

CBC YOUTH MINISTRY GUIDE

February 2017 ISSUE

Welcome to 2017!

We hope you had a blessed holiday season, or at the very least, survived it. Now, as we look towards a brand new year, let us join together again for our second edition of the CBC Youth Ministry Guide!

Just to reiterate the purpose of this guide, it is our hope that this guide can be used by students, leaders, and parents alike as a platform for growth, discipleship, and discussion. So if you ever feel like you want to grow, but don't know the best way to do that, try following along with the Ministry Guide!

This month we're going to take a closer look at the passages from this month's Youth Praise, 1 Timothy 2:8-15. These verses are a pretty big deal, so this should be an interesting month of in-depth study. In fact, these verses can be very divisive as well. Let us all keep an attitude of unity, understanding, and love as we study and reflect.

Finally, while it may seem like certain weeks aren't speaking directly to you, it's my firm belief that the lessons and messages in all these verses are necessary for the believer, male or female. That's enough preamble, on to the first week!

Week 1 - "Prayer"

(January 1 - January 7)

Read

1 Timothy 2:8; Psalms 24:3-4; Matthew 5:23-24

In 1 Timothy, Paul writes to Timothy about the problems the church in Ephesus was facing. The church in Ephesus was facing lots of false teaching and Paul feared what the consequences of that would be to the congregation. Paul writes to Timothy to inform him on the proper values of church leadership roles.

In verse 8, Paul addresses the men in the church who are not praying, not leading the church in prayer, and are fighting while praying. Although in this verse Paul is addressing the men, it's also important to note he's teaching them how to pray, which is applicable to both male and female. He says to pray with "lifting up holy hands and without anger or quarrelling". Holiness is something, as believers, we want to constantly strive for. Paul says to come with "holy hands," being able to recognize our sins and to continually working on

them, and asking God for forgiveness. Yet also doing it without “anger and quarrelling” with our neighbors. So, that we can come before God in a right place of mind and heart without hostility.

Middle School

What is prayer? Why do we pray? How can you pray for yourself and others?

High School

Paul talks about “lifting up holy hands”. How can you continually work towards holiness? Is there someone you’ve been holding bitterness towards?

Parent/College

Think about the specific people God has placed in your lives. How can you pray for them? Through the daily hustle of life, how can you pray daily “in every place”? How can you be an example of holiness to others?

Pray

Paul taught us in this verse how to pray. Take some time this week to pray how Paul told us to.

Grow

If you have anger in your heart towards someone, pull them aside and talk to them about what’s been bothering you. Think of ways you can encourage them to holiness, and pray for each other.

Week 2 - "Bling"

(December 4 - December 10)

Read

1 Timothy 2:9-10

Last week in verse 8, we saw Paul addressing the men in the church, and now this week in verses 9 and 10, we see him addressing the women. In many ancient cities, it was very common that women would dress in very seductive ways to draw attention to themselves. Paul tells the women that they should be dressed in “respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or costly attire”. The way women dressed started to become a distraction in the church for both men and women. They distracted

others by the way they dressed and distracted themselves by worrying about what they were wearing.

However, in context, Paul isn't saying we can't braid our hair or wear jewelry, but rather think about the motivation behind that. Is it to show off? Are you over worrying about your looks? Today we have many more distractions than just clothing that barriers us from God, but it's our response to those distractions that matter. Rather than having it build a barrier between us from God, how can we use these things that usually distract us to glorify God instead.

Middle School

What is a materialistic item you can't live without? How would you feel if that thing got taken away from you? Do you spend too much time focusing on that item rather than on God?

High School

Think about what you spend the majority of your time on/with. How can you give up those things to God?

Parent/College

How can we adorn ourselves with good deeds instead? What does that even mean? Is that a works based faith? How can we do this on a day to day basis.

Pray

Ask God to humble your hearts and set your attention and focus on Him.

Grow

Recognize the things that have become distractions in your life. Set those things aside, and spend 20 minutes reflecting and thinking about how you can use those distractions to glorify God instead.

Week 3 - "Authority"

(January 15 - January 21)

Read

1 Timothy 2:11-14, 2 Timothy 3:6, 1 Peter 3:7, Ephesians 5:22-32

Context is important. We need to understand why it is that Paul is telling the church at Ephesus all of this. Otherwise, we start to take things out of context and end up misapplying and misunderstanding scripture. In Ephesus, false teachers have been teaching false doctrine among the people. Many of these false teachers were women swaying young women and spreading dissent among younger women.

