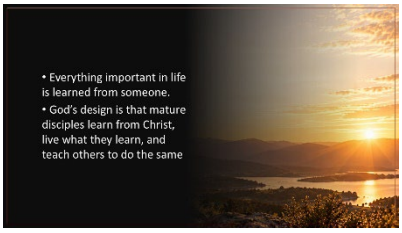


"Someone Taught You"

2 Timothy 2:1-2

Big Idea



Everything important in life is learned from someone. God's design is that mature disciples learn from Christ, live what they learn, and teach others to do the same.

INTRODUCTION



Most of what defines us today was taught to us by someone else. Someone taught us how to speak. Someone taught us how to work. Someone taught us how to drive. Someone taught us how to solve problems. Someone taught us how to treat people. Someone taught us what mattered in life. We are all the product of countless people who invested knowledge, wisdom, skills, and habits into us.

Whether we realize it or not, much of who we are today is the result of someone else's influence.

The same principle is true spiritually. Nobody drifts into spiritual maturity. Nobody accidentally becomes a disciple. No one wakes up one morning knowing God's Word, recognizing His voice, leading a family in faith, sharing the gospel confidently, or discipling another believer. Those things are learned. They are modeled. They are taught. Behind every mature believer stands someone who helped them take their next step with Jesus.

That brings us to an important question this morning. The question is not whether you've been taught. Every one of us has.

The question is: **What are you doing with what you've been taught?**

Paul writes to Timothy:

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” 2 Timothy 2:1-2 NIV

Notice the progression. Paul taught Timothy. Timothy was to teach faithful people. Those faithful people would teach others. The gospel was never intended to stop with

one generation. It was designed to move from person to person, family to family, and generation to generation.

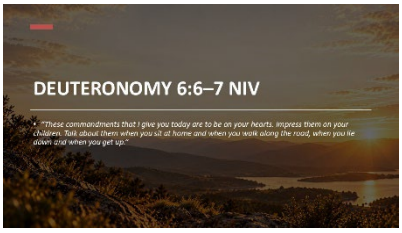


I. GOD HAS ALWAYS WORKED THROUGH GENERATIONS

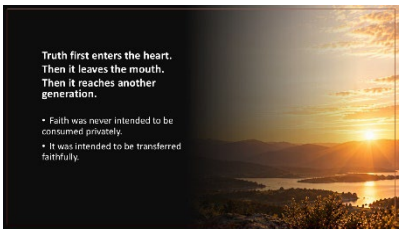
Long before God established governments and kingdoms, He established families. Why?

Because God's primary strategy for preserving truth has always been intentional transmission from one generation to another.

Turn to Deuteronomy 6:6-7.



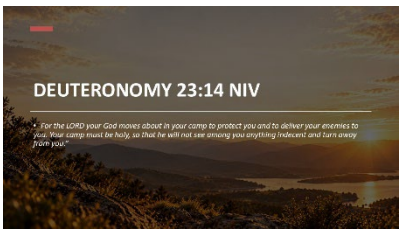
"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NIV



Again, notice the progression. Truth first enters the heart. Then it leaves the mouth. Then it reaches another generation. Faith was never intended to be consumed privately. It was intended to be transferred faithfully.

When many people hear the word discipleship, they immediately think about Bible studies or theological knowledge. While truth is certainly essential, God has always cared about behavior as much as information. Throughout the Old Testament, God continually taught His people not only what to believe but how to live. In Deuteronomy 23, even the instructions regarding camp cleanliness carried a deeper lesson. God was teaching His people that they belonged to Him. His presence among them should impact every aspect of their lives.

Read Deuteronomy 23:14.



For the LORD your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you." Deuteronomy 23:14 NIV

"Why did God care about these things?

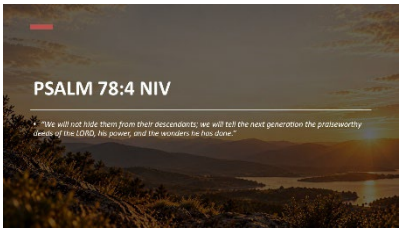
- Because He was teaching His people something.
- He was teaching them that they belonged to Him.
- He was teaching them that His presence should affect how they lived.
- He was teaching learned behavior.

Every act of obedience became a lesson in holiness. Every routine became an opportunity for discipleship.

The same is true today.

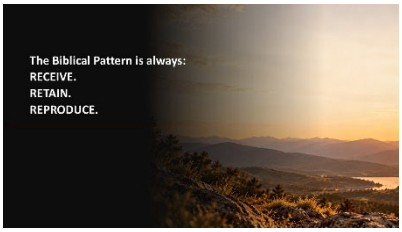
Discipleship is not merely learning doctrines. Discipleship is learning a way of life because God dwells among His people. The Israelites learned holiness through daily habits. Jesus taught holiness through daily habits. We become disciples through daily habits as well.

