

# Teenagers

## sermon discussion guide

based on **1 Timothy 4.9-16** from 30/9/18  
which can be accessed at [www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series](http://www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series)

*This was part of our series looking at our mission priorities.*

Intro: When you were a teenager, who or what were the biggest influences on you?

*Background: Timothy is a young church pastor. His Mum and Gran were followers of Jesus and encouraged him to trust Jesus too (2 Tim 1.5), but his Dad wasn't a believer (Acts 16.1). The apostle Paul took Timothy under his wing (Acts 16.2-3) to disciple him and train him in church leadership. He became a trusted ambassador (1 Cor 4.17) who co-wrote several letters with Paul (Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians). Paul described him as 'my son whom I love' (1 Cor 4.17) who had 'proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel' (Phil 2.22).*

### **Read 1 Timothy 4.9-16**

v9-10 Paul 'labours and strives' to get people to put their hope in the living God who is the saviour of all. In what ways can we exert such energy into spreading the gospel message?

v12 in what ways is it possible to look down on people because they are young? What would help you be more positive to younger people?

Go through each of the 5 areas where Paul encourages Timothy to set an example to others: speech, life, love, faith and purity. Discuss practical examples of how you could model each of these things to others.

v13 Why do you think the reading and preaching of Scripture was so important to Timothy's role as a pastor in Ephesus? Do you think it's important in our own church?

v14 Are there any gifts which you might be neglecting at the moment?

v15 Sometimes it can be hard to see our 'progress' in the Christian life. It can be easier for others to spot in us – especially as they see us using our gifts. Who could you encourage about their progress as disciples of Jesus?

v16 Why is it important to watch both life and doctrine?

How does this passage speak to our desire to be a God-dependent, grace-filled, Bible-based, mission-focused, authentic community?

Up: give thanks for what God has given us – salvation, hope, Scripture, spiritual gifts

In: which teenagers in our church could you encourage and set an example for?

Out: which teenagers in your family or neighbourhood could you pray for to come to know Jesus?