

## Make Your Life Count

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

1 Timothy 4:12

#### Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever felt inadequate about something you were asked to do? How did you handle it? Share with the group.
2. At a very young age (in his 30s), Timothy was asked by the apostle Paul to pastor a church in the big city of Ephesus. Timothy could have felt inadequate because he was sickly, shy, and a timid person, and unlike Paul, he was an introvert. But none of his apparent weaknesses disqualified him from the job. What truth did Paul give to Timothy in chapter 1:7? When you feel timid and hesitant to do something that relates to your work or ministry, how does God's power manifest in your moment of need?
3. Read 1 Timothy 4:12. Paul encouraged Timothy to not let anyone look down on him because he was young, should instead set an example to the believers. Paul assured Timothy that he could make a difference and make his life count because God had placed him exactly where he should be. In spite of Timothy's weaknesses, God could still use him to impact others, and so Timothy had to make a plan and take initiative to be an example to others. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that you are God's workmanship, His masterpiece created to do good works to make an impact and make your life count. How can you make an impact for God? Paul gives us a checklist in five areas:
  - a. *Make your life count in the area of your speech.* According to Paul, how should Timothy treat and communicate to people (ch. 5:1)? Discuss how you could better treat older people in the way you talk to them regardless of circumstances. What words come from your mouth, either in private or in difficult situations? Are those something that you would be ashamed about? If so, how can you change it?
  - b. *Make your life count in the way you live.* The fragrance of Jesus Christ would trail behind you when you do good deeds. Discuss what kind of lifestyle(s) would minister to people. Without a single word, would others know that you are a child of God because of the way you live?
  - c. *Make your life count in love.* Love is not a random act. Rather, love from the heart flows in your action. How does Paul describe this kind of love in 1 Timothy 1:15-16? Share how you have shown love to others that was made possible only because you have also known the love of God.

- d. *Make your life count in faith.* It means believing in God in all circumstances and not only on the times when everything is going well. How do you trust God in difficult circumstances? Share how you depend on Him on a daily basis. How does His past faithfulness give you hope for the future? Share how you respond to His faithfulness.
- e. *Make your life count in purity.* Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:22 to flee from evil desires. What does it mean to be pure? What should you pursue in order to live a holy life, which belongs to God?

### Walk

*I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.  
I would be friend of all—the foe, the friendless;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift.  
I would be faithful through each passing moment;  
I would be constantly in touch with God;  
I would be strong to follow where He leads me;  
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.*

A life that counts is a life is worth living not just in the present, but for eternity. How do you live your life? Ponder how your life makes a difference in your speech, in the way you live, in love, in faith and in purity.

### Worship & Prayer

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.” I pray these words of David, Lord, because I'm scared to live my life for you. There are a lot of things I can't do. I feel inadequate in doing your work—I lack training, I lack ability, I lack courage...there're too many reasons I can come up with. But in You, Lord, I am strong. You provide what I need. I can make my life count when I am rooted in Your love. As You have shown me grace, so may I do to those around me, especially to those who have not yet experienced Your abounding love. May I make a difference in the lives of others when they see You in the way I speak, in my lifestyle, in how I demonstrate love, in how I trust You, and in my pursuit of purity and holiness. In Jesus' name. Amen.*