

The logo for '1 timothy' is set against a background of dark, vertical wood grain. The number '1' is large and white, followed by the word 'timothy' in a smaller, white, lowercase sans-serif font.

Home Group Discussion Guide

The Right use of Creation

1 Timothy 4:1-5

ICEBREAKER: What's your favorite beverage?

OVERVIEW: How do we glorify God through the physical pleasures of His creation? Historically, Christians have made two mistakes: Creation worship, and creation rejection. Some seek happiness and fulfillment through creation, and some believe that the only way to please God is to reject any form of physical pleasure. In this discussion we will go deeper with a third option — the right use of creation.

1. Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. There are two wrong ways to view creation. The first is creation worship. What are some ways that people might worship creation?
3. In what ways do you struggle with creation worship – looking to creation for fulfillment and happiness and security?
4. What can you do to overcome creation worship/idolatry, learning to seek and find fulfillment, happiness, and security in Christ alone?
5. Even though creation is good, that doesn't mean we can use it however we wish. Give an example of a boundary that God has put on the use of His creation, and why you think that boundary is necessary.

6. Are there any ways that you are tempted to use God's creation in a God-forbidden way? What do you need to do to grow in this area?
7. The second thing we learn from this passage is that God's creation is to be enjoyed. Do you ever feel guilty about enjoying God's creation, as though it would be more holy to avoid pleasure? Explain.
8. The third truth that we learn from this passage is that God's creation is to be enjoyed with thanksgiving. How can the act of thanksgiving lead us to the right use of creation?
9. Do you ever enjoy God's gifts and God's creation without remembering to give thanks? How can you grow in this area?
10. The fourth truth from this passage is that enjoying God's creation with a thankful heart can help us grow closer to God. How can the right use of creation help you to know God more and grow closer to Him?
11. What is the ultimate purpose of God's creation, and how can we make sure that we experience that purpose?

The Last Word: All of life is to be lived as an act of worship. God's creation was put here to glorify Him — to express His worth. When we enjoy God's creation with thanksgiving it can draw us closer to God.