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2 TIMOTHY: WINNING THE VICTORY

How to Win the Spiritual Battles of Life and Ministry

[SAMPLE]

Katy Kauffman



Lighthouse Bible Studies

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To God,
thank You for teaching me
(and still teaching me)
how to win the victory.
You are the Champion.

To my beloved family and friends,
just as Timothy received
a legacy from Paul,
I have you.
I am forever grateful.



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Meet the Author



Katy Kauffman is a co-founder of Lighthouse Bible Studies, a ministry which seeks to connect people to God through His Word. Her heart's desire is that people know and love God, understand the richness of His Word, and fulfill His plan for their lives. She graduated from Luther Rice Seminary with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion, and she has taught the Bible to women and teens. Within the past few years, God added publishing to the dream He first gave her of teaching the Bible, and *2 Timothy: Winning the Victory* is her first book. In the future she hopes to have a Bible study campus with her parents Rick and Beebe Kauffman who are also Bible teachers. Beebe has just finished her first written Bible study, *Isaiah: Setting Things Right*.

Katy has seen in her teaching experiences and in her travels abroad that people everywhere have the same need for God and His Word and the same desire to be loved. She teaches and writes to enrich

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women's understanding of Scripture and to inspire them to experience the life God has for them. She wants to help women to:

- know God on a personal level and love Him more each day
- flourish in God's love, walk in His joy, and rest in His peace
- overcome the obstacles of the Christian life and live victoriously
- be strong warriors, enduring runners, and faithful servants of God (2 Timothy 4:7)

Katy enjoys scrapbooking, learning to play the guitar, and spending time with family and friends. She attends a church in a suburb of Atlanta, GA. If you are interested in the topics she could speak on at your church or women's ministry retreat or if you would like more information about Lighthouse Bible Studies, please contact her at lighthousebiblestudies@hotmail.com, and you can find her page—Katy Kauffman, Author—on Facebook.

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Preface

I love brownies—making them and eating them. I try not to make them too often because I can easily eat six in one day. When I do make them, I use my favorite mix—decaffeinated milk chocolate. Don't worry, it tastes just like normal brownies. Oh, so good! One holiday weekend I wanted to try something different and made some peanut butter brownies. Enormous chips of peanut butter dotted the batter, and I couldn't wait for peanut butter gooey-ness to come out of the oven.

Disappointment. Just out of the oven, the brownies were as hard as bricks. I checked the ingredients on the back of the box. It called for less liquid than my favorite mix. That must have been what did it. The next day I made a milk chocolate batch. They came out just right, with the right ingredients and the right proportions. And I only ate five.

I hope you enjoy the combination of “ingredients” in this book. It blends the benefits of a Bible study with the style of a devotional book. Each devotion usually starts with a story or intriguing thought, adds Scriptural understanding and application for life today, and ends with questions and a prayer. Each one takes about five to ten minutes to read and answer the questions. So you get the richness and depth of a Bible study at the pace of a devotional book. There's also a bonus feature. For each verse or section of 2 Timothy, you will find “How to Fight to Win” principles enclosed in gray boxes for easy reference. They explain practical ways to win the spiritual battles of life and ministry. A Leader Guide in the back divides the devotions into eight weeks for a small group study, and provides questions for a leader to facilitate group discussion.

I pray you find the devotions practical and relevant to your walk with God. Victory is possible. God makes it possible. Let's arm ourselves with the principles we need to win our spiritual battles and to serve God in our generation! Our time is now.

It's Time!

The time had come to pass the baton. The veteran runner, a weathered and proven man of many years, rounded the curve. With every stride, he inspired his teammates. He had run his part of the race well, and he had prepared the next runner to do the same. The veteran spotted his younger teammate, poised and ready to take the baton. Everything had led to this moment—all of the veteran's experiences, all of the younger man's training. As he passed the baton, the responsibility of running well passed from one generation to the next.

