

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2024 - Trained By The Gospel - "Titus 1:1-4"

Monday, Nov. 4 - Sunday, Nov. 11 (Week 9)

EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH: **Ending Strong** 🏆 - As we are in the final stretch of the semester, let's keep pouring into our groups with the same energy and love we've shown all along. You've done an amazing job connecting and caring for each person—let's finish strong! Remind your group members of our purpose and encourage them to stay engaged.

ICE BREAKER: Share a time when someone encouraged you to pursue a goal or dream. How did their encouragement impact your actions and mindset?

CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Tackle the Trafficking is a football tournament aimed at raising support and awareness in the fight against human trafficking. This year it will take place on Saturday, November 16 from 10-4 PM at Eastern Christian High School in North Haledon. In addition to the football tournament, there will be a Fair Trade Christmas Market and so much more!
2. If you are interested in learning more about our doctrine and vision, church leadership structure, and qualifications for membership, join our next Membership Class this Sunday, December 1, from 12-2:30 PM. Lunch will be provided. Please see the Monday email newsletter (or email info@churchatbergen.org) to register!
3. Our next Young-ish Gathering is a night out at Go-Low Golf right here in Paramus, on Saturday, December 7 at 7 PM. The cost is \$10 per person. Come to golf, or just to hang! Registration is required for this event! Please see the Monday email newsletter (or email info@churchatbergen.org) to sign up no later than Friday, November 29.

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

SERMON DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read the passage: Titus 1:1-4, and then read this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

In this sermon, Pastor McKinney reflects on the significance of hope and discipline in our walk with Jesus. He shares a personal anecdote from his high school days, illustrating how the hope instilled by his father of a future in college football motivated his training and discipline during a lackluster season. He parallels this experience with the hope found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, emphasizing that this hope instills a present-day training effect in believers' lives. Pastor Mike highlights that unlike personal ambitions, the hope secured through Christ is not reliant on our efforts but is a gift that prompts gratitude and inspires a life of holiness and godliness, underlining the transformative power of this hope. Throughout the sermon, Pastor McKinney delves into the intro of the book of Titus, where the Apostle Paul instructs young Titus on leading a young church amidst a challenging culture.



COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2024 - Trained By The Gospel - "Titus 1:1-4"

Monday, Nov. 4 - Sunday, Nov. 11 (Week 9)

He discusses the pervasive issues in their cultural context and the radical need for godliness and discipline among believers. As the sermon progresses, he turns the focus and attention to God's eternal promises and sovereign control in both eternity future and eternity past. Finally, he emphasizes the importance of preaching as the means through which God's eternal hope is communicated, urging us to look beyond current anxieties and to find peace and strength in Christ, who reigns over all history and offers forgiveness through his sacrifice. This hope not only reassures us but also compels us to live righteously in a world that increasingly turns away from godliness.

QUESTION #1: The sermon emphasized God's control over eternity past and future. How does this understanding of God's sovereignty affect your view of current events or personal challenges?

QUESTION #2: John Calvin's definition of piety, or godliness/holiness, is as follows: *"I call piety that reverence joined with love of God which the knowledge of his benefits induces. The whole of Christians, the whole life of Christians ought to be a sort of practice of godliness, practice of godliness. Piety is a deep sense of awe at the holy majesty of God. He says that reverence, reverence, awe at the holy majesty of God combined with, joined with love of God. It's a deep sense of awe at the holy majesty of God, but also an equally deep sense of love for God."* How do you personally cultivate a sense of awe and love for God in your daily life? What practices help you grow in godliness?

QUESTION #3: The sermon highlighted the importance of having peace with God. Are there areas in your life where you struggle to find peace? How can the group support you in seeking peace through Christ?

QUESTION #4: In what ways do you find it challenging to live with an eternal perspective?

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*).

