

Group discussion Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”

Read II Timothy 1:3-7 aloud.

1. Timothy’s faith story

What do you know about Timothy’s family?

Eunice & Lois were Jews who became first-generation Christians. Acts 16 says his father was a Gentile, and we never read of his dad coming to faith.

What role did Timothy’s family play in his faith development?

What might be some challenges for a “spiritually-single” parent?

The non-believer might undermine the family’s faith, or faith could create tension within the marriage.

Imagine Timothy as a little boy going to synagogue without his dad.

How would that impact a child?

As far as missionary preparation, what was positive about Timothy’s dad being a Gentile?

2. Our faith stories

What was your faith story growing up? How would you describe the spiritual aspect of your home life?

How have early experiences with faith affected your life?

Who helped you learn to love Jesus?

3. Passing the faith along

Read II Timothy 2:2 aloud.

How many generations of faith are present in this verse?

Four – Paul, Timothy, reliable teachers, others.

Why is it important to pass along the faith to a new generation?

How do you pass along faith to a new generation?

Find good ideas in Deuteronomy 6:1-9. Embrace the faith and build it into your life.

Who are some younger believers you are mentoring?

† **The big question** *If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It’s okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.*

As you think about passing along the faith, what action steps do you need to take? Suggestions:

Past - Thank someone who invested in your faith.

Past - Re-visit lessons learned from faith heroes.

Future – Invest in the following person...

Future – Work on a specific aspect of my life so that younger believers can see how Christ has changed me.

Resources

Bible notes

- Paul traveled to Lystra on his first and second missionary journeys. The first time (Acts 14), he healed a lame man and a few people believed. Out-of-town Jews turned the crowd against Paul and led the mob to stone him. His return trip in Acts 16 was less eventful.
- In II Timothy, there is an underlying theme about the continuity between Christianity and Judaism (see 1:3-5, 2:8, 3:8, and 3:14-17). Perhaps the arguments and persecution mentioned in the letter were coming from Jews trying to say Christians had left God. Paul wants to say that Christianity is a continuation of Judaism.

Kid-friendly activity. *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

Tell your faith story.

Kids love to hear their parents tell their stories, but it is difficult to find the right time and place to share. Let your group be a story-telling time – you will be amazed how the children listen.

Read II Timothy 1:3-7 aloud.

Who helped Timothy to grow in faith?

What was your faith story growing up? How would you describe the spiritual aspect of your home life? Who helped you learn to love Jesus?

Go around the circle, letting parents & kids tell their stories. You might go one family at a time.

Ideas for younger kids who are likely to get restless...

Ask the youngest to be the “microphone passer.” Use a stuffed animal or a toy microphone and the person holding that item is the speaker.

Let parents of wiggle worms go first, and then dismiss the kids to play.



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LIFE Group Guide

II Timothy 2 – Equipping others

By John Grant (jgrant@collegehills.org)

The theme for this meeting: **The importance of raising up the next generation of believers.**

It has been said that “the church is always one generation away from extinction.” If we fail to pass along our faith, it could die with us. Kevin’s sermon this week looks at Lois and Eunice, who passed along their faith to Timothy.

This LG guide invites group members to share stories about people who brought them to faith, and then to consider investing in the next generation. The conversation is intended to shift from past to future.

Leadership tip: If you’re doing most of the talking, we need to talk.

LG is not an “info dump,” where one person distributes information to a group of passive (bored?) listeners. It’s not teacher-student, but friends in conversation. The meal, social events, service projects, prayer times, and discussions support the one goal of inviting people to open up about their faith. When group members share struggles and questions, the Holy Spirit works through the process to change lives.

I. Relate *Use a few of these to introduce the theme and “break the ice.” No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage individuals through these questions.*

- ❖ Share one item from your wallet – what does it say about you?
- ❖ Beach or mountains or somewhere else?
- ❖ Who is the first Christian you remember looking up to?