

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
Good News Shoes #8: “Hand-Me-Down Shoes”

Tips for Leaders

Remember this Guide is just a guide. Make sure you're asking questions that continually point your Life Group to the Bible passage you're studying. And don't let members of your Life Group off the hook with only surface deep answers to good questions. Seek to gently, sensitively and wisely lead your group to openness and vulnerability. Let's not be half-hearted, or only skin deep, in our pursuit of Jesus Christ.

CONNECT UP: give God an opportunity to speak to you through his Word

➤ **Please read 2 Timothy 1:13-2:2.**

- Let's think about the context of this passage first. What was Paul's relationship to Timothy? How significant is it that this is the second letter we have that Paul wrote to Timothy? *[Leaders' note: Paul mentored Timothy. Timothy was a young leader overseeing a number of churches. NB 2 Tim 1:2, "My dear son". They were close. And Paul clearly wanted to invest in his ministry. They travelled together and Timothy is regularly mentioned in Paul's letters and in Acts.]*
 - Focus on 2 Tim 1:13-14. What is Paul's encouragement to Timothy? *[Leaders' note: Paul is encouraging Timothy to remember his teaching and to use it as a pattern for his own ministry.]*
 - Would you be able to encourage someone else in the same way? *[Leaders' note: This question is supposed to be challenging. Are you living a life worthy of the Lord? cf Col 1:10-12]*
 - What is the good deposit that Timothy is encouraged to guard in v14? *[Leaders' note: v8-12 may help you answer this one.]*
 - Please read Matthew 28:18-20, then focus in on 2 Timothy 2:2 together. Many readers view the second passage as Paul's description of how he and the other apostles tried to go about obeying the first. How many generations can you count in 2 Timothy 2:2? What implications does this have for how we are to pass on what we have been given in Jesus Christ? *[Leaders' note: There are at least four generations in this one verse. The implication being that what we are guarding is not a secret to be hoarded, but a truth to be shared, and shared again and again and again...]*
- Take some time to reflect on who “entrusted” the Christian way of life to you. Who did for you what Paul evidently did for Timothy? Who has been key in discipling you? *[Leaders' note: You aren't just fishing for compliments here! You are helping people to grasp that their own Christian maturity is the fruit of people pouring out their lives into them. This should fuel humility, gratitude and faith.]*
- Paul clearly expects Timothy to do the same for others that Paul has done for him. It's also the clear expectation of Jesus when he says to his disciples: “Go and make more disciples.” So take a moment to reflect on who you are discipling? Who looks to you as Timothy looked to Paul?
- Do you agree or disagree with this statement: “The New Testament model for discipling people is more about one-anothering than about one-on-one?” *[Leaders' note: There are some good examples of one-on-one discipling in the New Testament, but it's remarkable how much the Letters assume that it's a team thing rather than a one-on-one thing. The purpose of this question is to help people to see that your Life Group is the context in which they can make disciples. Jesus chose Twelve and interacted with them as a group. Paul chose a missionary team and interacted with them as a group too. Discipling is therefore something that all of us can do as a Life Group team together.]*

CONNECT IN: discuss the implications of what God says to you as a Life Group

- We gather together weekly as a Life Group, so how can we live out 2 Timothy 2:2 together? Is there anything that you should make more time for when you meet up for your Life Group meetings? *[Leaders' note: perhaps this could be asking each other about personal devotions or challenging each other to share our faith with others... etc.]*
- There are lots of people at our venue on a Sunday who are not yet in a Life Group. How can we draw them in to our Life Group so that we can make disciples of them too?

CONNECT OUT: discuss the implications for your interactions with the world around you

- We've got two big moments where we could put this into immediate practice. We've got this coming Sunday, when we can all be active at reaching out to help disconnected church attenders find a home in our Life Group. We've also got our Carol Services on 16th December, to which we can all invite our nonbelieving friends and neighbours and families.
- How can we pray for one another to make the most of these two opportunities to put what God has said to us today into practice? End with a time of prayer together.