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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas



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God's Gift of Leadership A Study in 1 Timothy

Date	Lesson	Text
03/08	Introduction	
03/15	Strength to Serve	1:12-20
03/22	Need for Prayer	2:1-8
03/29	Call for Leaders Pt 1	3:1-15
04/05	To Be Determined	
04/12	Easter	
04/19	Call for Leaders Pt 1	3:1-15
04/26	Guide for Teaching Pt 1	4:1-16
05/03	Guide for Teaching Pt 2	4:1-16
05/10	Need for Respect	5:1-24
05/17	Summary & Review	

Food for Thought

Service

Lord, may I always do Your will,
It matters not how small the task;
Oh, may I have a humble heart
And do whatever You may ask.
—Fitzhugh

*You know . . . in what manner I
always lived among you, serving
the Lord with all humility.*
Acts 20:18-19 (NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread" - 02/24/01)

FINDING STRENGTH TO SERVE

1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20

How can a church possibly stay healthy and grow in the midst of the current culture war? That war intimidates some, and they are unwilling to become engaged in it. Others feel pressured to compromise sound doctrine. As a result a church can drift into apostasy. **The solution is wise leaders and leadership.** The type of leaders a church needs takes time to develop. That's where mentoring enters the picture. Without Paul's encouragement and example, Timothy may not have had the courage to fulfill the charge entrusted to him. It is a daunting task for a young preacher to confront both a hostile culture without and false teachers within. The encouragement, wise counsel, and prayerful support of godly elders can set such a man on a path of fruitful service in spite of such obstacles. In today's lesson, the apostle Paul—master mentor—shows the way. **An important part of today's lesson is the charge of "holding on to faith" (1 Timothy 1:19).** Not everyone does this, as the rest of that verse and 1:6 make clear. **"Holding on to faith" comes about through study.** The psalmist said, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105). When leadership accepts the charge to study the Word of God, their familiarity with it will enable them to protect the church from false doctrine. What a New Year's resolution this can be for this year! In previous lessons, we have studied God's marvelous plan for meeting humanity's desperate need. God met that need by sending his Son. **The radical change Jesus makes in a person's life prepares him or her for service.** Jesus becomes the great change agent. His presence in a person's life decisively alters one's eternal destiny. And the more a person walks by faith, the more the Lord is able to use him or her. This was the apostle Paul's experience. Paul wrote letters to his son in the faith, Timothy, to encourage him to walk the same path. Some suggest that Timothy was converted during Paul's first missionary trip to Asia Minor (modern Turkey). This trip included a visit to Timothy's hometown of Lystra (see Acts 14:8–20). The examples of Paul's life and preaching undoubtedly made an indelible impression on Timothy. These examples, coupled with the godly role models of Timothy's mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15), most likely are what led to his conversion to Christ. Timothy then became a coworker in Paul's evangelistic enterprise. When Paul revisited the churches he had established, he recruited Timothy as a traveling companion. As Acts 16:1–4 tells us, Timothy's father was Greek but his mother was a Jewish believer. Paul circumcised Timothy because of his Greek background so that his influence among Jews would not be diminished. The letter of 1 Timothy was written sometime after Paul's first imprisonment. The date was likely between A.D. 62 and 65, and Paul was probably somewhere in Macedonia as he composed it. The letter was written to reinforce certain instructions that Paul had given to Timothy after leaving him in Ephesus. In the section preceding today's text, Paul reminded Timothy to repudiate false teachers and their erroneous doctrines. Paul began by citing the hostile culture into which he and Timothy had been called to minister. It was a culture that included reliance on "myths" and "endless genealogies" (1 Timothy 1:4).

(Excerpts from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

STRENGTH TO SERVE THROUGH GOD'S POWER (1 TIM 1:12-14)

God's power to enable (vs 12)

God's power enables us to do all things (Phil 4:13)

God's power enables us to be strong in our weaknesses (2 Cor 12:9-10)

God's power enables us in our inner beings (Eph 3:16)

God's power enables us to be competent (2 Cor 3:5)

God's powerful mercy (vs 13)

God's mercy is great (Ps 25:6)

It is not about our righteousness, but all about God's mercy (Dan 9:18)

God is rich in mercy (Eph 2:4-5)

God's mercy gives us a new birth into a living hope (1 Peter 1:3)

God's powerful grace (vs 14)

God's grace justifies us (Rom 3:24)

We are under God's grace, not the law (Rom 6:14)

God's grace allowed Jesus to become poor so that we could become rich (2 Cor 8:9)

God's grace makes us abound in everything we need to do good works (2 Cor 9:8)

We are saved through God's grace (Eph 2:8)

God's grace provides an inheritance into eternal life (Titus 3:7)

God's grace is always there for our time of need (Heb 4:16)

STRENGTH TO SERVE THROUGH GOD'S SALVATION (1 TIM 1:15-17)

God sent Jesus to save (vs 15)

Jesus Himself stated that God sent Him to seek and save (Luke 19:10)

Jesus was sent not for the righteous, but for those sinners who need repentance (Luke 5:31-32)

God demonstrated His love for us by sending Jesus to save (Rom 5:6-8)

God sent His Son into the world that we might live in eternal salvation (1 John 4:9)

God is longsuffering in order to save (vs 16)

God's longsuffering is one element of His salvation power (1 Tim 1:16)

God's longsuffering leads to repentance (Rom 2:4)

God's longsuffering should not be counted as a slackness to fulfill His promises (2 Peter 3:9)

God's longsuffering should excite us to live godly lives (2 Peter 3:14-15)

God's longsuffering causes Him to be slow to anger (Ps 86:15)

God provides eternal salvation (vs 16-17)

God's provision of eternal salvation is a display of His love (John 3:16)

God's provision of eternal salvation is to everyone who believes in Jesus (John 6:40)

God's provision of eternal salvation is known to His sheep-like followers (John 10:27-30)

God's provision of eternal salvation comes through His commands (John 12:49-50)

God's provision of eternal salvation comes through knowledge of Him and His Son Jesus (John 17:3)

God's provision of eternal salvation is a gift (Rom 6:23)

STRENGTH TO SERVE THROUGH GOD'S COMMISSION (1 TIM 1:18-20)

Commissioned to engage in warfare with sin (vs 18)

A warfare that requires the use of divine power (2 Cor 10:3-6)

A warfare that involves the spiritual world (Eph 6:12-18)

A warfare of faith (1 Tim 6:12)

A warfare that has hardships and rules (2 Tim 2:3-5)

A warfare that takes endurance (2 Tim 4:7-8)

Commissioned through faith (vs 19)

A faith that encourages others into sound doctrine (Titus 1:9)

A faith that leads to a sharing in Christ (Heb 3:14)

A faith that keeps us prepared to witness (1 Peter 3:15-16)

A faith that is not in vain (1 Cor 15:58)

A faith that requires us to always be on guard (1 Cor 16:13)

A faith that uses truth and righteousness (Eph 6:14)

A faith that requires patience (James 5:8)

Commissioned to be faithful in spite of rejection (vs 20)

Rejection because of hatred of Jesus (Matt 10:22)

Rejection that could lead to blessings for us (Luke 6:22)

Rejection that has a promise of protection from God (Luke 21:17-19)

Rejection not of us, but of the God and His Holy Spirit (1 Thess 4:8)

Rejection of Jesus is a rejection of God (Luke 10:16)