

Join the Journey!

Guidebook for Teachers



The Timothy Chronicles

The story of Timothy's journey with Jesus & Paul



Generations Camp Ministries
2008 camp curriculum for teens

Dear GenMin camp directors, chaplains, teachers and counselors:

Thanks for your labor of love in providing some 1500 kids with a cross-generational, Christ-centered camping experience in 17 US locations in 2008! I have high regard for you and your work—you are making a *huge* difference in many, many lives. God bless!

The theme for our 2008 GenMin camps is ***Join the Journey***. The standard curriculum (set out in the rest of this document) for teaching teens about their journey of faith with Jesus is titled ***The Timothy Chronicles***. Camp directors may choose other curricula so long as they are pre-approved by GenMin national no later than two months prior to your camp's start date (please submit alternative curricula to me for review).

There is flexibility in using the standard curriculum to allow adaptations to your specific camp circumstances. In making adaptations, please remember the following:

1. The goal of this curriculum (as always) is to preach the gospel—the story of Jesus, which through God's grace includes us in the story. Our goal is to immerse campers and staffers in this gospel. Such immersion leads to life-transformation. And that's our goal.
2. The curriculum this year is in story (narrative) form. This approach is responsive to the learning styles of most teens, and true to the nature of Scripture, which tells the story of Jesus and the place of all humanity in that story. Note what Eugene Peterson says about approaching Scripture as story:

Scripture...does not so much present us with a moral code and tell us, "Live up to this," nor does it set out a system of doctrine and say, "Think like this." The biblical way is to tell a story and invite us, "Live into this - this is what it looks like to be human in this God-made and God-ruled world; this is what is involved in becoming and maturing as a human being." We don't have to fit into prefabricated moral and mental or religious boxes before we are admitted into the company of God. We are taken seriously just as we are and given place in his story - for it is, after all, God's story. None of us is the leading character in the story of our lives. God is the larger context and plot in which all our stories find themselves. (Quoted from a paper titled "Living into God's Story." The paper is posted online at <http://fly2.ws/hE4Qs93>).

As you read the curriculum, you'll note that the story unfolds through an introductory message, five chapel messages (story-telling sessions), debrief questions for the first four chapel messages (to be used following chapels in small group debrief discussions), and a couple of Christian Living classes. Together these elements unpack one unified story titled ***The Timothy Chronicles***. It's the story of Timothy drawn into the story of God, intersecting with the story of Paul who was Timothy's mentor.

Timothy's story serves as a model that we want to connect to the story of the teens and young adult staffers we serve. We want them to experience more fully the God who has included them, through Jesus, in his story. We want them to understand more fully how their place in Jesus' story includes active participation in what Jesus is now doing in their world. ***The Timothy Chronicles*** is about real people on a real journey with a real God: Father, Son, and Spirit.

Through telling Timothy's story we seek to reassure campers and staffers of God's love for them and to acquaint or re-acquaint them with what he has done and is now doing to include them in his life and love: now and forever. And we want to show them how the church is relevant to that life. We want to challenge them to step into a more active role within the church, including (where appropriate) a WCG congregation.

The rest of this Guidebook presents *The Timothy Chronicles* curriculum—one story with multiple steps revealed in chapel messages and Christian living classes. You may choose to consolidate these steps (for shorter camps) and use various creative approaches (such as drama) to present each step. Just remember this: the goal is to show the *connection* of the story of Timothy (with Paul) to the story of Jesus and from there to the story of each camper's life.

This year, based on my survey of camp directors, we are not producing a Campers Guidebook. You may want to produce one of your own with some pages for camper's to take notes in chapels and classes, a copy of your camp schedule and pages for campers and staffers to record email and snail-mail addresses of camp buddies. You may cut and paste portions of this Guidebook if you wish.

I want to thank Jim Valekis for his excellent work as primary author of this curriculum. His joy in Jesus and his love for his Greek heritage shines through. It's been my pleasure to edit what Jim has written. Jim pastors the WCG church in Tipp City, OH, is a member of the GenMin national development team, and serves as a WCG district pastoral leader. He's a great friend of GenMin camps. Thanks Jim!

I also want to thank Greg Williams, national GenMin camps leader. Greg is a WCG elder who works part-time with GenMin and with Youth for Christ in Atlanta. He runs point for our camps—helping coordinate, equip, monitor and envision the way forward. Thanks Greg!

Let me note in closing that a good follow-up to this curriculum for young adult staffers and older teen campers is participation in GenMin's newly launched "Journey with the Master" equipping program. It's similar to Servants Passage, but formatted for a younger audience. It's great for equipping older campers, camp staffers and young-adult emerging church leaders. If you'd like to schedule this program in your area, please contact Greg at Greg@atlantayfc.org.

May God richly bless each of you and through you bless many others,

Ted Johnston
GenMin national director

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Note: The standard camp teaching curriculum for teens begins with the following introduction which summarizes the camp theme: *Join the Journey*, and introduces the camp teaching focus for teens: *The Timothy Chronicles*. This introduction could be given in an opening-evening worship service, integrated into the first chapel, or serve as the focus of opening night dorm meetings led by the counselor. If the latter approach is used, you could print out this section and give a copy to each camper.

