



**SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM
FOR THE SERMON PREACHED: NOVEMBER 20, 2016
TITLE: PERSEVERING IN MY PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF GOD
PASSAGE: 1 TIMOTHY 4:6-10**

BIG IDEA: The gospel has to change the way you live. Period. End of sentence. End of paragraph. Pretty much: end of book.

1. When are the moments in your life when you feel closest to God? What is it about those times that makes you feel close to Him? When are the moments you feel farthest away from Him? To this point in your life, how have you persevered in your relationship with God when you feel far from Him?
2. The Apostle Paul uses the word 'train' three times in this passage. What is the meaning of this word in verse 6? Based on verses 6b-7a, what are the two options on our spiritual menu? Why is it so important for us to feed ourselves on the main course of God's word and not on spiritual junk food?
3. Pastor Kevin listed five "irreverent, silly myths" (v7a). What are some other "silly myths" that Christians are prone to believe? What are some Bible passages you would take a person to in order to show them that it's a silly myth? Are you wrongly believing any silly myths? Are there areas of your life that are "irreverent," and need to change? What will you do this week to make the necessary changes in your life?
4. What is the command in the second part of verse 7? What does "train" mean in verses 7 and 8? What are you doing in your life right now to obey this command in verse 7b? Identify some areas where your training program needs to improve. As a small group, what are some practical ways you can encourage one another to persevere in your pursuit of God?

5. Complete this sentence: "Godliness is a _____ for God and a _____ of God in my life." How do you know that you're growing in godliness?
6. What do the following passages say about how to grow in godliness and persevere in our pursuit of God?
- A. Romans 8:13-14:
 - B. Galatians 3:1-5:
 - C. Colossians 1:29:
 - D. Hebrews 3:13:
 - E. Hebrews 10:24-25:
7. One of the keys to persevering and growing in godliness is understanding the role of struggle in our Christian life. In other words, our desire to become more like Christ will be a fight. Identify 2-3 key passages (or more) in God's word that clearly describe the reality of the struggle. Now – knowing that the struggle is real – what active steps must you take to fight for your growth in Christ?
8. Before going to your breakouts, spend some time as a group praying for each other. If any particular requests came up during your group discussion, pray specifically for those things. You have been made for more. Ask the Lord for his grace and strength to persevere in your passionate pursuit of him.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: "If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather, train yourself for godliness" (1 Timothy 4:6-7)