

11 CALIFORNIANS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

TWO: PEDDLE

Either with a group or on your own, use the following questions to explore Bible passages and apply insights from the video session.

What stood out to you from the video?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 & 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

1. What are some tricks you use to detect if a salesperson is being dishonest in order to sell you something? Share some examples from your life about positive or negative experiences you've had with salespeople.

2. Other than making money, why do you believe the "peddlers" we read about in these verses preached a false gospel? What did they get out of it?

3. Imagine you are one of the false teachers we see in these verses. How would you sell a false message in order to make as much money as possible? What methods would you use today to deceive people to get them to pay you?

4. According to these verses, how did the Apostle Paul choose to live so that he wouldn't be accused of being a "peddler" or a "false teacher?"

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5

5. If you could choose to write a book that is either wildly popular while you are alive or that is honored for hundreds of years after you've passed away, what would you choose to write? Explain why.

6. Why are people today unwilling to put up with "sound doctrine?" What makes the message of the gospel unpopular in our world?

7. What do you personally "itch" to hear? What words could a false teacher speak to pull you away from the truth of the gospel?

8. The Apostle Paul wrote the words of this verse to Timothy, a young man trying to protect the people in his church from false teachers. Imagine you are Timothy, trying to formulate a defense for the gospel. What strategy would you prepare to fight false teaching and to confront others with the truth?

DEEPER STUDY QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 7:15-20 & 2 Timothy 3:1-9

9. What are some examples of good fruit that honest teachers bear? What are some examples of bad fruit that false teachers bear?

10. On a piece of paper, list out the traits of false teachers that you see in these verses. How can this list help us determine if we're speaking and living with honest or false motives?

A PRAYER FOR WISDOM

In this world, we are bombarded with messages from all directions. It can be difficult to keep everything straight, and to know who is telling the truth and who is selling a fake message of manipulation. This prayer is designed to test the messages we hear from the world and to help us regain our center in the truth of the gospel.

1. Either aloud or silently, read these words from 1 Kings 3:9, "Give me an understanding heart, so that I can know the difference between right and wrong." Repeat those words over and over for a few moments.

2. Imagine in front of you a book that represents the message you have heard from the world. Imagine that the Lord sits next to you and picks up the book. He opens it up and flips through its pages. He asks you this question: "What is it about this message that is so important to you?" Tell Him.

3. Imagine the Lord says, "Well, there's one thing in here that's definitely wrong." Speak with the Lord about the parts of the message that don't line up with what you've read in Scripture or heard from mature believers.

4. Close your prayer by thanking the Lord for leading you into His wisdom. After your prayer, share what you experienced with a friend or a wise believer. Then, go to the Scriptures to test what you're hearing from the world.

...sometimes the truth of the Gospel hurts. Sometimes it challenges us to change in ways that might be painful. Sometimes the Gospel tells us what we don't want to hear but what we need to hear.

KYLE WELCH
