

WORD

. . . and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 TIMOTHY 2:2

Timothy was Paul's protégé. Paul was most probably the one who preached the gospel to him and Paul taught him much of what he knew. And by the time this verse was written, Paul was in prison and wanted to make sure Timothy passed on the message of the gospel to other faithful, reliable men who would also pass on the baton. The message of the gospel is not just for our generation. Like Paul, we need to remember that we need to pass it on to the generations after us. In this lesson, we will look at lessons from the lives of Paul and Timothy about how we can work and lead with the next generation.

1 Invest in the next generation.

¹Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ²He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him . . . ACTS 16:1-3

Timothy was a disciple, and at this point, he joined Paul and Silas in their missionary journey. Paul gave of himself and invested in the next generation through men like Timothy, so that the gospel would go forth and endure. How did you come to know Christ? Who shared the gospel to you?

2 Involve the next generation.

³Paul 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. ⁴As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. **ACTS 16:3,4**

The work of God's kingdom is not just for those who are older or "more mature." It is for all believers. Paul demonstrated this by inviting the young man, Timothy, to be part of their team as they planted and strengthened churches. How do you think Timothy felt at this time? How do you think he grew in the company of Paul and Silas?

3 Empower the next generation.

That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. **1 CORINTHIANS 4:17**

After receiving training and mentoring from Paul, Timothy was now ministering and preaching without Paul. He was empowered to do God's work. How do you think Timothy gained the confidence and competence to make disciples? How can we empower the next generation?

APPLICATION

- Do you believe in the next generation? What can you do to invest in the next generation?
- How can you involve the next generation so they can know and follow God? What can you do to help them pursue God's call for their lives?
- What is your vision for the next generation and how do you think this will come to pass?

PRAYER

- Thank God for preserving the truth and power of the gospel for so many generations.
- Pray that we would be faithful to teach others what has been passed on to us. Ask God to show you how you can involve and invest in the next generation.
- Pray that the next generation would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue to advance God's kingdom and make Christ known in every nation.



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