

GOOD NEWS

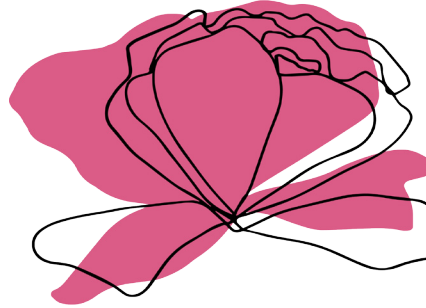
NO 4

WINTER/SPRING 2022

COMING AS A CHILD

“When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.”

2 Timothy 1:5



“And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.”

Acts 16:1

ACTS 16:1 & 2 TIMOTHY 1:5

“I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy.”

1 Timothy 1:3-4

Timothy

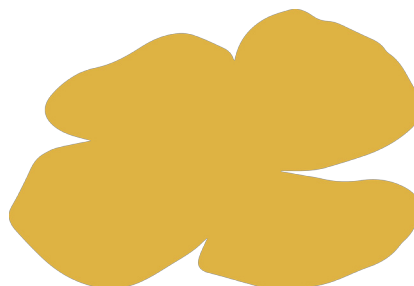
IN OTHER NEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER



RAIN

Multiple rounds of widespread, heavy rains.



IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

Young man from Derbe/Lystra region tapped by the Apostle Paul to join him in dangerous travels. Will his Jewish/Greek heritage be rejected or accepted by locals?

GOOD NEWS

NO 4

COMING AS A CHILD

ACTS 16:1
2 TIMOTHY 1:5

In the past several years, the Lord has been showing me the compelling reason to share His Word from generation to generation in my family. I am to be His hands and feet spreading His Word, now and at this moment. I cannot compare myself to Timothy, who grew up with a mother and grandmother who influenced him with a solid faithful foundation. The Lord wants me to follow Him, and I am taking myself out of cruise control and moving in His direction. When I gave my life to Jesus, I was cleansed by His blood. I want nothing more than to see our sons, their spouses and their children cleansed, and to see faith continue from generation to generation. One more seed planted, one more nudge leading to Jesus' welcoming door of salvation.

I looked at myself as a failure, blaming myself for not teaching our sons daily about Jesus. "What if" or "I should have" scenarios have haunted me. But Jesus has wiped that slate clean. I continually see the type of vessel the Lord has set for me. I have been praying for years since our sons closed their eyes to Jesus. But our Heavenly Father continues to work in their lives. I find great comfort knowing they are held in God's hands. There is nothing coincidental about God. Now I am a grandma, and the Lord opened the door for me to pour Jesus into our beautiful, tenderhearted granddaughters. He laid a path for me, and my desire is to follow. I was the one who deviated from His path, but He was always present in the shadows, teaching and opening my eyes and preparing me for this time.

"We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about His power and His mighty wonders" (Psalm 78:4 NLT).

I do not want to hide Jesus' light under a bushel (memories of a children's song) but to let it shine ever so brightly to our children and grandchildren.

God wants us to treasure His Word and to remember it, so it sets deep within our hearts and minds. Shouldn't we continually talk to our children, grandchildren or to any child for that matter, about His goodness, His Word, the Good News? Like Paul who always looked for younger men to teach and to spread the gospel, we also have the wonderful opportunity to train disciples. It is a blessing and joy to experience working in the authority of God. I love to see how His plan unfolds. I know I won't see His whole plan but to see a glimpse of the beginning stages is beautiful to behold!

This year I experienced a WONDERFUL moment with our granddaughters (ages 6 to 13) at bedtime when all four willingly, without coaching, individually prayed their own prayer one after another with no hesitation! It was an extremely joyful moment and I was blessed that those little Jesus seeds were watered in their hearts. A proud grandma indeed!

"Only be watchful and watch over your soul closely, so you do not forget the things your eyes have seen, and they slip from your heart all the days of your life. You are to make them known to your children and your children's children" (Deuteronomy 4:9 TLV).

