

LESSON 12
August 23, 2026

Unit III: Faithful Witnesses Spread the Good News

Home Is Where the Heart Is

DEVOTIONAL READING: Matthew 12:46-50
BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Acts 16:1-3; Philippians 2:19-22;
2 Timothy 1:1-6; 3:14-16
PRINT PASSAGES: 2 Timothy 1:1-6; 3:14-16

KEY VERSE

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. (2 Timothy 1:5, KJV)

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I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. (2 Timothy 1:5, NIV)

Lesson Aims

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- List characteristics of Timothy's childhood that are conducive to his growth as a faithful witness.
- Value the home as a training ground for becoming a faithful witness.
- Adopt practices of home nurture for becoming a faithful witness.

*Key Terms

Abide (3:14)—Greek: *menó* (men'-o): to stay; remain; "continue" (KJV/NIV).

Grace (1:2)—Greek: *charis* (khar'-ece): gift or blessing brought to humankind by Jesus Christ; favor; kindness.

Mercy (1:2)—Greek: *eleos* (el'-eh-os): pity; the compassion of God toward humankind.

Promise (1:1)—Greek: *epaggelia* (ep-ang-el-ee'-ah): a summons; message; oath.

Serve (1:3)—Greek: *latreuó* (lat-ryoo'-o): to minister (to God); to worship.

Tears (1:4)—Greek: *dakruon* (dak'-roo): teardrops; crying; emotional expression.

*(Word Study Supplement—Refer to page 2)

Introduction

Cultures intentionally maintain continuity by teaching, training, and modeling their customs, beliefs, and value systems across generations. Some cultures have initiation rites for adolescents entering young adulthood, introducing them to the responsibilities of community



The Biblical Context

The apostle Paul wrote 2 Timothy around 67 AD while imprisoned in Rome—likely his final work before his execution. With his death approaching, Paul understood that Timothy's role as a pastor and leader of the faith community was vital in maintaining and expanding Paul's efforts. Second Timothy was written during a time of political upheaval in Rome, when Emperor Nero deflected blame for the destructive fire in the city from himself by accusing and harshly persecuting Christians. Paul was among those Christians targeted by the persecution and was now confined to a dark, lonely prison cell. Additionally, doctrinal confusion and heresies were spreading within the church. Therefore, Paul's primary goal in writing this letter was to encourage and strengthen his young apprentice as he faced upcoming challenges and struggles as a spiritual leader, both then and in the future. While providing key instructions to Timothy to help him keep the church grounded in sound doctrine and continue the teachings he received from Paul, his mother, and grandmother, Paul also expresses his deep love for him and his longing to see him before his imminent death. Paul's final instructions to Timothy focus on several key principles that Timothy—and believers today—can apply to their lives: enduring and persevering through hardships, remaining faithful to the Gospel while handling it accurately, using Scripture as the inspired and authoritative source for equipping believers for ministry, and staying prepared to address false teachings and the increasing ungodliness that will mark the last days.

membership. According to the American Psychological Association, early parental intervention and instruction are crucial for a child's healthy development, including fostering a relationship with God. For Christian parents and caregivers, God's Word provides the foundation for teaching children at home about Christ and the importance of building a relationship with Him. For example, during his farewell address to the new generation preparing to enter the Promised Land, Moses instructed parents to seize every opportunity to diligently and continually teach their children all the commandments they had received from God through him (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). In this and other passages beginning in Exodus, God commanded parents to educate their children about His works, serve as role models of obedience to His commandments, and pass their faith on to future generations. The importance of parents teaching children about God, Christ, and the value of faith is emphasized in Proverbs 22:6, where the contributor states that spiritual instruction has a lasting impact that will guide their lives into adulthood. A clear example of this is Timothy, Paul's protégé and son in the Gospel. Paul credited Timothy's sincere faith to the instruction he received from his grandmother and mother, highlighting the importance of teaching children the Scripture early to help them develop a commitment to living lives aligned with their faith in God.

ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLICAL TEXT

A Family Heritage (2 Timothy 1:1-6)

KJV

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, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;
4 Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;
5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.
6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

NIV

PAUL, AN apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Paul's second letter to Timothy, his son in the faith, was written while Paul was imprisoned in a Roman jail cell, facing his imminent death. Verses 1-6 contain his personal encouragement to Timothy. In verse 1, Paul affirms that his apostleship was divinely ordained to proclaim the Gospel of life centered on Christ's death and resurrection. Verse 2 expresses Paul's loving spiritual fatherhood toward Timothy and extends the blessings of grace, mercy, and peace to him—spiritual virtues he needs now and will need in the future to persevere in his faith. In verse 3, Paul informs Timothy that, despite his current circumstances, he continually remembers him in prayer with a clear conscience, rooted in his belief in God, which was passed down to him by his ancestors. Paul acknowledges Timothy's tears in verse 4, referring to his young protégé's grief over Paul's imprisonment, their separation, or his own struggles as a pastor, and Paul's sincere desire to see him. In verse 5, Paul recalls Timothy's genuine, heartfelt, and unhypocritical faith, which reminds him of the same kind of faith he observed in Timothy's grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice. Because of this godly, faith-filled home environment, Paul was convinced of the sincerity of Timothy's faith. Therefore, he encourages Timothy to stand firm in his faith and rekindle the spiritual gift he received at his consecration and commissioning for ministry (verse 6). Paul's acknowledgment of the transmission of faith through Timothy's grandmother and mother underscores the importance of parental involvement in helping their children develop faith in God from an early age.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What are some obstacles that prevent parents from passing their faith legacies to their children? How and why should these be addressed?

A Grounded Faith (2 Timothy 3:14-16)

KJV

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

NIV

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,

15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

In 2 Timothy 3, Paul warns Timothy about challenging times ahead, condemning the apostasy and false teachings that will be present (verses 1-9). He then describes the persecutions he faced during his ministry and tells Timothy that anyone who strives to live a godly life will face persecution as evil persists. In verses 14-16, Paul offers Timothy the solution for remaining strong during these times. Specifically, in verses 14-15, Timothy is encouraged to stay committed to what he learned and internalized from trustworthy mentors, especially Paul, his grandmother, and his mother, who introduced him to the Scriptures from a young age. The holy Scriptures in verse 15 refer to the Old Testament and highlight its importance in pointing to Christ for salvation. In verse 16, Paul provides the reason Timothy should stay committed to the Scriptures as the only defense against moral decay and opposition—because it is God-breathed; it originates from His Spirit and will. Since God is the source of Scripture, it is divinely authoritative and useful for equipping believers to stay centered on Christ and live faithfully as witnesses to Him. Again, Paul's encouraging instructions to Timothy emphasize the importance of teaching and training children and youth in God's Word to lead them to salvation, ground them in the faith, and support their moral and spiritual maturity.

🔍 WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How should recognizing all Scripture as God-breathed influence attitudes toward studying and applying it to daily life and ministry?

A Closing Thought

Paul's final encouragement and instructions to Timothy emphasize the importance of obeying God's commands regarding parents teaching and training their children about Him and faith consistently from an early age. Timothy's sincere faith was directly influenced by the Scripture training he received from his grandmother and mother at home, and it was

strengthened through Paul's mentoring. As a result, Timothy inherited a rich legacy of faith that helped him stay steadfast in the face of opposition and persecution. Similarly, if future generations of believers are to develop genuine faith, it is essential that parents, caregivers, and the faith community consistently prioritize teaching and modeling their faith.

Your Life

The task of preparing future witnesses to share the Good News faithfully rests on every Christian parent, grandparent, guardian, and seasoned saint within the church community. This week, think about how you can intentionally help meet this need. What practices can you adopt and demonstrate that will positively influence a younger Christian's life and support their growth as a faithful witness?

Your World!

Although the home is the starting point for teaching and training children and youth to develop faith in God, grow spiritually, and become faithful witnesses, the faith community is called to focus on making disciples. Therefore, consider becoming a Christian mentor or volunteer to support your congregation's children and youth ministries in passing on faith to the next generation as a lasting spiritual legacy.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, please help us live our faith so that future generations are spiritually nurtured and positively influenced to become faithful witnesses ready to share the good news of salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Conclusion

(Preparing for Next Week's Lesson)

Next week's lesson encourages the faith community to practice authentic hospitality as a key trait of faithful Christian witnesses (Acts 16:11-15, 40).

Home Daily Bible Readings		
MONDAY, August 24	"Stewards of God's Good Gifts"	(1 Peter 4:7-11)
TUESDAY, August 25	"God Sees and Rewards Hospitality"	(2 Kings 4:8-17)
WEDNESDAY, August 26	"A Capable, Entrepreneurial Woman"	(Proverbs 31:10-22)
THURSDAY, August 27	"Good and Trustworthy Servants"	(Matthew 25:14-23)
FRIDAY, August 28	"Blessed Are the Risk-Takers"	(Matthew 25:24-30)
SATURDAY, August 29	"The Righteous Provide to Others"	(Job 31:16-28)
SUNDAY, August 30	"An Eager, Hospitable Disciple"	(Acts 16:11-15, 40)