

# Discussion Guide

## Legacy and Launch Week 3 Fulfill Your Ministry

### Summary

Pastor John Dukes delivers a powerful message from 2 Timothy 4:1-8 about running the race of faith with endurance and purpose. Paul's final words to Timothy serve as a commission for believers to preach the Word faithfully, even when facing cultural drift and opposition. The sermon emphasizes that faithfulness is measured not by intensity but by longevity, and that we must exercise self-control, endure hardships, and do the work of evangelism regardless of our spiritual gifts. The pastor challenges the congregation to move beyond seeking comfort to pursuing transformation, warning against the cultural tendency to accumulate teachers who tell us what we want to hear rather than what we need to hear. The message concludes with a call to prayer as the power source of the church, announcing a new initiative where people will pray during services in the prayer chapel starting February 1st. The central theme is that we are called to finish our race well, fueled by prayer and focused on Jesus rather than our own abilities.

### Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together in this small group, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to Your Word and to one another. We pray that You would speak to each of us individually and collectively as we discuss this message about running our race with endurance. Give us wisdom, understanding, and the courage to apply what we learn to our daily lives. May Your Holy Spirit guide our conversation and draw us closer to You and to each other. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Ice Breaker

What is one race or competition you participated in as a child, and did you finish it? What motivated you to keep going or what made you want to quit?

### Key Verses

- 2 Timothy 4:1-2
- 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- 2 Timothy 4:5
- 2 Timothy 4:6-7
- 2 Timothy 4:8
- 1 Corinthians 15:58

## Questions

1. Paul charges Timothy to 'preach the word' in season and out of season. What does it mean to be faithful to God's Word even when it's not popular or convenient?
2. Pastor John mentioned we live in a culture that wants 'therapy without transformation.' How do you see this playing out in our society, and how can we guard against this in our own spiritual lives?
3. Paul warns that people will 'accumulate teachers to suit their own desires.' How can we ensure we're seeking truth rather than just messages that make us feel comfortable?
4. The message emphasized that 'faithfulness is measured not in intensity, but in longevity.' Share about a time when you had to persevere through a difficult season. What kept you going?
5. Paul tells Timothy to 'exercise self-control in everything' and 'endure hardships.' What are some practical ways we can develop self-control and endurance in our spiritual lives?
6. The pastor said 'prayer is not preparation for the work, prayer is the work.' How does this challenge your current view of prayer? What would it look like to make prayer more central in your life?
7. Paul was able to say 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.' What would need to change in your life for you to be able to say this at the end of your life?
8. The sermon mentioned the danger of 'drift' - slowly moving away from our spiritual moorings without noticing. What are some warning signs that we might be drifting spiritually, and how can we stay anchored?

## Life Application

This week, commit to one specific way you will 'run your race' with greater intentionality. This could be establishing a consistent prayer time, reading Scripture daily, serving others, or addressing an area of sin in your life. Choose something that requires endurance rather than just a one-time effort, and ask someone in your group to check in with you about it next week.

## Key Takeaways

- We are called to preach God's Word faithfully in season and out of season, regardless of cultural acceptance
- Faithfulness is measured by longevity and perseverance, not by intensity or emotional highs
- We must guard against the cultural drift that seeks comfort over transformation and affirmation over truth
- Prayer is the power source of the church, not just a support ministry - it fuels our ability to run the race
- The goal is to finish well, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus rather than on our own abilities or circumstances

## **Ending Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank You for the example of Paul and his faithfulness to finish the race well. We pray that You would give us the strength and endurance to run our own races with perseverance and purpose. Help us to be people who preach Your Word faithfully, who stand firm against cultural drift, and who fuel our lives through prayer and dependence on You. May we not be content with comfort, but hunger for transformation. Give us the courage to exercise self-control, endure hardships, and keep the faith until the end. We want to finish well, Lord, and hear You say 'well done, good and faithful servant.' Guide us this week as we seek to apply what we've learned, and may our lives bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, amen.