Our Good News study this week is "Coming as A Child." We will delve into the study and see the outcome of a faithful mother and grandmother who raised a child, teaching him Scripture throughout his life. Let's first observe Acts 16:1. Later, we will take a closer look at 2 Timothy 1:5.

Let's start by reading the passage three times out loud. As you read the passage, there should be questions that pop up. Now, find a pen and write out Acts 16:1 (found on the next page).

GOOD NEWS

NO 4

COMING AS A CHILD

ACTS 16:1
2 TIMOTHY 1:5

Acts 16:1 *“Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek.”*

Acts 16:2 *“The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. 3. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.”* NLT

1. Who was the disciple Paul met on his journey?
2. Where did they encounter each other?
3. Who spoke well of Timothy at Lystra and Iconium?
4. What was Timothy’s mother’s background?

Circle the word **but**.

5. What heritage was Timothy’s father?
6. Who wanted Timothy to continue the missionary journey with him? (Verse 3)

God used Paul to spread the Good News of the gospel to reach as many people as possible. He always spoke first to the Jews and then to Gentiles (Romans 1:16). Many Jews rejected Paul’s faith and teachings. He would then continue his teachings to the Gentiles (non-Jewish). On his first missionary journey to Lystra, the Jews stirred up opposition against them and stoned Paul. They dragged him out of the city, because they presumed he was dead (Acts 14:19).

Approximately five years later, Paul and Silas were on the second missionary journey, returning to strengthen the churches (Acts 16:5). Upon his

return, Paul saw the continuation of the Lord’s work. He met Timothy, who was highly esteemed by other believers in Lystra and Iconium. Paul found in Timothy a maturity and commitment to serve and spread the gospel. He refers to Timothy as a true son in faith (1 Timothy 1:2).

As a small child, Timothy grew up into ministry by his Jewish mother and grandmother, teaching him and studying Old Testament scripture. He had the groundwork needed to set him on the road of true faith. It was presumed his Greek father was not a follower of Jesus, which was why Timothy was not circumcised when he was born. The Jewish custom was that all Jewish boys were circumcised at eight days old. Timothy was from a mixed family, since his mother was Jewish and his father Greek. Paul had Timothy circumcised before the missionary journey so that it would not cause barriers among the Jewish believers as they witnessed to them.

7. What was the significance for Timothy as a youngster to have a mother who was a Jewish believer?
8. What was a consequence of Timothy’s dad being Greek?
9. Who taught Timothy the Holy Scriptures during childhood which eventually led to salvation? (2 Timothy 3:14-16).

GOOD NEWS

NO 4

COMING AS A CHILD

ACTS 16:1
2 TIMOTHY 1:5

Paul instructed Timothy to continue with what he was previously taught. Through God's goodness, Timothy, as a small child, grew to love the Lord as his mother taught him.

"She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness" (Proverbs 31:26-27 NIV).

10. Write a few synonyms for **believers** or look at other Bible translations. Acts 16:2.

Paul heard positive comments from the believers of Lystra and Iconium (Acts 16:2). The towns were twenty miles apart, which would have been a day's travel. It shows Timothy was not only known in his town of Lystra, but also in Iconium and perhaps in other towns.

11. Why was it important for Paul to hear comments about Timothy from the believers in the area? (Acts 16:3)

Paul continued to develop Timothy to effectively minister the gospel and to carry on the gospel training to the next generation. Paul said to Timothy, *"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also"* (2 Timothy 2:2).

I would imagine Timothy was extremely grateful to join the journey with Paul. As a mom, I would think Eunice must have been delighted that her son was going to be mentored by Paul and learn valuable lessons continuing his study of God's Word.

"And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear, for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do" (1 Corinthians 16:10).

Let's move on to the next passage. Read 2 Timothy 1:5 three times out loud and then write it down.

The main characters in the passages are Timothy, Paul, and Timothy's mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois. It may not first appear that Timothy's grandmother and mother are main characters since their names are mentioned only once in the Bible. But, in fact they are!