The Timothy Chronicles



***Before Frodo
&
Gandalf . . .***

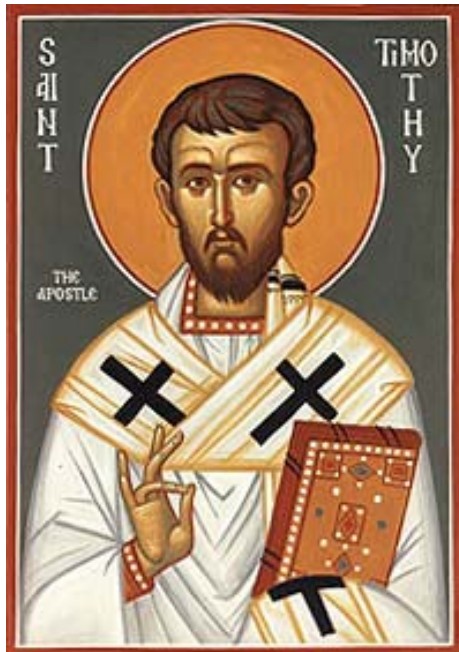


***Before Harry
&
Dumbledore . . .***



***There was a teen
who became a man
who traveled the world,
and changed it forever . .***

**This teen went on
to tell people
the Greatest Story of
All Time**



His name was

Timothy...

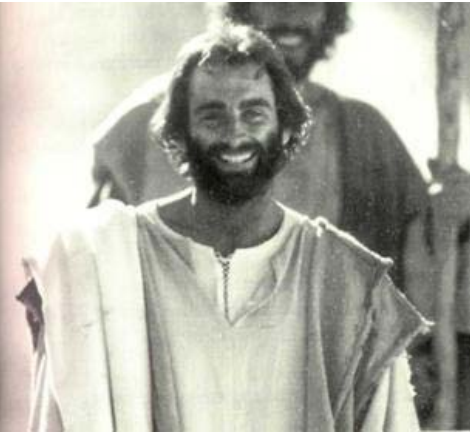
- **A boy, who became...**
- **A teen, who became...**
- **A man, who became...**
- **A mighty man of God**

**The name "Timothy" means
"honors God."**

Zeus was his father's god.

Jesus was his mother's God.

**So to his dad, "god " meant one thing.
And to his mom another.**



**So who is
God...really?**

**And who is Timothy,
whose name means
"honors God"?
And who are you?**


**Who are you
supposed
to be?**



Tired of wondering?

**Tired of looking for answers
in things that don't work?**

KIDNAPPED



LAST SEEN AT CARLOS & CHARLIES
MONDAY, MAY 29, 2005 1:30AM
NATALEE HOLLOWAY
CAUCASIAN AMERICAN FEMALE
BLUE EYES / LONG BLOND HAIR
5'4" 110 LBS. 18 YEARS OLD

**ANY INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL 587-6222
OR CALL POLICE STATION 100**



**Tired of pretending to be
something you're not
in order to be liked?**



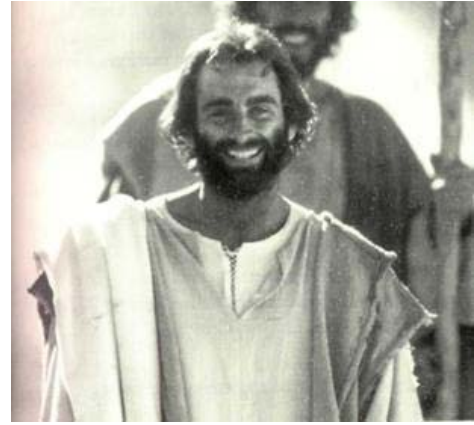
**Tired of trying to be something
you're not supposed to be?**

**You don't have to try
in those ways anymore!**

Timothy's God wants to set you free!

- **FREE** to be who you already are, in Him.
- **FREE** to be who he's saved you to be.

The God of all the Universe has become one of us and set all of his creation free.



And he wants you to join with him on an exciting journey.

One that lasts a lifetime and continues forever. With Him!

It's yours for the taking!

So welcome to [\[insert camp name here\]](#) 2008...

Join the Journey!

Where we'll be looking at an amazing story:

The Timothy Chronicles.



Chapel

1

The Day I Met Paul

Comment: This chapel establishes Timothy identity as the lead character in this chapel series. It also creates identification between the teens/staff and Timothy.

In one sense, many campers are like Timothy—they’ve grown up in two worlds: one with a God-orientation, and one that is godless. Timothy awoke to his life in Christ at an exciting time through an encounter with the Apostle Paul who told him about Jesus.

Paul was worshipped in Timothy’s hometown as a god, and then nearly stoned to death by the same crowd. The Scripture records that when the disciples surrounded Paul, “he got up.” And went on to proclaim news about a man named Jesus.

