

How does the example of Lois and Eunice passing faith to Timothy challenge you to evaluate what spiritual legacy you are actively building for the next generation?

In what ways might we be repeating the mistake of the generation in Judges 2:10 who failed to pass on knowledge of God because they got busy with other priorities?

What does it mean practically to live out Joshua's declaration that 'as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord' in today's culture of competing commitments?

How can grandparents and parents balance supporting children's activities and interests while ensuring that faith formation remains the top priority?

What specific examples are you setting in your daily life that demonstrate to younger generations what it looks like to be totally sold out to Jesus?

How might the statement 'I've done my time' regarding church service reveal a misunderstanding of what it means to be a servant of Christ throughout our entire lives?

In what ways can you be more intentional about the three actions Moses commanded: watching what God is doing, remembering what He has done, and teaching the next generation?

How does understanding God's sacrificial love through the lens of your love for children or grandchildren deepen your appreciation for what Christ did on the cross?

What opportunities are you missing to pray for, pray with, and share God's Word with the younger generation in your sphere of influence?

If your greatest joy should be hearing that your children and grandchildren are walking in truth, what changes need to happen in how you measure success for them?

Small Group Guide: Passing On Your Faith to the Next Generation

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share a favorite memory of your grandparents or a grandparent figure in your life. What made them special to you?

Sermon Summary

This message explored the vital role grandparents (and parents) play in passing on authentic faith to the next generation. Drawing from 2 Timothy 1:5 and the example of Timothy's grandmother Lois, we learned that modeling and teaching faith to our children and grandchildren should be our highest priority—more important than sports, careers, or any other pursuit.

Key Scripture Passages

- **2 Timothy 1:5** - "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."
 - **Joshua 24:15** - "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."
 - **Judges 2:10** - "Another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel."
 - **Deuteronomy 4:9** - "Teach them to your children and to their children after them."
 - **3 John 4** - "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. The pastor mentioned that God uses every stage of life to teach us more about Him. What has your current life stage (single, married, parent, grandparent) taught you about God's character?
2. Read Judges 2:10 together. How did an entire generation grow up not knowing the Lord? What parallels do you see in our culture today?
3. The pastor said one of the saddest verses in the Bible is Judges 2:10. Why do you think he considers this so tragic? Do you agree?

Personal Reflection

4. On a scale of 1-10, how intentional are you currently about passing on your faith to the next generation (whether your own children/grandchildren or young people in your sphere of influence)? What would it take to move that number higher?
5. The pastor mentioned that we often get "busy" with things that won't matter in 10 years, a month, or even eternity. What activities or commitments in your life might fall into this category?
6. Have you ever heard (or said) "I've done my time" when it comes to serving in children's ministry or with young people? What does that attitude reveal about how we view service to God?

Going Deeper

7. Timothy's faith "first lived" in his grandmother Lois. Who first modeled authentic faith for you? How did they do it?
8. The pastor shared that grandparents often have "a little bit more time, a little bit more freedom, a little bit more patience, and a better idea of how fast life flies by." If you're a grandparent, how can you leverage these advantages? If you're a parent, how might you invite grandparents (or spiritual grandparents) into your children's lives?
9. Discuss the tension between children's activities (sports, travel teams, etc.) and church involvement. How can families navigate this without abandoning their spiritual priorities?

Key Takeaways

1. **Model Authentic Faith** - Before we can teach faith, we must live it. Our grandchildren and children need to see Jesus alive in our hearts and lives.
2. **Faith is the Priority** - Passing on faith to the next generation is more important than grades, sports achievements, careers, or any other pursuit.
3. **It Only Takes One Generation** - The Israelites went from "we will serve the Lord" to raising children who didn't know God—in just one generation. We cannot be complacent.
4. **Set a Good Example** - Don't just tell your grandchildren about serving Jesus; let them see you actually doing it.

Practical Applications

Four Gifts to Give Your Grandchildren/Children

1. The Gift of a Good Example

- Live your faith authentically where they can see it
- Continue serving in ministry, not "retiring" from kingdom work
- Show them what it means to love God and love people

2. Pray FOR Your Grandkids/Kids

- Set a daily reminder on your phone to pray for each child by name
- Consider using a visual reminder (bracelet, photo, etc.)
- Make it a consistent, scheduled part of your day

3. Pray WITH Your Grandkids/Kids

- Pray with them at bedtime when they're young
- Ask "How can I pray for you?" during phone calls or visits
- Pray together over upcoming events, challenges, or decisions

4. Share God's Word WITH Them

- Read Bible stories when they're young
- Do devotionals together as they get older
- Share what God is teaching you in your own Bible reading

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE action step from the following:

- **For Grandparents/Parents:** Schedule a specific time each day to pray for your grandchildren/children by name. Set a phone reminder if needed.
- **For Everyone:** Reach out to one child or grandchild this week and ask, "How can I pray for you?" Then actually pray with them (in person, on the phone, or via video call).
- **For Those Serving:** Evaluate your current service commitments. Are you setting an example of serving God for the next generation? If you've "retired" from ministry, consider how you might reengage.
- **For Parents:** Have a conversation with your child's grandparents (or spiritual mentors) about intentionally partnering together to pass on faith.
- **For Everyone:** Identify one activity or commitment that won't matter in eternity and consider whether it's taking priority over spiritual investments in the next generation.

