

WARM-UP

- Share some old photos you have of your parents and family. What are the similarities and differences between you and those older than you?
- Think of one of your good habits that you developed as a child. Who taught you this or how did you develop this habit?
- Have you ever been coached by someone in a sport or line of work? What do you think they saw in you that you didn't?

WORD *I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. 2 TIMOTHY 1:5*

(Read also **ACTS 16:1-5**.)

As the gospel was preached to both the Jews and Gentiles, the early church grew in number. More importantly, the church grew in godly character and a heart to preach the gospel. This set the foundation for Christian families and would be the basis for generations to follow. Today, we will look at how Timothy and his family nurtured a multigenerational lifestyle of faith that would make an impact beyond their home and in the world.

1 | Discipleship starts at home.

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. **2 TIMOTHY 1:5**

Paul's greeting in his letter to Timothy began with the starting point of Timothy's faith—the home. Paul saw how setting a God-honoring culture in the family is important. This is still true today. As followers of Christ, it is the primary responsibility of every parent to raise up their children to have a right understanding of who God is and to believe in Him. Children need to hear the gospel and see it lived out at the home first before they hear it from others. This will lead to a progressive discipleship journey in the family. What does Paul say about the importance of grounding children in the word of God in 2 Timothy 3:14–15?

2 | Discipleship at home benefits generations.

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. **2 TIMOTHY 1:5**

While Paul addressed his greeting to Timothy, he also credited Timothy's grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice for setting the foundations of faith in the family. We can surmise that Lois raised and disciplined Eunice, who then passed her values on to Timothy. Because of this, Timothy had more than one person who guided him and helped nurture his faith even before his ministry with the apostle Paul started. Whether in a young child or a parent wise in age, God's word can and will do its redemptive work in the hearts

of those who love Him. How do you think a *sincere faith* is passed on from one generation to another?

3

Discipleship goes beyond the home and blesses the community.

²*He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium.*

³*Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. . . .*⁵*So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.* **ACTS 16:2-3, 5**

The impact that discipleship in the home had on Timothy was not only limited to his family. It greatly affected his ministry. The values instilled in Timothy that were cultivated generations before helped him advance God's kingdom and led to the expansion of the early church. Paul, a prominent figure in the early church, was able to preach the gospel in many cities, and Timothy was influential in this, too. This is why we value family. When we actively disciple the next generation in our home, the communities we are in will be blessed as well. Why do you think Paul mentored a young man, rather than someone more experienced?

APPLICATION

- How does your society view raising families? What is the difference between families who follow the world's standards and those who follow God's ways?
- Who are some of the people who disciplined you in your values and beliefs? How may you show your gratitude to them this week?
- Think of someone who doesn't know and believe in Jesus yet. How can you reach out to him or her and preach the gospel?

PRAYER

- Praise God for raising godly families and communities. Thank Him for the opportunity to be disciplined and to disciple others.
- Thank God for your family. Thank Him that despite your imperfections as a family, your family helped you become who you are today.
- Ask God for the heart to reach the next generation in your home and your community. Pray that He would give you a clear vision of how He intends to be at the center of your family.



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