

# CBSM Small Group Discussion Guide

I Love My Church: Because We Love To Fight (2 Timothy)

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## The one-shot summary of the sermon series:

“I Love My Church” is all about New Testament letters from or to individuals (Timothy, Titus, Philemon, James, John, Peter, Jude). These men loved their churches because they loved their Lord and the people in their church. These letters to and from these individuals will encourage us as individuals to love and be more loving to our church because Jesus is the head and our church is His body. The more we’ll love our church, the more we’ll want to bring people to be a part of our church, hear the gospel, be saved, and worshipfully serve Jesus there.

## CBSM Small Group Accountability Questions:

I realize these accountability questions are a little much for the beginning of an already short small group session time. So let’s encourage our teens every small group session to have a couple of accountability partners. I would encourage them to have a group of 3 - 4 that talk or meet together every week or two to talk about their lives, their victories, failures, successes, struggles, sins, and obedience.

## CBSM Small Group Application Questions:

**Conversation:** Don’t forget the importance of letting your students come in, start conversations, you talk to them on a personal level, and after several minutes transition into the lesson.

**Intro:** Have you ever run a race before? Would you rather be a sprinter, a long distance track runner, a cross-country runner, or a warrior dash runner? When were you your fastest? If you could win one real race in this world (Olympics or something else), what would it be?

**Transition:** How is your life or the life of a teenager today like a race? What are some comparisons? Some analogies? Some similarities?

Does life ever feel like a race to you? Constantly fast paced? Never stopping? Exhausting?

**Bible:** Read Hebrews 12:1-2. Pair up with 1 or 2 others in your small group. What is the main point of this passage? What does God seem to be telling you the most? How would you summarize it into a few short words?

**Jesus (Person and Work):** Read Hebrews 12:2 again. Why is it important to look TO Jesus while we run this race of life? What does it mean that He is the founder and perfecter of your faith? How does that change your endurance to live hard for Him? How does His example of enduring the cross and despising the shame give you motivation to keep running your race (living your life) with endurance? If Jesus is seated at the right hand of the throne of God, what does that mean for your life of worship toward Him?

**Sin (What, When, and Why):** The author of Hebrews makes a distinction between weights and sins. Weights are sins that others do against us, and sins are what we do against God.

Weights are things that others have said to us, done against us, said about us, or not done for us that tend to hold us back, slow us down, or hold us down. What is one of the heaviest weights in your life that you tend to allow to slow you down in your race to Jesus?

Sins are things that you struggle with thinking, saying, or doing that is rebellion against God. What sins do you need to drop in order to run harder after Jesus?

**Life:** Every runner, racer, and athlete has to discipline themselves for their sport. Every Christian has to be disciplined to run their race for Jesus. Talk with your small group about how to keep disciplined in the 4 main spiritual disciplines of the Christian life.

1. Hear from God in His Word.

2. Talk to God in prayer.
3. Be with God's people in church.
4. Preach the Gospel to yourself daily.

**Scenario:** What if you had a friend who confided in you that they are tired in life...exhausted? What if they told you that they don't know how much longer they can keep it up. They try their hardest and do their best, but they have been through so much abuse and harsh treatment. Everyone seems to be holding them down rather than pushing them forward. They are starting to allow bad things to come into their life as they are playing with new habits and doing more wrong stuff than ever. They really are thinking about throwing in the towel and stop trying anymore. How do you encourage them to look to Jesus, shed their weight, get rid of their sin, and run their race with endurance?

### **General Outline of a CBSM Small Group Session:**

**Listen:** Let your class talk a few minutes and just listen to them, listen to their weekend, listen to their lives, listen to their week...listen to their hearts.

**Prayer:** Ask for prayer requests before you start the discussion.

**Accountability:** Ask your class if they did their Bible reading, how their prayer life went this week, who they've witnessed to, and about their relationship with Christ.

**Discussion:** Ask the listed questions along with other questions that sparked in your mind during your reading. Don't be afraid if they get off track a little. Listen to where their minds and conversations are going, and try to take a wide facilitating turn back to the Word.

**Prayer:** Ask for prayer requests again, but this time ask them to be specifically from what you've studied and discussed that morning. Ask how yall can be praying for each other, and how yall can be praying for the student ministry through the passages. And take time to pray together!

That should easily take up 45 to an hour. If you have any questions...please let me know! Feel free to refer back to this email often. Let me know if you have any helpful suggestions for the rest of the teachers. I'm also attaching a commentary on the book of Judges in case you need it for more answers!

Only by His grace,  
Pastor Chip