

**Dig Deeper @Home – “Presents from Jesus”  
Complement to lesson on 12/1/24 – “His Word”**

**ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered**

1. What’s your favorite Advent/Christmas song? Advent/Christmas hymn?
2. What’s the best gift you’ve ever received?

**MEMORIZE – Ephesians 4:7**

“However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ”(NLT)

**READ – 2 Timothy 2**

**Questions to ponder/discuss:**

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
  - a. What did the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read?
  - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
  - c. What in these verses is interesting? What is confusing?
  - d. What are the verses revealing about God? What are the verses saying about people?
  - e. In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. According to Paul in chapter 2, what is the gospel or Good News?
  - a. How often do you share this with others? Who can you share with this week?
  - b. How do verses 11-13 connect with Paul’s gospel?
3. Using only chapter 2, define a “worker who has no need to be ashamed(v15).” List the things this worker does and the things they don’t do. (Hint: read all of chapter 2 again and look for verses that are commands/directives.) After listing what a good worker does/doesn’t do, reflect on your own life. Do you actively do the things the worker is told to do? How often do you find yourself doing the things the worker is told to avoid?

## EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Entangled

No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits ... These are the words Paul shares with Timothy. Find some rope and have your hands tied together. Keep your hands this way for about an hour but go about your day as usual.

1. What impact did having your hands tied together have on your ability to do your tasks?
  - a. Describe what this felt like
2. How does this connect to Paul's command to not get entangled in civilian pursuits?
  - a. What are civilian pursuits?
  - b. What does it mean to be "entangled" in them?
3. How did you get your hands un-entangled?
4. How do we keep ourselves entangled in civilian pursuits? (hint: Paul tells us in the second half of 2:4 by telling us who we are to please)
5. How do we best know how to please the One who enlisted us?

God's Word is a wonderful gift that He has given to us. A gift which allows us to know Him and grow closer to Him. As we do, our eyes will be opened to ways we are currently entangled in civilian pursuits and how to align ourselves with Him instead. Reading His Word and putting it into practice disentangles us and keeps us unentangled from these civilian pursuits. As we know Him more, we can better live to please Him. How can you be in God's Word more each day?

## SING

**O Come O Come Emmanuel** - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=draHA\\_9MS18](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=draHA_9MS18)

**Noel** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGg7KdN19rs>

**Christmas Day** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDZNnjqpAoM>

**His Mercy is More** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5EUvOnQr4Y>

## PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us, for this week this help could be related to where you are entangled in civilian pursuits and help to get unentangled.

### **Sending prayer based on the message:**

Heavenly Father, help me to live this week as your child. Holy Spirit, keep us from getting entangled in civilian pursuits and instead reflect your Kingdom in the midst of civilian pursuits.