

Saying IN Shape | 2 Timothy 2:1-13

Ohana Group Discussion Questions: Week of January 15th, 2023

OVERVIEW

Are you “in shape” spiritually? Like a loyal soldier, competitive athlete or hardworking farmer, we endure discipline and strive to be obedient and faithful disciples of Jesus.

OHANA TIME!

Icebreaker: What is one thing you had to work really hard for? (ex. school diploma, sport competition) **Or** What kind of plants do you grow?

Activity: Plant a new plant, take care of it, and watch it grow!

PRAYER

Pray in groups of 3-4: Pray for one another, that they may grow “in shape” spiritually and be obedient and faithful disciples of Jesus.

Pray in a large group: Pray that your group may encourage, support and love one another this year.

BIBLE: READ 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13

1. Paul has known and worked with Timothy for some 15 years. Based on today’s passage, what kind of relationship do you think Paul and Timothy had?
2. What “things” (verse 2) do you think Timothy had learned from Paul throughout the years? How is Timothy to ensure that the message of Christ will live on? How does Paul’s mandate echo those of Jesus? (Consider Matthew 28:18-20)
3. What do the examples of the soldier, athlete, and farmer (2:3-7) teach us about the Christian life? How would these illustrations encourage Timothy to train and steadfastly endure in ministry?
4. According to 2:8-10, in spite of his suffering, what keeps Paul from giving up?
5. How does 2:11-13 pull together the key themes of this passage?

APPLICATION

1. When you first decided to follow Jesus, did you assume it would be an easy or difficult journey? How has your Christian journey been like since then?
2. “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer) Has following Jesus “cost” (require sacrifice) you? Have you suffered for Jesus? How can you grow in your faith-walk like a loyal soldier, competitive athlete, or hardworking farmer?
 - a. Loyal Soldier: Our sole allegiance belongs to Jesus and no other. We pay intense attention to Christ and His teachings and commands.
 - b. Competitive Athlete: Paul depicts the Christian life not as a leisure or spectator activity, but a fierce competition for the “goal” (victor’s crown), which requires great discipline and endurance
 - c. Hardworking Farmer: The life of an enduring believer is one of self-sacrifice, commitment, and patience.