Psalm 78 captures God's heart:



"We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done." Psalms 78:4 NIV

The biblical pattern is always:



Receive. Retain. Reproduce.

Not simply receive.

Church, one of the greatest threats to Christianity has never been hostile culture. Often the greatest threat is a generation that assumes the next generation will somehow discover faith on its own. They won't. They need teachers. They need examples. They need spiritual fathers and mothers who will intentionally invest in them.

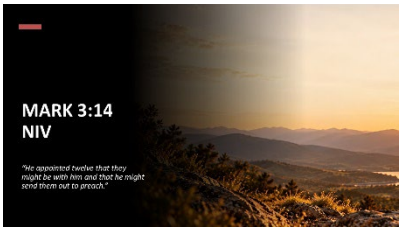


II. JESUS DID NOT SIMPLY PREACH SERMONS

Jesus could have changed the world through a series of books. He could have built an institution. He could have focused exclusively on public preaching.

Instead, He built people.

Mark 3:14 says:



"He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach" Mark 3:14 NIV

That verse is amazing.

Before Jesus sent His disciples, He simply spent time with them.

- They watched Him pray.
- They watched Him teach.
- They watched Him handle pressure.
- They watched Him show grace.
- They watched Him confront sin.
- They watched Him suffer.
- They watched Him love.

Discipleship was not merely information transfer. It was observation. It was imitation. It was transformation through relationships.

I've seen this principle play out in my own life. As a director in healthcare facilities, I've learned that my team isn't primarily watching what I say in staff meetings. They're watching how I respond when equipment fails, when projects fall behind schedule, when a crisis develops, or when pressure rises. They're watching whether I remain calm or become frustrated. They're watching whether my actions match my words. I've discovered that my example often teaches more loudly than my instructions.

The same is true at home. As a father of three children, there have been moments when I've realized my kids learned something from me that I never intentionally taught.

Sometimes that's encouraging.

Sometimes it's convicting.

They see far more than we think they do. They notice how we treat our spouse. They notice how we handle disappointment. They notice how we speak about other people. They notice whether our faith influences everyday life or only shows up on Sunday morning.

The reality is that we're discipling people every day, whether intentionally or unintentionally.

Jesus understood this. That's why He didn't simply gather the disciples in a classroom and deliver lectures. He invited them into His life.

They watched Him pray.

They watched Him serve.

They watched Him respond to criticism.

They watched Him show compassion.

They watched Him trust the Father.

Before He sent them out to minister, He allowed them to see what ministry looked like up close.

People are shaped more by example than explanation.

Our children know that. Our grandchildren know that. The people around us know that. They often learn far more from watching us than listening to us.

That raises a challenging question.

- If someone followed you around for the next six months, what would they learn?
- Would they learn prayer?
- Would they learn generosity?
- Would they learn Scripture?
- Would they learn servant leadership?
- Would they learn evangelism?
- Or would they conclude that Christianity is nothing more than occasional church attendance and an attempt to be a decent person?

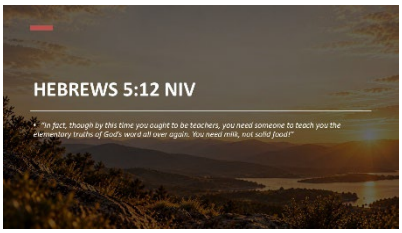
Because whether we realize it or not, somebody is learning from us.



III. SOME OF US HAVE CONFUSED INFORMATION WITH TRANSFORMATION

This is where I want to lovingly challenge us.

Hebrews 5:12 says:



"In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!" Hebrews 5:12 NIV

Those words are sobering.

The writer isn't addressing brand-new believers. He's speaking to church people. Faithful attenders. People who had listened to many sermons and received years of instruction. Yet spiritually, they remained immature.

Their problem was not a lack of information.

Their problem was a lack of growth.

We live in the most information-rich age in human history. We can listen to sermons twenty-four hours a day. We can read books, download podcasts, watch conferences, and access biblical resources from around the world with a few clicks.

- Yet information alone does not create disciples.
- Knowledge alone does not create maturity.
- Transformation happens when truth is obeyed.

R.C. Sproul often warned that many Christians become satisfied with knowing about God while failing to be transformed by God. The goal of biblical teaching is not greater knowledge. The goal is greater Christlikeness.

Let me say something hard because I love you.

A 25-minute sermon every week is a wonderful starting point.

It is a terrible finishing point.

If the only spiritual food we receive all week is one sermon on Sunday morning, we should not be surprised when our growth stalls.

Imagine eating one meal every seven days.

You would survive for a while.

But you would never thrive.