In the book of 2 Timothy, Paul is the weathered runner, and Timothy is the man poised to take his place. From a prison cell in Rome, Paul wrote this powerful and precious letter to his beloved teammate. It is powerful because it discloses, from one who knows, how God's children can win the victory in the spiritual battles of life and ministry. It is precious because it is Paul's legacy, written to his son in the faith. Knowing that he would die soon, Paul passed his ministry, which blazed like a torch, to Timothy. It was a challenging ministry to take on, but Paul didn't leave him without the principles he needed to keep the flame brightly burning.

Just as these principles were passed to Timothy, they have been passed to believers of every generation. Life is a marathon race of adventures and challenges. It's full of spiritual battles regarding the way we think and how we live, the circumstances of life, the health of our relationships, and serving God. Serving God has its own set of struggles as we fight to overcome apathy, feelings of inadequacy, fears, and opposition from the world and the enemy. We need principles to help us progress in the race and be victorious in the fight. The principles that Paul gave Timothy help us with both goals.

This is our time—time to follow God, to learn, to grow, and to be trained for what He has for us. Time to be strong warriors, enduring runners, and faithful servants. God calls each of His children to fight

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the good fight (1 Tim 6:12), to run with endurance (Heb 12:1), and to serve Him faithfully (Matt 25:21). Whether we've run with God for a while or we've just begun our "race," we have the opportunity to make a difference. The course is seldom smooth, and the fight is seldom easy. But God's Word assures us that the outcome is worth the struggle (2 Tim 2:10; Phil 1:23-25; Col 1:28). Interwoven through 2 Timothy are the reasons why sticking with it is worth the cost.

Paul's encouragement and challenge to Timothy, and to us, is this: Pick up the torch, keep at it, don't stop running. When the mission is tough and the hurdles seem high, God is with us. He is involved in every stride we take. He prepares and trains willing hearts to do His will. He arms us with exactly what we need for every segment of the race and for every round of the fight. He supplies the love, grace, and power that we need to overcome obstacles, and to stay committed no matter the cost. Whatever spiritual battles we face, God will enable us to win the victory.

Whatever victory you need today—to overcome a personal struggle, endure a difficult time, contribute good in your relationships, or make a difference where you are—depend on God to win your battles, and use your God-given resources to prevail. Just like the generations who have come before us, we have the opportunity to fight the good fight, finish our race, and keep the faith (2 Tim 4:7). May we use the principles God has given us and win the victory in Him. It's our time!

Questions

1. If you were in a prison cell in Rome, do you think you would have Paul's attitude?

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2. Has there been a family legacy that has been passed down to you, or is there one that you want to pass down to others?

3. This devotion said that “life is a marathon race of adventures and challenges.” How is life like a marathon race?

4. What spiritual battles do we face in the Christian life?

5. In paragraph 5, who helps us in the spiritual battles of life and ministry?

6. How does He help us?

7. What do you think it means to “keep the faith”?

8. At this point in your life, are you excited about the possibilities and opportunities you have, or has life just worn you down?

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9. Are you thinking of your everyday schedule as “life with God” in all of its joys, strengths, and adventures?
-

10. Can you think of any spiritual victories you would like to have?
-

Prayer

Dear Father, please bless our study of 2 Timothy and teach us more fully how to win the victory in our spiritual battles! You are with us in every step of the race and in every round of the fight. Train us how to use our resources and to remember why we are striving for Your cause here on earth. Guide our journey through the passages and principles of 2 Timothy, and work them into who we are and how we live. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2

2 Timothy 1:1-2

All In

Her moment came during the 1996 Olympic Games in the women's gymnastics team event. Because her American teammate fell on both her landings, Kerri Strug needed to deliver a strong vault to maintain their small lead over Russia. Would she be able to do it? She warmed up at the top of the runway, and then charged forward. She hit the vault, twisted in the air, but "misjudged the distance to the floor mat."¹ After her feet hit the ground, she fell and heard a snap.

As she stood up, the pain hit her. She had sprained her left ankle. With a score of 9.162,² she needed to try it again. She "limped back" to the starting position.³ Could she run and stick her landing with an injured ankle?

The starting light turned green. Kerri flew down the lane, hit the vault, twisted through the air, and nailed her landing. She hopped on one foot to salute the judges, and then fell to the floor in pain. Her score was 9.712.⁴ With a fatherly pride, her coach carried her to the medals platform, marching in line after her teammates. Their combined efforts had won America the gold!

