**Discussion and Study for 2 Timothy 3:10-17**

**1)** In 2 Tim. 3:16 we find the claim that scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training. What are some of the uses of scripture you frequently encounter? And a follow-up question: how have you encountered abuses of scripture?

**2)** If you could ask someone who wasn’t a Christian or churchgoer to identify which Bible passage or Christian teaching they found problematic, what do you think they would share? And as a follow-up, what is it like for you to relate to or understand their perspective?

**3)** In verse 10 Paul is encouraging Timothy to observe his teaching, conduct, aim in life, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions and sufferings in hopes that Timothy might find some encouragement. Who is someone that you have observed in your life in order to gain encouragement for your faith journey? In what ways has that person’s life helped you?

**4)** In the sermon the claim is made that “identity is not so much constructed as it is dialogue.” What happens when we think about Christian formation this way?

**5)** Verse 16 begins, “All scripture is God breathed…” what does this mean when there are different ways of interpreting the same passage or verse in scripture?

***Growing Young* Discussion and Reflection**

**1)** The authors name three key shifts in gospel and preaching presentation that growing young congregations have adopted. They are:

**Shift 1**: Less talk about abstract beliefs and more talk about Jesus. *Instead of simply agreeing with abstract theological truths, young people are drawn to the person and work of Jesus Christ.*

**Shift 2**: Less tied to formulas and more focused on a redemptive narrative. *Rather than insist the Good News is about specific words or linear steps to obtain salvation, young people use story language to describe God’s work in the world.*

**Shift 3**: Less about heaven later and more about life here and now. *Salvation means more to young people than the assurance of heaven later; it also invites us into a new way of life in the present.[[1]](#footnote-2)*

How do you respond to these three shifts? Have you experienced any of these shifts in your faith life? If so, how have they helped you?

**2)** Researchers find that “7 out of 10 high school students harbour significant doubts about God and faith. Yet less than half of those students talk with either ministry leaders or peers about their struggles.”[[2]](#footnote-3) What does this say about the culture or environment of many faith communities? How would young adults (or anyone for that matter) know if doubts and struggles are okay to talk about within a faith community?

**3)** There is a section in the [**Growing Young video**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il1KMMwPDpI) (23:15-28:03) about Warm Community being one of the core commitments of a growing young church. Some of the words young people use to describe the congregations where young people are thriving include “welcoming, accepting, belonging, authentic, hospitable and caring.” Which of these descriptions do you think young people would say fits Glynde? In what area could there be more room for growth?

**4)** If you could survey the congregation what are one or two questions you would want to ask regarding the readiness or willingness to commit to any of the growing young core commitments?[[3]](#footnote-4)

1. *Growing Young,* 87-91. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. *Growing Young,* 101. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The core commitments are: Unlock Keychain Leadership, Empathize with Young People, Take Jesus Message seriously, Fuel a Warm Community, Prioritize Young People and Families, Be the Best Neighbors [↑](#footnote-ref-4)