



## Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

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# It Takes a Church: Handing our faith down to the next generation

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### SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 1:1-7

**1** 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. **7** For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

### ENGAGE

Why type of heritage did you parents hand down to you? What snapshots of their faith do you remember witnessing?

### DISCUSS

1. Compassion (vs. 3-4). There are a lot of cynical, critical people. People are satisfied when their needs are met and don't worry about others. Why do we need to show compassion and not depend on others to do so?

2. Faith. If we exercise a little faith the kingdom will grow from there. Faith as a mustard seed will reap great rewards. What is impossible with man is possible with God. Why do believers not teach their kids about their faith? Why should they? How can they have the wisdom?

3. Boldness. Our kids may have a lot but they are insecure and unsure. They are told that importance, money, beauty, achievement, talents and athletic ability are the important things in life. How can we help our children be bold in the faith?

4. Invest in them so they get an accurate account of who they are in Christ. We need to teach them this is not a movie starring them, but it's about God and He let's us play a role.
5. Some possible next steps include:
  - a. Encourage them in their area of giftedness.
  - b. Trust in God's power not our ability.
  - c. Practice unconditional love.
  - d. Develop self-discipline – deny gratification of something for something better.

Which of these is most needed for you to practice?

6. Read and discuss the implications of 1 Tim. 4:2.

## YOUR NEXT STEP

When your children are asked the “Engage” Question above, what would they be able to share? What would you want them to be able to say? What steps can you take this week to become they type of parents in which you'd like to be described?

## OTHER PASSAGES

Prov. 20:29  
Prov. 16:31  
Phil 2:1-2  
Zech. 4:6  
Prov. 22:13  
Prov. 22:15