Paul says something that many still disagree on now: that he does not permit women to be in authority positions in the church or to teach men. We'll talk about that bombshell in a little bit. Paul then points to the first man/woman relationship: Adam and Eve. It was the sin of Adam abandoning his authority and Eve assuming it that led to the first sin. Paul argues that God's intention is for men to be in authority and for women to submit.

Let me clarify this truth: men and women have been created equal in dignity and value. This much is a foundational truth and cannot be argued, and let us never forget that. This goes back to the *imago dei*, the understanding that humans were created in God's image. However, based on a doctrine called "complementarianism", men and women, while equal in dignity and value, are different in role.

It would be unfair to not mention "egalitarianism", the opposing view of complementarianism which believes that all genders are equal in every way, with no restrictions on teaching, pastoring, or leading.

This sentiment goes completely against our culture though. How is it fair that men should have all the authority and women are expected to submit to them? First, let us look to 1 Peter 3:7 and Ephesians 5:22-32 to elaborate on this authority/submission relationship that Paul talks about. Men are not free to abuse their authority and their relationship is akin to the one that Christ and the church have, in love, sacrifice, and consideration. Secondly, and most importantly, remember that there is one ultimate authority that we all must submit to, male or female, and that is the Lord's.

Middle School

Whose authority are you under? How do you respond to that authority? Have you thought about the authority of God, of scripture, and of the church/pastors in your life? In what ways have you rejected authority in your life?

High School

Why can this passage be hard to digest and accept? What makes it hard, and what truths can affect our understanding of it? Talk through this passage with your Community Group leader.

Parent/College

Talk your students through this tough passage. How can we reconcile what Paul says in these verses with what our culture says today? What dangers are there to labeling some passages in the bible as obsolete in modern society?

Pray

Ask God to help you accept His authority in your life. Ask that God reveals areas in your life that you've rejected his authority and ask Him to grow your faith in those areas.

Grow

Research complementarianism and egalitarianism. Make sure you look for biblical support! Check the context of the verses and see how the narrative fits into the entire bible. Investigate both sides.

Week 4 - "Jesus"

(January 22 - January 28)

Read

1 Timothy 2:14-15; Genesis 3:15

Last week's verses ended with the women in dire circumstances: through the deception of Eve, she became a transgressor. Likewise, many of those in the church of Ephesus had been deceived by false teachings. However, Paul doesn't leave the Ephesians there. Instead, he continues on, pointing to Christ through the proto evangelion, a term we touched on in December's Ministry Guide.

As with the rest of this chapter, these verses are highly debated and subject of some controversy. Paul tells the Ephesians that "women will be saved through childbearing." Reading this passage to mean that women must give birth in order to receive salvation is inconsistent with the rest of the bible, so what *does* Paul mean by this?

Some scholars argue that there should be a "the" entered before "childbirth". Another way it can be read through the original Greek is that "women will be saved through *the birth*". Paul's reminder to the Ephesians is that despite Eve's deception by the serpent and despite Adam's failure of responsibility, Christ offers salvation to all, just as it was prophesied way back in Genesis 3.

Finally, Paul urges the Ephesians to persevere in the faith. To be continually sanctified, one must “continue in faith, love, and holiness”. This is a charge to all of us, not just women, to continually strive for these godly aspects in our lives and to be continually sanctified.

Middle School

How do we receive salvation? What participation do we need to have? What is “sanctification”?

High School

How can we strive for love and holiness continually? What keeps us from doing so?

Parent/College

Are you continuing in faith, love and holiness? Which aspect are you neglecting the most? It’s sometimes said that our faith in God *activates* our love and holiness. What do you think that means and how can that affect our spiritual lives?

Pray

Thank God for the free gift of salvation you’ve received through Jesus Christ. Ask God to increase your faith and for growth and sanctification.

Grow

Throughout 1 Timothy 2:1-15 there are many passages that can mean different things. Not all of these views were shared in this guide (for brevity). We encourage you to search deeper into these passage using the commentary in your bible or other resources online.

Thanks for reading!

It’s been a tough month, full of hard scripture and difficult teaching. Take a moment to sit back and reflect on what God’s been teaching you this month. Rest on His truth and on the Word that He’s given us.

With the New Year, we hope one of your resolutions can be to improve our relationship with God, and we hope that this guide helped even a tiny bit! We pray that you may be continually challenged, encouraged, and blessed through God’s word and through this guide. God bless!