

Topic: Be an Example of the Believer.

Text: 1 Timothy 4:12;

Aim: To encourage believers to become true examples and representatives of Christ.

Introduction: As Christians, God expects us to live for Him and represent Him irrespective of the environment we find ourselves. Some Christians nowadays, tend to live double-standard lives. In a bid to please people, they dim their light and act in ways contrary to what they believe just to fit in. But God's will for us is to be an example of the believer in word, in conduct, in Spirit and in purity (1 Timothy 4:12). We are not just followers of Christ, but we are His ambassadors as well and everything about our lives — the way we talk, dress and act — ought to reveal Christ to men and turn them back to God. Trying to achieve this by our own strength would be futile, hence the need for us to rely on the Holy Spirit. This study will help us understand what it means to be an example of the believer and how we can live our lives daily as ambassadors of Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be an example? Discuss. Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:20
2. What are the qualities that should be seen in the life of every true believer? Gal. 5:22-23, James 1:19-22.
3. Discuss some practical examples of possible hindrances to living as an example of the believer and how can we overcome them? 2 Tim 3:1-5; 2 Cor 6:14

Conclusion: Being an example of the believer means living for God and representing Him here on earth. It entails standing for and with God despite the challenges and situations we find ourselves in. We are to operate by the principles found in the word and not conform to the standards of the world (Romans 12:2). Every tree is identified by its fruits so as Christians, we ought to bear the fruits of the Spirit in our relations with all men. Living a godly life in this ungodly world will certainly not be an easy task but it is also not an impossible one. By constantly yielding to the Holy Spirit and the word of God, we can all attain the point where we can boldly say we are true examples of the believer.

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 4:12 – “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity”.