

# COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Generations | "Guard The Good Deposit" | 2 Tim. 1:1-14 | Pastor Mike McKinney

Monday, Jan. 12 - Sunday, Jan. 18 (Week 1)

## Emphasis for the Month: **Laying a Foundation of Intentionality**

The beginning of a new semester is full of energy and possibility but it's also when the tone for the entire season gets set. The habits you establish now, the vulnerability you model early, and the intentionality you bring to these first gatherings will shape the depth of community your group experiences in the months ahead.

Start strong by being intentional:

- Show up fully present. Put phones away, arrive on time, and engage wholeheartedly. Your presence communicates value.
- Go first in vulnerability. Don't wait for others to open up. Model the honesty and authenticity you want to see in your group.
- Prioritize connection over content. It's tempting to rush through questions to "get it done," but slow down. Let people share. Ask follow-up questions. Real discipleship happens in the margins of conversation.
- Pray specifically. Don't just pray generically at the end, pray for what people actually shared. Write down prayer requests and follow up during the week.

Remember: Depth doesn't happen by accident, it's built through intentional choices in the early weeks. The investment you make now in creating a safe, authentic, and gospel-centered space will pay dividends all semester long.

As we launch the Generations series and initiative, let your group be a place where passion for Christ is contagious, where people are spurred on toward boldness and generosity, and where the next generation of disciples is being formed.

Thank you for your leadership and intentionality. Looking forward to building something beautiful together!

**ICE BREAKER:** Who is someone in your life (parent, grandparent, mentor, teacher) whose passion for Jesus made a lasting impact on you? What do you remember most about them? Was it what they said or how they lived?

### CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. We will be holding our next Child Dedication Class on Saturday, February 7 at 10 AM, hosted by Eric and Jen Hicks. Please email [info@churchatbergen.org](mailto:info@churchatbergen.org) to sign up. Questions? Contact our BergenKIDS Director, Barbara Krieger ([barbara.krieger@churchatbergen.org](mailto:barbara.krieger@churchatbergen.org))
2. Fortify 2026 Men & Women's Conference will take place on Saturday, January 31, 2026 (9:45 AM–1:00 PM) at Bible Baptist Church in Hasbrouck Heights. Sessions will be focused on faith, family, leadership,



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and godly living. An optional Singles Session will be held Friday, January 30 at 7:00 PM. The cost is \$35 per person (lunch included) and childcare is available by reservation only by January. To learn more and to register, email [info@churchatbergen.org](mailto:info@churchatbergen.org)

3. Please join us for our prayer gathering every Tuesday night at 6:30PM

**PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION:** Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

**SERMON DISCUSSION TIME:** Have someone read this week's scripture from 2 Timothy 1:1-14, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

*What if the impact of your faith could echo through generations? In this sermon launching a two-year "Generations" generosity initiative, Pastor Mike cast a compelling vision for preserving and proclaiming the gospel in Paramus and beyond. Drawing from Paul's final letter to Timothy, he emphasized how genuine passion for Christ is essential for spiritual impact. Church at Bergen faces a pivotal moment as we aim to raise \$3.9 million to establish a permanent gospel outpost, strengthen ministries, and purchase a facility. Yet more than funds, Pastor Mike stressed that impacting future generations requires an unfading passion for Jesus that produces both courage to suffer for Christ and vigilance in protecting gospel truth. Through personal stories and biblical wisdom, he challenged the congregation to fan into flame their love for Christ, noting that "people don't absorb what you say - they absorb what you're passionate about." This pivotal moment calls the church to unite in prayer, participation and proclamation to lay a foundation for gospel ministry that will impact generations to come.*

**QUESTION #1** - Who are the people who first passed the gospel on to you? How are you stewarding that deposit today?

**QUESTION #2** - Where in your life are you tempted to be ashamed of the gospel or silent about your faith?

**QUESTION #3** - What specific steps can you take to guard and pass on the gospel in your home, church, and community?

**QUESTION #4** - "GENERATIONS"generosity initiative is about ensuring the gospel continues in Paramus and beyond long after we're gone.

- What emotions or thoughts come up when you think about your own legacy of faith? Does it excite you, convict you, or overwhelm you?



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- If you were to write a "last letter" to your children, grandchildren, or spiritual children (like Paul did to Timothy), what would be the one thing you'd want them to know about Jesus? How can you start living/speaking that truth now rather than waiting?

**PRAY TOGETHER:** Spend time taking *and recording* prayer requests and then pray together as a group (*I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives*).

