**September 30th 2018.** Timothy. Learning through mentoring.

**Discussion notes**

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them? Spend some time discussing the response to the message and the issues that it raised.

On Sunday we concluded our series called "Learning from Learners". Would you regard yourself as a Lifelong learner? We should all continue to learn whenever we have the opportunity. This series will help us to learn from people in the Bible who themselves learn great life lessons.

Each one of us has been given gifts and skills to use to serve God but we often need others around us to encourage us and help us serve God effectively. Timothy was a timid but gifted young man. He needed Paul to mentor and encourage him.

Can anyone in the group give a quick resumé of the life of Timothy?

**Read** Acts 16v1-5, Philippians 2v19-22

Although Timothy had a believing mother and grandmother (2 Tim 1v5), he had to make his own decision to follow Jesus and join Paul in the mission to take the Good News of Jesus to those who were lost. How are you inspired by other people's faith (maybe a Christian parent) without depending on it?

Why do you think Paul circumcises Timothy when he is so clear that people shouldn't be circumcised in Galatians?

As Paul mentors Timothy, he picks up some of Paul's distinctives.

What kind of person had Timothy become by the time Paul writes Philippians?

Who, or what, is shaping your perspectives and values?

**Read** 1 Timothy 4v7-16, 2 Timothy 1v3-7

In what ways is Paul encouraging and challenging Timothy from these verses?

Timothy had a natural tendency to back off ministry and Paul has to frequently encourage him to "fight the good fight", "run the race", "guard the gospel", "fan into flames the gift of God" etc. This releases positive leadership and ministry in Timothy's life. Are there people doing this in your life? Who is mentoring you? Who are you mentoring?

If you couldn't answer either of these questions, who could you ask to mentor you?

Who could you mentor?

Do look at the website for more details about mentoring www.woodlandschurch.net/mentoring/

Take the opportunity to pray in twos and threes that you would have confidence to live for Jesus and minister on his behalf. If you need encouragement and mentoring, pray that God will provide someone to mentor you and ask God for the courage to ask them to mentor you. Ask God to show you someone that you could encourage and invest in.