We have opportunities in life that call for "sticking our landing," to do our part in helping the team win the victory. Sticking our landing in the daily Christian life isn't easy. We deal with pressure from the world; personal struggles and temptations; and obstacles like apathy, fear, and self-centeredness. Kerri didn't miss her moment to make a difference and propel her team to victory. She didn't crumple under pressure. She accepted the challenge, endured the pain, and did her part to win the victory. She was "all in." Kerri's moment required her to give her all, and she gave it. Are we ready to give as much?


 We can do
 our part
 in helping
 the team
 win the victory.


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Second Timothy Chapter 1 shows us how to be “all in” for God and His purposes, how to give our all as we fight the good fight and run the race. In v.1-2, we are introduced to two men who were “all in,” not for the glory of a nation or a sports team, but for the glory and purposes of God and His kingdom.

***1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,
2 To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.***

A big part of being “all in” is knowing your assignment, and Paul knew his. He was called by the will of God to be an apostle—a messenger of God and an ambassador-at-large. His mission was to preach “the promise of life” (v.1), a priceless possession that he had already obtained by faith in Christ. This life had motivated him to preach in difficult circumstances and comforted him in the face of death. His desire to see others possess life in Christ had sustained his love and endurance to fight for Christ’s cause, to endure the persecution that came with it, and to do his part to win the victory for God’s kingdom. As a servant of God, Paul faithfully and consistently “stuck his landing.”

Next in line to preach the promise of life was Timothy. Although Paul cherished Timothy like a son, he didn’t shield him from assuming the responsibility that would usher him into danger and persecution. This mission to preach the Word with courage, commitment, and love would take all that Timothy had. Paul knew that his son in the faith was ready for the challenge, and like-minded for the mission. Timothy had traveled with Paul and worked alongside him (Acts 16:1-5, 17:14, 18:5). He had seen Paul fight the good fight, and had become trained to do battle on his own. He was equipped to do his part to win the victory for God and His kingdom. At the end of Paul’s life and ministry, someone stood trained and ready to receive the torch of the gospel and keep running the race to proclaim it.

In v.2, Paul greeted Timothy, his fellow soldier, with grace, mercy, and peace—a powerful combination for a warrior called to

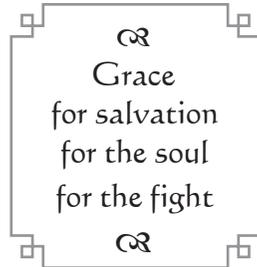
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arms. Timothy would need these three things to fight well for the kingdom of God, and so do we.

Grace is a beautiful word, a beautiful concept, a beautiful reality, and it's one of the weapons of our warfare. Grace is:

- “the unmerited love and favor of God toward mankind”
- “divine influence acting in a person to make the person pure, morally strong, etc.”
- “a special virtue, gift, or help given to a person by God”⁵

God's grace, His unmerited love and favor toward mankind, was supremely expressed by Jesus' death on the cross (Rom 5:8; Eph 2:7). God's grace made provision for our eternal life, but it also makes provision for the daily Christian life by furnishing us with God's influence, virtues, gifts, and help.



God's grace is good for the soul. God exerts an influence on our minds and hearts to be good and to do good in all of the situations and relationships of each day. From God we can draw the virtuous mindset, perspective, or inclination that we need to conduct ourselves in a godly fashion. He blesses us with gifts such as understanding and compassion that are good for us and for the people around us. He helps us to see each situation and circumstance clearly, and to do the right thing.

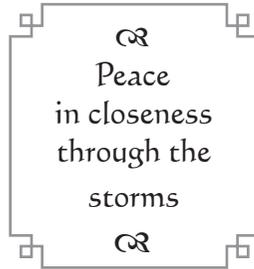
God's grace is a powerful weapon of warfare. It supplies us with exactly what we need to make it through any circumstance, threat, or danger. Grace is an inexhaustible storehouse⁶ of all that we need to do the assignment that God has given us. For example, when our passion or momentum wanes, grace supplies the desire and ability to do God's will. When we feel like giving up, grace supplies the strength and endurance to keep going. God's enriching grace supplies us with whatever we need for each round of the good fight and for each segment of the marathon race of life and ministry.

