



Be an Example

September 6, 2026

Ice Breaker

Who is a teacher from your past, whether in school, church, or elsewhere, who made a lasting impact on your life, and what made them so memorable?

Key Verses

- 1 Timothy 4:11
- 1 Timothy 4:12-14
- 1 Timothy 4:15-16
- 1 Timothy 1:15
- Romans 12:4-6

Questions

- Paul instructs Timothy to teach God's Word authoritatively and not to let anyone look down on His youth. Have you ever dismissed someone's teaching or leadership because of their age, either too young or too old? What does this passage say about how we should evaluate a teacher or leader?
- Paul tells Timothy to set an example in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Which of these five areas do you find most challenging to consistently model in your own life, and

why?

- The sermon pointed out that a pastor's personal life must reflect the truth he teaches. How does seeing authentic spiritual growth in a leader affect your willingness to receive and apply their teaching?
- Paul warns Timothy not to neglect the spiritual gift God has given Him. What spiritual gift do you believe God has given you, and would you say you are actively using it or neglecting it in your local church?
- The sermon described the world as a dark place full of lies and deceit, and said that faithful teaching of God's Word shines a light into that darkness. In what specific ways have you seen God's truth protect you or someone you love from harmful lies?
- Paul says that persevering in teaching will save both the teacher and those who hear. What does it look like practically for a congregation to support and encourage their pastors and elders in this kind of perseverance?
- Chuck Swindoll was quoted as saying that ministers succeed by hanging tough through difficult seasons, not by talent or charisma. How does this challenge the way our culture typically defines success, and how should it shape the way we pray for our church leaders?
- The sermon closed with the reminder that every believer, not just pastors, is called to encourage one another toward Christlikeness. What is one specific and practical way you could encourage a pastor, elder, or fellow believer in your church this week?

Life Application

This week, take a deliberate step to encourage a pastor, elder, or church leader in your life. Write them a note, send a message, or speak to them in person. Tell them something specific you appreciate about their teaching or their example, and let them know you are praying for their continued growth and faithfulness. At the same time, spend a few minutes in prayer asking God to show you the spiritual gift He has placed in you and one concrete way you can begin using it more intentionally within your church community.

Key Takeaways

- Teaching God's Word faithfully and authoritatively is the foundation of a great local church, because people cannot believe what they have never been taught.

- A pastor-elder must set a personal example of Christlikeness in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity for his teaching to carry genuine weight and credibility.
- Every believer receives a spiritual gift from God at salvation, and both pastors and church members are responsible for identifying, developing, and actively using those gifts within the local church.
- Perseverance and diligence in ministry, not talent or results, define a faithful pastor, and the congregation plays a vital role in encouraging that perseverance.
- Teaching the truth of God is a life-saving act, protecting people from destructive lies and false teaching while also proclaiming the good news about Jesus Christ that brings truth and life.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for the time we have shared together in Your Word today. Thank You for the pastors and elders You have placed in our church who faithfully teach Your truth week after week. We ask that You strengthen them, encourage them, and continue to transform their lives so that their example points us all toward Jesus. Help each of us to take seriously the gifts You have placed within us and to use them for the good of this church and the glory of Your name. Protect us from the lies of this world and keep us anchored in Your truth. May everything we do, in word and deed, reflect the love, faith, and purity that You call us to. In the name of Jesus, who came into this world to save sinners, we pray. Amen.