

## THE EPITAPH

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8

## **GETTING STARTED**

• Eugene Peterson writes in his book, A Long Obedience in the Same Direction, "There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness."

What do you think he means by this?

## **SCRIPTURE STUDY**

**Before you begin:** Open with prayer and spend a minute or two in silence before God. Have multiple people ask the Holy Spirit to enter your time together and illuminate your hearts and minds to scripture.

- Have someone read the passage in its entirety aloud. As a group, summarize
  the passage, and as you do so, note any observations, questions, and exciting
  insights you found while reading through the text. What jumped out at you?
   What was something you noticed now that you didn't see before?
- Describe what Paul means by his departure in verse 6.
- What does Paul mean by the good fight? Why do you think Paul talks about following Jesus like running a race in verse 7?
- What does Paul mean by receiving the crown of righteousness? Why is this an award worth striving for?

## **WRAPPING UP**

• How is God teaching you to be a resilient disciple in this season? How are you learning to persevere in your Christian walk so you may run your race with excellence?