"When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also" (2 Timothy 1:5).

12. Who said, "I call to remembrance and I am persuaded?" (2 Timothy 1:1)

13. Who is **you**? (2 Timothy 1:2)

14. What did Paul remember about Timothy?

15. What are the names of the two women in the passage and their relationship to Timothy?

16. What first dwelt in Timothy's grandmother and then mother?

17. Write the definition of **persuade**.

GOOD NEWS

NO 4

COMING AS A CHILD

ACTS 16:1
2 TIMOTHY 1:5

Circle the word **in** from the passage (Hint: There are three).

2 Timothy was Paul's final letter written while in a Roman prison. This would be his last imprisonment because shortly after the letter was written, he was to be executed by the command of Emperor Nero.

He felt a sense of urgency, knowing he still had work to complete. At this point, he used teaching through writing. After mentoring and training Timothy, Paul knew he was a confident and faithful leader who would continue the teachings of the Gospel to others.

18. In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul wanted Timothy to be an example to the believers. "Let no one despise your _____, but be an _____ to the believers in word, in conduct, in _____, in spirit, in _____, in purity."

19. How did Timothy's faith become genuine?

20. Write a few synonyms and opposites for the word **genuine**. Look in a dictionary or a different Bible translation other than NKJV.

Synonyms:

Opposites:

Amplified version: "I remember your sincere and unqualified faith [the surrendering of your entire self to God in Christ with confident trust in His power, wisdom and goodness, a faith] which first lived in [the heart of] your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am confident that it is in you as well."

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. While Paul was in prison, he wrote to Timothy and urged him to continue with what he had learned.

21. Verse 3:15: "And that from _____ you have known the _____, which are able to make you wise for _____ through faith which is in _____."

22. Verse 3:16: "All _____ is given by inspiration of _____, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in _____..."

Timothy's grandmother Lois and mother Eunice were powerful examples of influence in Timothy's life. God used the progression from Lois' generation of faith to Eunice's generation and then to Timothy, who then passed on the faith and the Good News to whomever God set in front of him. "Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged; and parents are the pride of their children" (Proverbs 17:6 NLT).

OUR APPLICATION

God's marching orders for each of us are to pass on an eternal legacy to our children and our children's children. This also includes discipling and mentoring children outside of our families. Teach the Good News of Jesus! He made a way for our sins to be forgiven to those who believe in Jesus. Time is precious, ladies.

22. Do you have a Timothy in your life? Someone you disciple, whether it is a family member or a friend's child, or a youngster in Sunday school? If not, pray the Lord will lead you to a special youngster that needs Jesus in their life and/or more of Jesus. Ask Jesus to guide you, listen, then follow Him, move where He leads you. Write their name(s) down and keep them in prayer daily.

GOOD NEWS

NO 4

COMING AS A CHILD

ACTS 16:1
2 TIMOTHY 1:5

23. God has given us the time to invest interest to build up kids and grandkids. Paul knew his time was close to the end. He took his ministry seriously. How about you? Do you have a sense of urgency, or more of a lackadaisical attitude? Will you make changes in your readiness to minister to a child?

“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 11:18-19 NIV).

Our goal should be to help kids be all that God wants them to be. Use a diary to jot down what God is saying to you and include notable dates and milestones. It may take months or years to see a special treasure, but know Jesus seeds will be planted. It is all about Jesus! (Someday you may want to share your diary with that special person God led you to!)

24. Did you have a Paul or Eunice or Lois in your life growing up? Who was that person and what did they do to impact you as a youngster? Can you use what you learned to train up a Timothy in your life now? If you did not have someone in your young life—who or what was the biggest impact that led you to Jesus? What goodness can you transfer to a youngster for God’s kingdom?

GOOD NEWS

NO 2

WINTER/SPRING 2022

MY EVANGELISM JOURNAL

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:24-25
NLT

THE RETURN OF THE LORD IS DRAWING NEAR!

