

Scripture and Background Information for May 19-25

The Secret to Soaring

To prepare for discussion each week, group members should use the **Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scriptures at the bottom of this page. You will notice that we are continuing the pattern of your discussing scripture *after* the Sunday message on that passage.

Background for 2 Timothy 2:1-7

When an eagle flies, a powerful, unseen force makes the soaring possible. We see the same thing in our stories, and in the Scriptures: behind people of greatness are often powerful influences who provide life to their life. In this series we'll look at practical ways to unleash the best in yourself by discovering, developing, and deploying the best in others. This week we see how Paul had been building up Timothy so that Timothy could build up another in the faith.

In 2 Timothy, a spiritual father, Paul, is writing to his spiritual son, Timothy. Over the course of two letters, Paul entrusts much information with Timothy. Paul reminds Timothy of the core tenants of the faith, reminds him that Timothy will be persecuted, and that Timothy's confidence should be put in God's Word. Paul is passing the baton, and he cannot help but remind Timothy of a few things before he becomes a full-fledged disciple.

In verses 1-7, Paul reminds Timothy that he is part of a spiritual lineage. This spiritual lineage means that Timothy is to have an unparalleled devotion to the work that he is doing to continue that lineage. A soldier, an athlete, and a farmer all work toward a goal that is too important to give to someone who is not properly trained. For us, it is a good reminder to look backward to who our Paul was, and to look forward to who our Timothys are.

Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

May 26

Hebrews 11:32-40

June 2

Acts 9:26-28