

2 Timothy 4:1-5

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (ESV)

1. We need to be preaching God's word in season and out of season. Some translations say, 'when it is convenient and when it is inconvenient'. What do you think makes the gospel 'in season' and 'out of season'? Can you think of any times in your life when it has been 'out of season' for preaching the gospel?
2. Preaching the word includes 'Reproving', 'rebuking' and 'exhorting'. Look these words up in a dictionary and write a definition below. Then try to think of a time when God's word has reproved, rebuked or exhorted you.
 - a. Reprove:
 - b. Rebuke:
 - c. Exhort:
3. Paul tells Timothy to 'fulfill your ministry'. He then goes on to tell Timothy how he has fulfilled his ministry in vs 6-8. Timothy would fulfill his ministry by continuing to preach the word for the rest of his life. What does it look like in your life to fulfill your ministry? What are the responsibilities you have to your church, your family, your spouse, your friends?

Things to pray for based on this text:

- That we will not be daunted or afraid, but that we will help people understand God's word
- That we will not grow 'itching ears' – but rather that we will fully accept God's word
- For people who have been drawn away from God's word and into myths – that they may find God once more