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Mercy, another powerful motivator and resource, is active, not passive. It's more than receiving forgiveness from God for our sins; it's also compassion, helpfulness, and kindness for everyday life. It flows from God to us and from us to others. Mercy has a sensitivity to others that acts out of kindness to help them. It keeps its eyes open for opportunities to do good, and does it. It is touched by the needs of others, and goes out of its way to meet those needs. Mercy is love in action.



A third powerful resource for the Christian life is peace. A resource that relieves the soul, peace is an inner stability and strength that comes from counting on God to take care of us and from remembering that He is in control of all things. The root word of *peace* means “to join.”⁷ When we join ourselves to God, we can rest in His comforting presence, trust in His perfect power, and rely on His supreme goodness. Growing in our closeness to Him and in our knowledge of who He is, brings a calmness to our hearts when the storms of life rage around us. When dangers and distractions tempt us to be anxious, God’s peace gives us a confidence to keep moving forward.



Grace, mercy, and peace kept Paul going when his course of life and ministry grew difficult. They would do the same thing for Timothy, and they will do the same for us. From the context of v.1-2, how can we be “all in” for God and His purposes?

**v.1-2 Do God’s will for your life energized by His grace,
motivated by His love, and sustained by His peace.**



Questions

1. Have you ever had a “moment” in your life when it was hard to forge ahead, but you did it, and it turned out well?

2. What was your motivation to continue?

3. Do you know yet what your assignment is within the body of Christ?

4. Are you serving, becoming trained to serve, or both?

5. Has anyone in particular, besides God, encouraged you or trained you for the assignment that God has given you?

6. How do the following resources help us to win the victory?

a. Grace – _____

b. Mercy – _____

c. Peace – _____

7. Which resource do you need the most right now?

8. When we exercise the principles of how to fight the good fight and win the race, we can attain the goal God wants for us—victory

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in each trial and in each struggle. At the end of the devotions' questions, you will find up to ten principles of how to win the victory in the spiritual battles of life and ministry. Read the list below, and circle the letter of the principle that is the most meaningful to you.



How to Fight to Win



- a. Stick your landing—do your part to help the team win the victory.
 - Deal with pressures, struggles, temptations, and obstacles.
 - Don't crumple under pressure.
 - Stay in the "match" even when you're in pain.
 - Know what's needed to win the victory, and do your part.
 - Give your all.
- b. Know your assignment.
- c. Share the Word with courage, commitment, and love.
- d. Take up the torch of the gospel, and run the race to proclaim it.
- e. Become trained to do battle.
- f. Fight with grace—draw from God whatever you need to make it through any circumstance, threat, and danger.
- g. Fight with mercy—fight with compassion, helpfulness, kindness, and sensitivity to others; stay alert for opportunities to do good; be touched by others' needs; and put your love into action.
- h. Fight with peace—operate from an inner stability and strength that comes from being joined to God.
- i. Do God's will for your life energized by His grace, motivated by His love, and sustained by His peace.

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Prayer

Father, thank You for calling us to be on Your team. There's so much at stake, so many people to reach and to love. Help us to know our assignments and how we can make a difference where we are. Enable us to overcome obstacles and to stick with it when things get tough. Show me how to be "all in" for You and Your purposes, and to do it energized by Your grace, motivated by Your love, and sustained by Your peace. Thank You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Leader Guide

Note to the Group Facilitator:

This Leader Guide suggests which questions to use for your group discussion. You can alter the sessions according to the needs of your group and the amount of time you have. All sessions are organized for a one-hour class time. Most of the Leader Guide is written so that you can say it directly to your group. God bless you as you facilitate your group's discussion, and don't hesitate to email if you have any questions or comments! If you use this book in a small group study, let us—the Lighthouse Bible Studies team—know before your first class begins, and we'll be praying for you and your group by name. You can reach us at lighthousebiblestudies@hotmail.com. If you are interested in using scrapbooked cards as an activity for your group, see the section called "The Scrapbooked Bible Study" located in the back of this guide.

