

# **Reedy Fork Baptist Church**

***Wednesday, May 13, 2026***

**Bible Study**

**Theme: “Rejoicing in the Days to Come”**

**Primary Texts:** Proverbs 31:17-26; 2 Timothy 1:3–7

**Scripture in Response: Proverbs 31: 17 – 26 NIV**

**17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.**

18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.

**19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.**

20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

**21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.**

22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

**23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.**

24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.

**25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.**

26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

## I. Key Words:

- a. Wisdom
- b. 'Eshet Chayil (Woman of Valor)
- c. Strength (Hebrew: 'Oz)
- d. Dignity (Hebrew: Hadar)
- e. Fear of the Lord
- f. Sincere Faith

## II. People, Places, and Times

- a. Lois
- b. Eunice
- c. Timothy
- d. Paul
- e. Lystra and Iconium

## III. Background

- a. Background of Proverbs

Proverbs belongs to the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament. It was written during Israel's monarchy and wisdom tradition.

Purpose of Proverbs

To teach God's people:

- wisdom
- discipline
- discernment
- righteous living
- reverence for God

Structure

The book closes with Proverbs 31:10–31, an acrostic poem. Each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

## Significance

The poem is not merely a checklist for women. It is a portrait of wisdom lived out faithfully.

### b. Background of 2 Timothy

2 Timothy is one of Paul's pastoral epistles.

#### Tone of the Letter

- personal
- emotional
- urgent
- pastoral

Written during Paul's final imprisonment in Rome, likely shortly before his death. Paul writes to encourage Timothy to remain faithful under pressure, opposition, and responsibility in ministry.

#### Major Themes

- perseverance
- sound doctrine
- faithfulness
- suffering
- spiritual legacy

#### Importance of Lois and Eunice

Paul traces Timothy's stability and faith back to the influence of his grandmother and mother.

## IV. In Depth:

### 1. Lesson Emphasis 1: Genuine Faith Leaves Evidence

- A. Paul identifies Timothy's faith as sincere. This faith first lived in Lois and Eunice. The word "sincere" refers to authentic, genuine faith. It was visible and consistent.
1. Children and future generations often learn faith by watching it lived out.
  2. Faith is seen in prayer, in worship, in perseverance, in forgiveness, in generosity, in suffering faithfully

## B. Discussion Questions

1. What examples of sincere faith shaped your life?
2. What evidence of faith do people see in us?
3. How can faith be modeled consistently at home?

### Key Application

The greatest sermons are not always preached from pulpits. Sometimes they are preached at kitchen tables.

## **2. Lesson Emphasis 2: Faith Must Be Passed Down Intentionally**

A. Timothy was bicultural and biracial (Jewish mother, Greek father). Lois and Eunice intentionally grounded Timothy in Scripture.

1. Their faith moved through generations spiritually—not genetically.
2. Salvation is personal, but spiritual formation is often nurtured through teaching, modeling, discipleship, exposure to Scripture
3. Long before Timothy preached publicly, someone taught him privately.

## B. Discussion Questions

1. Why is intentional spiritual formation important?
2. What role does Scripture play in shaping future generations?
3. How can families and churches nurture faith intentionally?

### Key Application

Somebody's survival in the future may be connected to what you are teaching them right now.

## **3. Lesson Emphasis 3: Faith Releases What It Has Formed**

A. The same spiritual dignity that clothed Lois and Eunice had now clothed Timothy and was evident in this life. At some point, Timothy had to leave the comfort of home and step into ministry.

1. One of the hardest acts of faith is releasing what we have poured into.
2. Faithful people/parents/ministry leaders eventually learn children. Disciples, and the future belong to God

3. Scripture does not tell us how Lois and Eunice felt. But we know from scripture that Timothy went.

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why is releasing difficult?
2. What does it mean to trust God with the people we love?
3. How can fear prevent people from releasing what God is calling forward?

Key Application

When we know the God who holds tomorrow, we can release what we love without fear becoming our master.

#### **4. Lesson Emphasis 4: Faith Sows Without Always Seeing the Harvest**

A. Do your part and trust God with the rest.

1. Lois and Eunice are mentioned only briefly in Scripture. Yet their influence shaped generations. Timothy is still discussed.
2. Timothy did not become who he was overnight. Fruit grows slowly. Spiritual formation takes time.
3. Many acts of faithfulness happen quietly: praying, teaching, serving, mentoring, encouraging, nurturing
4. Some seeds may not fully bloom during our lifetime.

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why do people grow weary while sowing faithfully?
2. What unseen seeds might God be growing right now?
3. How can believers remain faithful while waiting?

Key Application

You may never fully see the harvest—but sow anyway.

## V. Make It Happen

A. Practical Application: What will you do as a result of this lesson?

- Model Genuine Faith
- Teach the Word Intentionally
- Trust God With the Future

B. Reflection Questions

1. What legacy of faith am I leaving behind?
2. What spiritual seeds am I planting today?
3. Where do I need to trust God more with the future?
4. How can I model sincere faith more consistently?

## IV. Follow the Spirit

Final Encouragement

God uses quiet faithfulness. The prayers you pray, The Scripture you teach, the encouragement you offer, the example you model, and the seeds you sow all matter in the Kingdom of God.

Final Challenge

What would it look like to trust God so deeply that you could rejoice about the future before you even see the outcome?

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