

## “Running the Race”

### Loyalty to each other – nurturing Christian relationships (2 Timothy 3:1-17)

#### Thinking about friendship

#### Avoid the godless (v.1-9)

Their character (v.1-5)

Their converts (v.6-8)

Their comeuppance (v.8-9)

#### Imitate the godly (v.10-17)

Their example (v.10-14)

Their foundation (v.15-17)

## “Running the Race”

### Loyalty to each other – nurturing Christian relationships (2 Timothy 3:1-17)

#### Digging Deeper questions for small groups & personal reflection

#### Thinking about friendship

How would you summarise what Christian friendship is?

Would you say that your relationships with other Christians demonstrates this description?

#### Avoid the godless (v.1-9)

When you read through the list of ungodly characteristics in verse 2-4, which ones do you see most clearly in society around us?

Why does it seem so shocking then, that Paul is using these words to describe how the church was reflecting the ungodly values of the world?

In what ways can our selfishness affect the way we go about church life – loving ourselves, loving money, and loving pleasure, more than loving God?

So why is it not enough to say that making friends with someone who goes to your church will naturally result in you growing closer to Jesus? Why might it do the very opposite?

#### Imitate the godly (v.10-17)

Can you think of a Christian you’ve known for a while, and how their words and actions paint a picture of an authentic life for Jesus? Why is it worth following their example?

Why is the Bible essential to true Christian relationships? Why is it tempting for us to believe that our relationships with Christians can be strong without God’s Word being central to them?

How is the Bible helping you to be “thoroughly equipped for every good work”? How are you equipping someone else to live for Christ through Scripture?