Note to the Group Members:

I pray that this study blesses you in your walk with God and equips you for victory! The reading material will vary in length each week, so here is a breakdown of what to read before each session. Remember that each devotion takes about five to ten minutes to read and answer the questions. God bless you as you study 2 Timothy, and may this vital book of the Bible have a special place in your Scriptural arsenal!

Reading Plan:

Session 1 – Read Day 1 in class.

Session 2 – Days 2-6

Session 3 – Days 7-12

Session 4 – Days 13-16

Session 5 – Days 17-22

Session 6 – Days 23-29

Session 7 – Days 30-36

Session 8 – Days 37-40

Session 1

Covers Day 1, Introduction

(Includes time to get to know each other)

1. Take time to get to know each other! (This can take up to 20 minutes. You may want to bring food for the first session.)
 - a. Let the group members introduce themselves, telling their name, something about their family, and if they work inside or outside the home.
 - b. Then ask a fun question. Pick one of the questions below, and I recommend using one of these ice breakers before you start each session. Take about five to ten minutes at the beginning of the rest of the sessions to discuss an icebreaker. Group members seem to enjoy getting to know each other this way, and it sets a relaxed and conversational atmosphere. (Eight questions are provided, one for each session.)
 - i. What famous living person would you like to meet?
 - ii. Where is the best vacation spot you have ever been to?
 - iii. What are your pet's names, and what funny (or crazy) pet's names have you heard of?
 - iv. What hobbies do you enjoy?
 - v. What is your favorite restaurant? (You might want to take a snack for them to eat when you ask this question. It may make them hungry!)
 - vi. What is your favorite holiday, and why?
 - vii. What activities did you enjoy in high school or college—sports (which one), art, drama, debate team, chorus, band/orchestra (which instrument), or some other type of group/club?
 - viii. What is an adventure you would like to have sometime in the future, or a trip you would like to take?

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2. Let's read Day 1, "It's Time!". (Have volunteers read one paragraph at a time. This takes about three minutes.)
3. Now let's turn to a key verse for the whole book of 2 Timothy—2 Timothy 4:7. (Ask someone to read it.) Paul wrote this letter to his son in the faith. He was near the end of his life, and he was able to say that he had fought the good fight, he had finished his race, and he had kept the faith.
4. Discuss Questions 1-10 of Day 1. (Note: When you see "Discuss Questions...", this is a note from me to you as the leader. Don't read this to your group; just ask them the questions.)
5. In the spiritual battles we face, God equips us for victory. This study of 2 Timothy will equip us with the resources and motivations to do God's will for our lives and to overcome any obstacles that hinder us.
6. Assignment: Read Days 2-6 (2 Timothy 1:1-7). This should take a minimum of 25 minutes, depending on how fast you read. Each devotion takes about five to ten minutes to read and answer the questions.
7. Preview
 - a. We will discuss the questions that are located at the end of the devotions. So be sure to write down your answers, so you can refer to them later!
 - b. "How to Fight to Win" Statements: At the end of the questions in the devotions, you will find a list of principles that tell us very clearly and to the point, how to fight to win! These statements are taken from sentences in the devotions, and they are meant to energize your heart and help you to remember how to have victory. Over 275 of them are sprinkled through the study! We are going to be armed for victory!
8. Optional Scrapbook Card
9. Take prayer requests, and pray for them.
End with the prayer at the end of Day 1.

You've finished your first session! The rest of the sessions are based on questions taken from the book and discussing what's in Scripture. God bless you as you begin this adventure through His Word!

The Scrapbooked Bible Study

“Scrapbooking” a photograph is all about visual appeal—making a backdrop for the photo, a presentation of it that utilizes colors, textures, and embellishments. I love it.

In case you don’t scrapbook, let me explain the process. You start with a great photograph. Then you find a background paper to display the photo that either complements the colors in the photograph, or accentuates the event or occasion. Then you add things to the page—a title of the photo, a journal entry that gives more details, and embellishments such as starbursts for July 4th pictures or snowflakes for winter pictures—whatever fits the photo, the event, and your personality. You can also add bling—anything that sparkles and shines. Don’t forget the bling.

