

## **PARTY TIME**

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### **STUFF YOU WILL NEED**

- party food and drinks
- party hats
- a playlist of party music
- copies of 1 Timothy 6 (available at the end of this session)
- pencils or highlighters

### **CHECKING IN**

Before you meet together, take a few minutes to be still and to pray.

Open the session by talking together about these questions:

- Describe your most enjoyable birthday? What made it special?**
- What is the worst party you've been to?**

### **EXPLORING THE WORD**

**Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:2b–21**

The Apostle Paul gave tons of advice. Generally, his was the kind of advice people wanted to hear. Once he wrote his young friend Timothy, a church leader, telling him what to believe, what to do, and what to avoid. Paul spoke from experience; his advice was not only “Do as I say” but also “Do as I do.”

Distribute copies of 1 Timothy 6:2b–21. Ask each person to read the chapter and to underline words and phrases that stand out for them, particularly words that seem to offer good advice.

When everyone is done, discuss these questions:

- What words did you underline? What is important about these words?**
- If Paul were writing to young people today, what do you think his advice would be?**  
(You may want to invite the group to make a list of what they think Paul would advise.)

At the end of his letter, Paul sums up his advice, saying, “Choose life!” Walk toward wholeness; and when you walk against the crowd, “choose life.”

That is good advice. It makes no sense to give our time, energy, money, and affections to things that are harmful, to things from which we long to be free. If we are doing this, we need to ask for help in order to stop.

Discuss these questions:

**What are ways to make sure that parties can be fun and safe?**

**How can we avoid situations that are unpleasant, unhealthy, or disrespectful of people?**

**Why do people choose to behave in ways that are unhealthy?**

**How would you help a friend who is engaging in reckless behavior involving alcohol, drugs, or sexual activity?**

**Which part of Paul's advice speaks most directly to your party experiences?**

### **SHARING IN PRAYER**

Bring out the party hats, food, and soda. Play party music in the background. Allow time for food and fellowship.

Then ask people to discuss these questions:

**What about God and the life God gives makes you want to celebrate?**

**Do parties and prayer go together? Can a prayer be a party? Can a party be a prayer?**

Turn up the music. Ask people to stand up and to clap in time to the music. Then ask the group to shout as they repeat after you each line of this adaptation of Psalm 100:

**Make a noise.**

**I said, "Make a noise,  
a loud noise,  
a glad noise."**

**Happy day!**

**O happy day!**

**All people,  
all nations,  
everybody**

**praise God.**

**I said, "Worship."**

**"Come and sing."**

**"God is here,  
right here,  
right now."**

**Happy day!**

**O Happy day!**

**God made us,  
washed our sins away.**

**God's people,  
come and worship.**

**Give thanks.**

**Bless God.**

**God is good  
forever.**

**Happy day!**

**Noisy day!**

**Amen.**

### **TAKING IT FURTHER**

Celebrating achievements and life transitions helps to build positive identity. Some party behavior is an unhealthy attempt to do the same thing. How does your church celebrate and acknowledge significant times in young people's lives?

## **1 Timothy 6:2b-21 (NRSV)**

### **False Teaching and True Riches**

Teach and urge these duties. **3** Whoever teaches otherwise and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that is in accordance with godliness, **4** is conceited, understanding nothing, and has a morbid craving for controversy and for disputes about words. From these come envy, dissension, slander, base suspicions, **5** and wrangling among those who are depraved in mind and bereft of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. **6** Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; **7** for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; **8** but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. **9** But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

### **The Good Fight of Faith**

**11** But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **13** In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you **14** to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. **16** It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

**17** As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. **18** They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, **19** thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

### **Personal Instructions and Benediction**

**20** Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid the profane chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge; **21** by professing it some have missed the mark as regards the faith.

Grace be with you.