**1 Timothy 1**

*John MacArthur [pastor/author] says no epoch in history has witnessed the rise of as many dangerous belief systems as the 20th century. Baptist Press reports that in MacArthur’s words, "This is not a time for weak men in weak pulpits in weak churches preaching weak messages." MacArthur says the aim of good Bible teaching is to conform church members to Christ’s image. According to MacArthur, shallow preaching produces shallow worship. With that in mind, he says he can walk into a church and listen to the music for 15 minutes and tell how profound the people’s understanding of God is because it will be reflected in that.*

- Fred Jackson and Jody Brown (2002)

***The pulpit isn’t the only source for false teachings in our churches today. Many others are in positions of influence and leadership who knowingly or unknowingly teach false things about God. Today, we will see how Paul deals with this issue in a letter to Timothy and the Church at Ephesus.***

**Read 1 Timothy 1.**

1. According to verses 3-7, what is the problem in the Church at Ephesus?

2. a) For whom is the law intended? How does this apply to believers and non-believers?

b) How do verses 1-11 apply to your life?

3. Why does Paul share his personal testimony? What do we learn about God and Jesus?

4. Paul wrote to, amongst other things, encourage Timothy “to hold firmly to faith and a good conscience.” What are ways 1 Timothy 1 encourages us to do the same?

5. Share with each other areas in your life where your faith is challenged. Pray for each other for Christ’s power and breakthrough in these areas.