



## Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Westwood Baptist Church, Alabaster, Alabama  
Jay Gordon, Pastor of Small Groups  
Trey Murphy, Home Groups Director  
WestwoodGroups.com

# Dealing with Gray Areas

July 10, 2011

Les Hughes, Senior Pastor

### SCRIPTURE

1Timothy 6:11-16

<sup>11</sup> But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup> to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

### ENGAGE

What gray areas have you faced at some point in your Christian walk?

### DISCUSS

1. Read the focus passage. As you read, determine the most important truth of the passage.
2. What part does God's word play in relation to this truth? Read 2 Timothy 3:16. Of the four things that God's word is good for, which is most applicable to you?
3. There is a difference between commandments and principles. Can you explain the difference in the two?

Commandments show us how far away from purity we are, and our need for Christ. Principles are values to apply to everyday life. Commandments are brief, simple and clear. Principles are values to apply to everyday life.

Can you think of an example of a principle from the Bible and how to apply it?

4. Why do you think our nature is to see how close we can get to sin without actually sinning? What principles from the Scripture above would address this issue?

5. It was said that maybe we need to take God's word more seriously. How do we do that?
6. Read Psalm 119:11. What can we do to practice this verse?

## YOUR NEXT STEP

Find a daily Bible reading plan and a growth partner. You can share things you learn with your growth partner and they will help you be accountable for reading as well. Ask them what they are learning from God's word.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

1. Share Psalm 119:11. Share truth about this verse.
2. Talk with kids about how often they read the Bible and brainstorm with them ways to read it more often, maybe with their families.
3. Explain that sometimes the Bible leads us in different ways. Like your parents, sometimes it tells us exactly what to do, other times it is implied. Like when you go to a friend's house and your parent's say "Behave yourself... Use your manners." They didn't tell you specifics, just general. Sometimes God's word does that and it is called "principles". God's word also gives us commands, that are specific.
4. Let's practice it now. Tell me some things that the Bible says and we'll figure out if it is a principle or a commandment.
5. What will you do this week to read the Bible more often?

## OTHER PASSAGES SITED

2 Timothy 3:16

Romans 3:20

1 Corinthians 8