psalm 119:160 tells us that all of God's Word is truth.

[THIS]

When we love God's truth, we will tell others about Him. Paul was an example of this in 2 Timothy 4:1-8. He willingly suffered for the sake of telling others about Jesus. He willingly suffered to teach Timothy how to live for Jesus. This is because He believed and loved the truth of God. When we believe and love the truth of God, we will proclaim it. We will faithfully tell others about Jesus because we will want others to know Him like we know Him. We will remain steadfast and true because our first love will be Jesus. Our love will be to Jesus and Jesus alone. We will be like Paul and encourage others to know Jesus and to teach His Word to others. As followers of Jesus, we will proclaim His Word because of our love for His truth. We will tell our friends and family members His truth and we will seek out lost people to tell them His truth. This is what it means to faithfully proclaim His truth.

[THEREFORE]

What are some ways you've noticed your love for God's truth grow as you've studied His Word more?

John 17:17, 8:32, and Psalm 119:160 help us see that God's Word teaches us His truth. The more we know His Word, the more we will know truth. The more we know truth, the more we will love it and the more we will grow in our Christlikeness. Knowing God's truth is part of loving being like Him and loving Him.

Read 2 Timothy 4:3-4. What are challenges to proclaiming God's truth in the world around you?

Just as Paul wrote to Timothy about the people who had "itching ears," people today desire to hear a different truth. People want to hear an easier truth that makes them feel good about themselves. They do not want to hear the real truth that transforms their lives.

2. 2 Timothy 4:3-4: Those who turn away do not love truth. Those who faithfully proclaim God's Word love His truth.

JESUS FOLLOWERS FAITHFULLY
PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL**BIG IDEA #3: FAITHFUL PROCLAMATION REQUIRES ENDURANCE.³****[THIS]**

Paul's life is an example of faithfully enduring for the sake of the gospel. Paul endured much suffering so that the Gospel might go out into the world. In 2 Timothy 4:6, he writes to Timothy that he is being "poured out as a drink offering." His time of leaving this earth was nearing and Paul was preparing Timothy for his own suffering as a follower of Christ. To follow Jesus is to tell others about Him. To tell others about Him involves faithful proclamation of the Gospel. The Gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ, and it involves His life, death, burial, and resurrection. Telling others that they can have salvation when they believe in Him is proclaiming this truth. It is easy to do this when our lives are good, and things are going well for us. When we aren't facing struggles and hardships, telling others the good news of Jesus is easy. When things are bad, it is harder to remain faithful.

[THEREFORE]

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-6. Why does Paul tell Timothy he is being poured out as a drink offering? How does this help Timothy remain faithful?

Paul encouraged Timothy to live faithfully and by sharing his own life and personal struggles with Timothy encouraged him to live more faithfully. When we look at Paul's life, we, too, are encouraged to live faithfully for Jesus.

[THIS]

Every believer will face hardships and struggles. Just like Paul suffered, those who proclaim the truth will suffer. When we endeavor to live for Jesus, we will face persecution for it. The world hated Jesus and it will hate us, too. 2 Timothy 4:6-8 shows us that even though Paul was persecuted and faced the end of his life, he knew that his reward was eternal life with Jesus. If we are to faithfully proclaim the Gospel, we must learn endurance. We cannot give up easily when we face opposition to the Gospel message. When people ridicule us or we lose friends or advantages, we cannot be deterred from sharing the truth. Instead, these obstacles and challenges should encourage us and spur us on to share the Gospel even more boldly. This should make us want to tell even more people about Jesus and to share His truth. We learn to endure when we rely upon God and His Word. As our faith is tested, we grow spiritually. As we grow in our spiritual disciplines, we will grow in endurance. The more we turn to Jesus in our time of trial, the stronger we will become and the more we will learn to endure.

[THEREFORE]

How have you learned to endure from a trial or struggle in your own life?

Scripture teaches us that our trials increase our faith. James 1:12 reminds us that when we remain steadfast during trial, we will be rewarded by experiencing eternal life with Christ. Romans 12:12 tells us to rejoice in our suffering and this is because we always have a reason to hope.

How does Paul's example of faithful proclamation inspire you to share the gospel regardless of the cost?

In 2 Corinthians 11:24-29, Paul details some of his suffering for the sake of the Gospel. As we read what Paul endured for the spread of the Gospel, we should be inspired to share the Gospel with our lost friends and family, knowing that we will not experience the same degree of suffering most likely. Faithful proclamation requires our faithful endurance, too.

3. 2 Timothy 4:5: Faithful followers of Jesus endure in order to proclaim the truth.