We spent our Fall semester writing letters to answer a “Dear Abigail” column, to help us understand how to share the GOOD NEWS! Now we are putting into action what we have practiced.

Answer the following questions each week and share in your group time that you may encourage one another!

1. Pray and ask the Lord to put someone on your heart that needs to know about the GOOD NEWS! (It may be a stranger that will cross your path.) Write their name here.

2. *Each* morning, pray that God will open your eyes to opportunities. Write any opportunities you had this week.

3. What have you learned about yourself this week as you shared the GOOD NEWS? Was it easier than you thought? More difficult? Did you miss an opportunity?

4. *Praise* the Lord for what He taught you about evangelism this week. Would you have changed your approach? *Continue* to pray for those you shared with, and *trust* the Holy Spirit to continue the work. *Confess* if you felt afraid or weak or if you avoided sharing altogether and then *start afresh* next week. He is FAITHFUL!

WORD SEARCH

TIMOTHY

T Y M L M Y W F L V J W G W S D Y A Y G B P I W
E V S V C W U V E N X J T J Y K J S K M L P T D
H V F T Z V B W Y D Q H W I L C T I M O T H Y R
M B O I W X Y G E N U I N E D J O B P J P F J Y
K E C N A R B M E M E R B P I C R A N C S U Z H
K M V J M K H L I T P E P E S Q H E N K D B J R
L S W S C F X J Q G Y P A F C R D C R E I Y O X
J I I K Y S K U C R C J X T I G V E V L E E S H
Y X H U G Z R Y E G V J X C P Y J K Q T Z I L V
C K I V N X H G A O V T Y R L B H A V K O A Z C
G Z S X F J Q Q V Y F L C K E L G O F L F F F P
R Q A Y M Q J W E I A B P U D X J G U I J P T N
A Z A O G X G K M Y I U V W A S G O X M J I Q S
N Z R N R S S J U V T D P E R S U A D E D P X E
D J T O V A Z N P X H F B Q C M E R B X N S W K
M W S F R J W G M T B H R I U C S V S I R I P P
O X Y I U F S K J M T Z T S I W O V M J B Q H H
T A L R G H D E Z L S W Z N D A Y P U C W X Z X
H R W N J C W N Z A J K U S C W G T V N Y V H D
E N N E K I L Q E X E E E M G F C H L I D U P P
R O T A S Z N M F T D G G R E E K K K W N B K K
U H Z H O I O U W D N G O B O N Y V I S K T F C
U M Q K S G P T N P U H T C R O Z O Y Q L B I T
J U J C Y K X K D Q Y L I S C F L F E N J A A C

LYSTRA

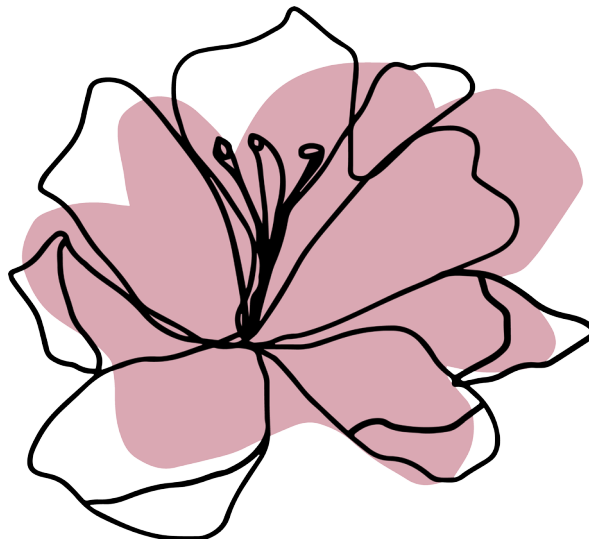
LOIS

GENUINE

JEWISH

PERSUADED

GRANDMOTHER



REMEMBRANCE

TIMOTHY

EUNICE

FAITH

GREEK

DISCIPLE