The same principle applies spiritually. Some believers are trying to live on one spiritual meal a week and then wondering why growth feels difficult. Jesus calls us to daily fellowship, daily obedience, and daily dependence upon Him.



IV. DISCIPLES MAKE DISCIPLES

Go back to 2 Timothy 2:2.

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” 2 Timothy 2:1-2 NIV

Look at the generations.

- Paul.
- Timothy.
- Faithful men.
- Others also.
- Four generations in one verse.

During my time in the Navy, I eventually became the repair electrician onboard the ship. That meant I could be called at any hour of the day or night. With that responsibility came additional duties during flight operations.

Whenever helicopters were lifting off or landing on the flight deck, designated personnel stood watch because a small problem could quickly become a catastrophe. Everyone had a role. Everyone understood their responsibility. Everyone knew somebody else's life might depend on them doing their job well.

That knowledge wasn't learned overnight. It was taught, practiced, inspected, corrected, and passed on.

In rough seas especially, every sailor mattered. Every watchstander mattered. Every technician mattered. The success of the mission depended on each person faithfully carrying out what had been entrusted to them.

Church, that's not unlike what Paul is describing in 2 Timothy 2. The mission Christ has given His church is too important to assume somebody else will carry it forward. Each generation must intentionally pass the faith to the next.

That is discipleship.

The mission was never meant to stop with Timothy. The mission was multiplication. One believer helping another believer follow Jesus. Then that believer helps someone else. Then someone else. Then another.

This is how Christianity spread across the Roman Empire. It was not primarily through buildings, budgets, or programs. It spread because ordinary believers consistently invested in other people.

That remains God's plan today.

Church, when we talk about Bible studies, small groups, men's groups, women's ministry, serving, mentoring, and relationships, we are not simply trying to keep people busy.

We're trying to create environments where discipleship can happen.

- The goal is not attendance.
- The goal is transformation.
- The goal is helping people take the next step with Jesus.

The 25-45 Generation

Those of you raising children right now. Those of you building careers. Those of you establishing homes. You are not only the next generation of leaders. You are the generation currently teaching. Your kids are watching. Teenagers are watching.

- Young believers are watching.
- The church needs more than your attendance.
- The church needs your example.



V. YOUR LIFE IS TEACHING SOMETHING

Charles Spurgeon said:

"Every Christian is either a missionary or an impostor."

The point is clear.

- There is no neutral Christianity.
- Every one of us is influencing someone.
- Every one of us is teaching something.
- Your life is preaching a sermon.
- Your marriage is preaching a sermon.

- Your priorities are preaching a sermon.
- Your calendar is preaching a sermon.
- Your response to hardship is preaching a sermon.
- People are learning from you.

The question is whether what they are learning points them toward Jesus.

CONCLUSION

Imagine our church five years from now. Not merely with higher attendance. Not simply with larger budgets. Not because the buildings have changed.

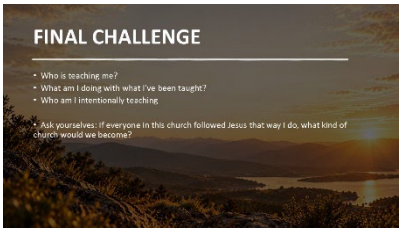
Imagine what could happen if every believer intentionally discipled one other person.

What if every parent became intentional? What if every mature believer invested in a younger believer? What if every family opened God's Word together? What if every member moved beyond consumption and toward multiplication?

The church would change. The community would change. Families would change. Lives would change.

Because that is how Jesus designed His church.

- Not spectators.
- Not consumers.
- Disciples, Making disciples.



FINAL CHALLENGE

Who is teaching me?

What am I doing with what I've been taught?

Who am I intentionally teaching?

If everyone in this church followed Jesus the way I do, what kind of church would we become?

"Church, Jesus never commanded us to merely attend. He commanded us to follow Him. And in following Him, to help others follow Him. May we be a church that learns, lives, and passes on the faith for generations to come."



“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”” Matthew 28:18-20 NIV



Prayer

Sermon Discussion Questions

1. Who has had the greatest spiritual influence on your life, and what made their impact so significant?
Read: Hebrews 13:7

2. What is one biblical truth you know but struggle to consistently live out?
Read: James 1:22-25

3. If someone observed your life for a month, what would they learn about following Jesus?
Read: 1 Corinthians 11:1

4. What are the biggest obstacles that keep believers from discipling others?
Read: Matthew 28:18-20

5. How can discipleship happen in everyday life, not just at church?
Read: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

6. Who might God be calling you to encourage, mentor, or invest in spiritually?
Read: 2 Timothy 2:1-2

This Week's Challenge

Read: 2 Timothy 1-2

As you read, ask:

- What was Paul passing on to Timothy?
- What qualities make a faithful disciple?

- Who am I learning from?
- Who am I helping grow in Christ?