Reflection Questions for the Week

- What legacy of faith am I leaving?

- What will my grandchildren/children remember about my relationship with Jesus?
 - Am I living in a way that makes them want to follow Jesus?
 - What needs to change in my priorities to make passing on faith the top priority?
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Closing Prayer

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for wisdom and intentionality in passing on faith to the next generation
- Pray for your children and grandchildren by name
- Ask God to help you set a godly example
- Pray for opportunities to share God's Word and pray with young people in your life
- Confess any areas where you've made other things a higher priority than spiritual legacy

Close with 3 John 4: "Lord, we have no greater joy than to hear that our children and grandchildren are walking in the truth. Help us to make this our priority. Amen."

Additional Resources

- Consider reading devotional books you can share with grandchildren (like "View from a Deer Stand" mentioned in the sermon)
 - Look into Operation Christmas Child or other service opportunities you can do together with children/grandchildren
 - Explore children's Bibles or devotionals appropriate for different age groups
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For Next Week

Come prepared to share one way you intentionally invested in the spiritual life of a child or grandchild this week, or one thing God showed you about leaving a spiritual legacy.

5-Day Devotional: Passing the Faith to the Next Generation

Day 1: The Legacy of Sincere Faith

Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-7

Devotional: Paul reminds Timothy of the sincere faith that lived first in his grandmother Lois, then in his mother Eunice, and now in him. This beautiful chain of faith didn't happen by accident—it was intentionally passed down through faithful modeling and teaching. Consider the spiritual legacy you're creating today. Your grandchildren and children are watching how you live, not just listening to what you say. The faith you demonstrate in everyday moments—in trials, in worship, in service—becomes the foundation they build upon. What would those who come after you say about the faith they saw lived out in your life? Today, commit to living authentically for Christ, knowing that your sincere faith can impact generations you may never meet.

Day 2: Choosing to Serve the Lord

Reading: Joshua 24:14-27

Devotional: Joshua's declaration, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord," represents a decisive commitment that echoes through generations. Yet Judges 2:10 reveals a sobering reality: one generation later, people arose who "knew neither the Lord nor what he had done." The difference wasn't God's faithfulness—it was whether faith was intentionally transmitted. We cannot assume our children and grandchildren will automatically embrace our faith. In our busy lives filled with sports, activities, and achievements, we must prioritize spiritual formation. Make the conscious choice today to not just declare your faith, but to actively pass it on through prayer, Scripture, and authentic example. Don't let busyness rob the next generation of knowing God and His mighty works.

Day 3: Watching, Remembering, and Teaching

Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-14

Devotional: Moses gives Israel three vital instructions: watch what God is doing, remember what He has done, and teach it to your children and grandchildren. These aren't passive activities but require intentionality. Watch for God's presence in your daily life—in answered prayers, provision, and guidance. Remember His faithfulness by keeping a journal or sharing testimonies. Then teach by weaving God's story into conversations with the next generation. Don't wait for formal moments; use everyday opportunities. When your grandchild faces disappointment, share how God sustained you through difficulty. When they experience joy, point them to the Giver of

all good gifts. Your life experiences become their faith foundation when you intentionally connect God's faithfulness in your past to His promises for their future.

Day 4: The Gift of Unconditional Love

Reading: 1 John 3:1-3, 16-24

Devotional: When we hold our children and grandchildren, we glimpse God's unconditional love for us. There's nothing they must do to earn our love, and nothing they could do to lose it. This mirrors the Father's love for His children. Yet our love goes deeper when we're willing to sacrifice for them—not just giving treats and toys, but investing our time, prayers, and spiritual guidance. The greatest gift we can give isn't found in stores; it's modeling sacrificial love and pointing them to Jesus, who demonstrated the ultimate sacrifice. As you consider what legacy you're leaving, remember that your grandchildren won't primarily remember what you bought them, but how you loved them and whether you introduced them to the One who loves them eternally.

Day 5: Walking in Truth

Reading: 3 John 1-8

Devotional: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." These words capture the heart of every believing parent and grandparent. Our greatest joy isn't found in our children's achievements, awards, or accomplishments, but in knowing they're following Jesus. This requires us to redefine success—not by worldly standards, but by spiritual ones. Today, examine your priorities. Are you more concerned about grades and trophies than spiritual growth? Do you make church optional when other activities conflict? Your grandchildren need to see that walking in truth matters more than anything else. Pray specifically for each child and grandchild by name. Look for opportunities to share Scripture with them. Set the example of someone wholly devoted to Christ. Your faithful witness today shapes their eternal tomorrow.