

PASSING THE
FAITH
To the Next Generation



Small Group Questions

Message: "Courage Under Fire"

Speaker: Pastor Bob

Series: *Passing the Faith*

Date: 3/22/26

Text: 2 Timothy 1:6-18

Before your group meets, read 2 Timothy 1:6–18. Come ready to be honest, to listen, and to encourage one another toward courageous, public faith.

Q1 [Icebreaker]

Think of a time — serious or lighthearted — when you had to decide whether to speak up or stay silent about something you believed in. What did you do, and how did it feel?

Q2 [Biblical Study]

Read 2 Timothy 1:6–7 together. What does Paul mean by "fan into flame the gift of God"? What does the present-tense Greek command suggest about the nature of spiritual fervency? Is fanning the flame a one-time decision or a daily discipline?

Q3 [Theology]

Paul says God has not given us a spirit of FEAR (moral cowardice), but of power, love, and self-control (v. 7). How does each of those three qualities specifically counteract fear in Christian witness?

Cross-reference: Romans 8:15; 1 John 4:18

Q4 [Biblical Study]

In 2 Timothy 1:9–10, Paul gives a compact summary of the Gospel. Walk through it together: How does understanding that salvation is by grace, purposed before time, and secured through Christ's defeat of death give us courage to face shame? What happens when we forget one of these truths?

Q5 [Personal Reflection]

Paul says, "I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed" (v. 12). Is there an area of your life — a relationship, a workplace, a social media presence — where you have been reluctant to identify as a Christian? What is underneath that reluctance?

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Q6 [Application]

The sermon described today's honor-shame dynamic: faithful Christians risk being labeled intolerant or dangerous. How does the Polycarp story challenge us to reframe who the real "atheists" are? How does that reframing change your posture toward cultural pressure?

Q7 [Personal Reflection]

Paul calls Timothy to be a "co-sufferer" (v. 8). Contrast Phygelus and Hermogenes with Onesiphorus (vv. 15–17). Which response most closely resembles your own when someone you know faces consequences for their faith? Be honest — this is a safe space.

Q8 [Theology]

Onesiphorus was a layman, not a pastor. What does Paul's prayer for him in vv. 16–18 reveal about how God values ordinary members who act with extraordinary courage? How does this challenge the idea that bold Gospel witness is only for church leaders?

Cross-reference: 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 4:12

Q9 [Application]

The sermon named four arenas where faith must become public: the workplace, social media, the dinner table, and the classroom. Which is your greatest challenge right now? What is one specific, concrete step you could take this week?

Q10 [Call to Action]

Close by praying Paul's own words over each person: "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and self-control" (2 Tim 1:7). Then commit together: In what one specific way will you Fan the Flame, Shun the Shame, or Break the Chain this week? Write it down, share it, and come back next week ready to report.

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