



COMING EVENTS

**What's coming
up in middle
school @NCC:**



- **Tuesday, October 15 • VE Thanksgiving!**

We're rolling out of our food-induced comas to talk about Jesus tonight! Bring a friend & some change for checkers. We're talking about thankfulness tonight! Come out from 7:00-9:00pm.

october 12/13 lesson

Series: The King's Servants

Lesson: Winning Servants

Scripture: *2 Timothy 4:6-18*



Chew Time:

Read Luke 2:25-52

Stepping Up:

A. Today we're going to look at the challenging side of servant leadership. We want to discover the long lasting rewards God promises to those who stick with it, even in the face of discouragement, loneliness, or even persecution.

■ Read **2 Timothy 4:6-7**. In these two verses, **Paul summarizes his faithful completion of what God assigned him to do.**

✠ *⁶ As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.*

1. **Verse 6.** *"I am already being poured out as a drink offering."* Paul was looking forward to the final sacrifice he would offer to God, his life. In the Old Testament sacrificial system, a worshipper would pour wine on the altar as an offering to God
2. **Verse 7.** *"I have fought the good fight."* This refers to a military battle. Paul was declaring that he had served God as a faithful soldier. He had obeyed the Lord and risked everything for the cause of Christ.
3. **Verse 7.** *"I have finished the race."* Paul compares his life of service to successfully completing a marathon. Long distance runners speak of "hitting the wall" at a certain point in the race when it feels like they just can't keep going. They must press on through that feeling in order to finish. Paul didn't stop when he hit the wall time and time again. He finished in spite of everything.
4. **Verse 7.** *"I have kept the faith."* The Greek word used for "kept" would have been used to describe the duty of a guard in a prison or military outpost. Paul had stood guard over the true gospel, often with life-threatening consequences.

B. Read **2 Timothy 4:9-18** to see Paul reflecting upon the challenges he faced:

✠ **Paul's Final Words** ⁹ Timothy, please come as soon as you can. ¹⁰ Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me in my

ministry. ¹² I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, be sure to bring the coat I left with Carpus at Troas. Also bring my books, and especially my papers. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm, but the Lord will judge him for what he has done. ¹⁵ Be careful of him, for he fought against everything we said. ¹⁶ The first time I was brought before the judge, no one came with me. Everyone abandoned me. May it not be counted against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear. And he rescued me from certain death (Greek: from the mouth of a lion) ¹⁸ Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.

1. Answer the following questions to help you identify some of the challenging aspects of service that Paul experienced.
 - a. What did Demas do?
 - b. What did many of the rest of Paul's friends do?
 - c. When Paul was on trial, what kind of support did his friends give him?
 - d. How serious were the threats against Paul based on what he said in **verse 17**?
2. Now, read **2 Timothy 4:9-18** looking for the ways in which **God will sustain his faithful servant through the times of suffering**.

Answer the following questions to help you identify some of the ways God ministered to Paul.

- a. When Paul's friends deserted him, what did God do for him?
- b. When Paul felt like he was in the lion's den, what did God do for him?
- c. According to **verse 17**, what did Paul believe would happen because God helped him in his trial?
- d. What was Paul's ultimate goal for his life and ministry based on what he said in **verse 17**?

C. Make It Real

Read the following statements & add the verse after:

- I can sometimes feel lonely because I won't go along with what others think is cool.

- I feel like many of my classmates don't really understand me or appreciate where I'm coming from when I won't join in some of their conversations or activities.

- Sometimes I feel like giving up on God because standing by my beliefs makes me different from everyone else.

- Whenever I see an opportunity to speak up for God's view on something, I get scared. I wonder if my friends will laugh at me.

✝ **2 Timothy 4:17.** *“But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for **everyone** (all the Gentiles) to hear.*