

## “Cultivate Companionship with Jesus at the Center” | Companions

**GETTING STARTED:** Which of these common earwigs have you encountered? Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believin,” Lady Gaga’s “Bad Romance,” Maroon 5’s “Moves Like Jagger,” or Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody.” What others would you add?

### EXPLORE THE TOPIC

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:15 and 4:16. What do these verses tell us about some of the people in Paul’s life at this time? What emotions would go along with those circumstances? What allows Paul to make the statement found in the second half of verse 16?
2. What allows Paul to carry on and sing praises in 2 Timothy 4:17-18?
3. Prior to his conversion, Paul was infamous for his persecution of Christ-followers. How might that experience have impacted his time in prison? How could you connect this story to someone that says, “God can’t use me because of the things I’ve done”?
4. Who are some of your “companions” of faith? How can this group help shape that list for you - either by being on it, or supporting you as you encounter others?
5. Identify the similarities between each verse.
  - Psalm 22:1            2 Timothy 4:16
  - Psalm 22:11          2 Timothy 4:16
  - Psalm 22:21          2 Timothy 4:17
  - Psalm 22:27          2 Timothy 4:17
  - Psalm 22:20-21      2 Timothy 4:18

6. Read Psalm 118:6-7, 13-14 and 2 Timothy 4:17 (again, a link between Paul’s writing and a Psalm) and identify the statements made about the Lord. How can you proclaim those same truths in your own life?
7. What does Abraham Heschel mean by the quote, “Praise precedes faith. First we sing, then we believe.” When have you seen this in your own life?
8. Who is someone that this group can reach out to that might be feeling alone in their life of faith (shut-in, missionary, recent loss, depressed)? How can this group reach out and support them?

### APPLY THE TRUTH

Make a list of the people that you consider as “companions” in faith. Note the aspects of your life that are similar and different (occupation, age, gender, race, etc.). How has God used these people to encourage and support you as a disciple-maker?

### PRAYER

Just as Paul used the themes of Psalm 22 in his words to Timothy, consider using that Psalm as a prayer this week. Don’t know where to start, try verses 19-21.

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