

MESSAGE APPLICATION GUIDE

Dr. Timothy Keller

2 Timothy 4:1–8

1. How important is the church? How important to you? To our city? To our world? What are some ways that God’s Word emphasizes the importance of the church? What do you think a healthy church looks like?

2. What does it mean “to herald” the message of Jesus Christ? What do you think about the idea that every Christian is called to share the message of what Jesus has done for us? Is it surprising to you, that most evangelism in the early church happened personally (as opposed to in churches or ministry events), and through laypeople (as opposed to through leaders or pastors)? In what way is that a significant pattern for us to consider today? How often would the gospel be shared through our church family, if it was primarily dependent on the people of the church heralding it?

3. Pastor Tim outlined 5 different “hows” for sharing the gospel. What will it take for you to be prepared to share the gospel of Jesus with someone else? What kinds of things can we do this week and this month, to increase our personal preparation?

4. How effective are slogans, or cliché phrases, in telling other people about Jesus? Why is it important that we are intelligent about the way we tell others about Jesus? How does being practical, or being patient play into our sharing of the gospel with others?

5. Is sharing the gospel natural for you, or not? If it is more natural for you, why do you believe that to be the case? If it’s not natural for you, consider why that’s true. How can we help each other to be more prepared and more personally engaged with proclaiming Jesus to others?

6. What might we expect, when speaking of Jesus at a time that is “out of season”? What will be needed for us to be faithful proclaimers, even when it’s a message that is so counter-cultural?

7. How meaningful is it to consider God’s personal commendation of us, for being faithful to share His message? Consider what it will be like when the resurrected Savior gives His affirmation to all those who have been faithful to Him and to proclaiming His message. What kinds of things can we do this week, to stoke the fire of our love for His appearing?