Some of the principles of scrapbooking apply to teaching Bible studies. But it’s not a photograph that is scrapbooked—it’s the presentation of a message from a verse or passage in Scripture. The “background paper” of the message is the context of the passage, the customs of the times, or the purpose or style of the book. “Embellishments” are used to create interest, such as a story, quote, question, or fresh approach to the subject. Other embellishments are used to build understanding, such as comparisons, examples, or definitions. Spiritual insights are the bling. Two more additions finish the presentation: a “caption” of application that is relevant to life today and questions that help your audience personalize the application. Bible studies don’t have to be dry and boring. They can be scrapbooked. So the brand of this Bible study is: “The Scrapbooked Bible Study.”

Take-away Cards

If you want to add a little scrapbooking to your Bible study class, consider using Take-away Cards. (What application will your students “take away” from class?) These cards use the colors and creativity of scrapbooking to make one of the principles from class more memorable. They only take about five minutes of class time, and class members seem to really enjoy them.

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To make your own Take-away Cards:

1. The Message: Choose a sentence from one of the devotions, or use one of the boldface application statements, such as:

Do God's will for your life
energized by His grace,
motivated by His love,
and sustained by His peace.

2. The Top Layer: Type the statement into the computer, and copy it as many times as you need, one for each group member. To easily copy the statement and to conserve paper, I use text boxes. I can copy the same text box about six or eight times on the same page, depending on how big the box is. You'll usually need an area 2 ½" by 2 ½" for each application statement if you are cutting your cards to be squares. (See #4 below.) I insert a text box, type the statement centered in it, and change its wrapping to "Behind Text." Then the boxes can be moved easily.

You can also play with font styles and colors. Print the page onto regular computer paper to see if your spacing is correct for the size of card that you are making. Adjust the spacing in the computer, if needed. Then print the statements on white or off-white cardstock, enough to have one statement per class member.

3. Choose: Now comes the color and creativity. Choose two or three other colors of cardstock that are either complementary or shades of the same color. You can also use cardstock that is printed with patterns, flowers, and so forth, for one of the layers. These will be the backdrop for your application statement. If you buy a 12-inch-square (12" by 12") piece of colored or printed cardstock, you can cut it into nine 3-inch squares (3" by 3") to form the largest piece of each Take-away Card. (You can find colored and printed cardstock at Michaels Stores, Hobby Lobby®, or Archiver's®.)

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4. **Cut:** After you choose how many layers you will have and what colors or patterns of cardstock you want, cut the biggest and bottom layer first. Cut the next layer of cardstock a little smaller, one-fourth or one-eighth inch smaller. If your cards have three layers, the third and top layer is your application statement printed on white or off-white cardstock. Make sure the words of the application are spaced to fit on that top layer.

For example: Cut the square that forms the bottom layer 3" by 3", the next layer 2¾" by 2¾", and the top layer with the application on it 2 ½" by 2 ½". Voile! Three layers of a Take-away Card. (To see more of the second layer, make the third layer 2¼" by 2¼", or if you want a fourth layer, make it this size.)

5. **Variety:** You can use other shapes for your Take-away Cards—rectangles, circles, or special shapes. You can find inexpensive stencils for these. I like to use die cuts. My favorites are Spellbinders™ Nestabilities® Die Templates which are available at the craft stores mentioned above. (Simple shapes, especially squares, may be the best. Both the die cuts and the machine that you need to use them are extra expenses, unless you already own them for scrapbooking or card-making.)
6. **The Fun:** At the end of class, pass out a set of card layers to each person, and then pass out several rolls of double-sided tape, to be shared. Have your class members tape the second layer to the third layer, putting the tape on the back of the second layer. Then have them put tape on the back of the top layer and tape it to the others. Before they start, it's a good idea to show them a finished Take-away Card. They take their cards home as a reminder of the lesson.
7. **Cost:** The class members may want to help you with the costs. My suggestion is to ask for \$1 per person and see how far that money goes. When the money for supplies is gone, ask them whether they want to do any more cards.

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8. If you have any other questions, please contact us at lighthousebiblestudies@hotmail.com.