

## Growth Group Discussion Guide

Go to [concorddallas.org](http://concorddallas.org) to join a growth group and learn more

### A NEW ASSIGNMENT SERIES

*"Choose Christ Over the Crowd"*

2 Tim 3: 1 - 17

#### • THE CROWD

- They will grow in number (v. 1 - 5)
- They will grow in negativity (v. 1 - 5)
- They are now (v. 6 - 7)
- They are not new (v. 8)

#### • CHOOSE CHRIST

- Christ worked for Paul (v. 10,11)
- Christ worked for others (v. 12,13)
- Christ will work for you (v. 14 - 17)

- **Read John 12:12-13.** What is the multitude's response to the entrance of Jesus? Read John 19:6a. What is the crowd's contradictory opinion of Jesus from the first biblical passage (John 12:12-13) to the next (John 19:6a)? Have you ever had an experience where people celebrated you one moment and judged you the next? Please share an incident that caused you to identify with Jesus and how he was treated on both occasions in these passages? Read John 12:27-35. What does Jesus have to say? What does the "crowd" have to say? What do we learn about the importance of resisting the "noise of the crowd?" Read Mat. 26:39. How does God's word and the life of Christ help us to stay focused on the task at hand that is before us?
- **Read Proverbs 22:24, Prov. 16:28, Prov. 17:9, Prov. 17:17, Prov. 27:9, Prov. 27:6, James 4:4 and I Cor. 15:22.** Discuss as a group what the Word of God says about true friends. What does it say about enemies? What does it suggest about how we should watch the company that we keep? How have these passages opened your eyes to how we should act and react to various "voices" that contribute to our lives? Consider the people in our lives. Some people are fans, some are friends and some are foes. Discuss the difference. How do we recognize a friend? fan? foe? All of them contribute different "opinions" the "crowds" in our lives. What do you do to receive wise instruction and encouragement from friends and accountability partners that you trust? How do you offer encouragement and wisdom to others in your "village?" How well do you balance the "hype" of people that admire you and cheer you on with flabby optimism? How well do you receive sincere appreciation and compliments from positive people in your life? What do you do to rise above the negative voices of foes?
- **Read I Cor. 1:9, Read Jeremiah 51:55, Heb. 13:8 and Ps. 124:2.** How does God prove himself to be the most reliable One that stands, speaks and secures us with his voice that silences all negative crowds in our lives? In a changing world, with changing responsibilities and changing relationships, how has God been constant in your life? Share how the voice of God has ministered to you in your recent Bible study/meditation time. Identify the newest assignment in your life. (Perhaps a new job, a new family member, a new health set back, a recent move, a new position or responsibility, a new expectation.) Now share how God has encouraged your heart as it relates to trusting him in new ways. Read II Tim. 1:8-13 and II Tim. 2:1-13. How does Paul advise Timothy in matters of the faith, ministry work, persecution, fears and how to handle challenges in the future? What do you believe Timothy and Paul would say to us in 2011 as it relates to how we should choose Christ over the crowd?
- **Taking it home: How will I live it? Apply It?**  
Pray silently by thanking God for being the best motivating source and encouraging voice in your life. Write down people and things that you often run to before you run to hear God's instruction. (Perhaps your parent(s), your spouse, your best friend, siblings, children, facebook, a physc hotline, cigarettes, alcohol, the mall, food, your mentor, self help books, etc.) Now confess the times that you have trusted other people/things over the voice of God. Is there a nagging negative voice in your life right now? As a group, pray that God will give each of you strength to live above the noises of the crowd. Chase the crown and not the crowd! Memorize and internalize II Tim. 4:8 this week.