Who was this unconventional speaker named Paul, and what motivated him? He wasn’t like other Jewish teachers Timothy had heard---he was less polished, less formal. But he was also on fire about something—actually someone—a man named Jesus.

Who was this Jesus? What brought Paul to be willing to take this kind of abuse, and get up and do it again the next day—all to proclaim a message about Jesus? How did this man’s life get filled with so much purpose—and how might Timothy embrace the same purpose?

And how might the lives of the young people we serve at camp be actively joined to that journey as well?

The following chapel message starts with a first-person narrative from Timothy then transitions into a short preaching message, and then back to Timothy.

HELLO. MY NAME IS TIMOTHY. I'm from Lystra, a village in Asia Minor--a region called Turkey in your world. I've got to tell you about a man named Paul. He's a "man on a mission"—going from town to town telling everyone he meets about a man he says was alive, then dead, then alive again. The man he talks about is named Jesus.



Paul talks about Jesus everywhere, and that's making people mad. My mother's people, the Jews, ran Paul out of Perga and also out of Antioch.



And now Paul's in Lystra, my home town, where, of all things, he just healed a cripple—a guy born that way. No one had ever done anything like that around here before.

The priest here in town, and Greek people like my dad (he's not a Jew like my Mom) thought Paul, and his companion Barnabas, were gods come down from heaven—gods in the flesh! Everybody went crazy, and tried to worship them!

They thought Barnabas was Zeus, the father of the gods—he's that mean old guy in the sky god, throwing thunderbolts when you mess up. He's an angry judge, who's seems mad all the time.



Well, we do mess up. A lot. But the God I came to know about from Paul is not like Zeus at all. In fact, Paul's God loves everyone and includes everyone in his love and his life.

But that's getting ahead of my story.

They thought Paul was Hermes, the messenger god, because he was chief speaker. The people ran to Paul and Barnabas—they wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

But Paul stopped them with the strangest speech I've ever heard:

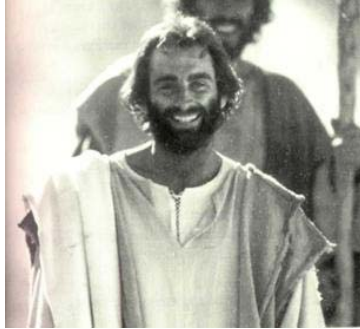
Acts 14:15-17 "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. In the past, he let all nations go their own way. Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."

What Paul taught me is that this God sent his only Son Jesus, to give us all God's life!

You see, God doesn't look like this:



Paul told me he came into our world looking like this:



And here's the amazing thing about this true God-in-the-flesh named Jesus: He is the Eternal Son of God become flesh. And as the Son, his is one with the Father and Spirit. God: three persons; one God. Three-in-one. One-in-three.

And because of what Jesus did, we live in union through him with the one God.

Through Jesus we are all INCLUDED in God's life and love.

And because of that, you have all you will ever need!



Let me now introduce [name of chapel preacher], who will tell us more.

Note: this portion of the message is presented in Q&A format. Scripture references are given to assist the speaker, and may be used in the presentation depending on time constraints.

So who was this young man named Timothy? Acts 16:1-3

And who was Paul? Phil 3:10

Where and when did Timothy meet Paul? Acts 14:1-20

What impact did Paul have on Timothy's life? Acts 16:1-3

What did Paul believe about God, and teach Timothy?

In him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28).

He [Jesus] is before all things, and in him all things hold together (Colossians 1:17)

Whoever you are, you are “in” Jesus!

And where is Jesus right now? And therefore, where are YOU? You are included!

And what is your response?

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God (Colossians 3:1).

You are set free to share fully in Jesus’ life and love.

This is a gift of grace and true freedom.

What implications does that have for your daily living and your life’s enduring purpose?

What implications did it have for Timothy’s life?

CLOSING NARRATIVE:

Note: Timothy returns for his closing first-person narrative.
--

The folks were going crazy wanting to sacrifice to Paul and Barnabas. They barely stopped the crowds from sacrificing to them.

But then the craziest thing happened. Some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.



“I saw them do this.”



“I

They threw stones of all sizes at him, bruising him, hitting him, cutting him until he couldn't stand any more. He slumped to the ground. He looked like he was dead.

I thought he was. They did too. But the craziest thing I've ever seen happened after that. When his followers gathered this bruised and battered old preacher---HE GOT UP. He got right back up! And he went back into the city. Back into the town where they thought they'd killed him!

The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe. They were at it again.

In Derbe they once again "proclaimed" this good news about Jesus. And even though he nearly got killed for doing it---Paul won over a large number of disciples. And he kept on doing it.

My mom believed him, and gave her life to this Jesus.

My grandma did too. But my dad never did.

But eventually I did, and I became one of the Jesus-followers and Paul was my teacher. We were called "disciples."

The folks in church liked me, probably because I was one of the few young ones that believed and helped them at their meetings.

Later on, Paul came back to my town. And when he did, he asked me to travel with him.

I said yes, knowing full well what it might mean.

I'll tell you tomorrow why I made that decision.

Debrief questions:

Note: We provide several debrief questions to be used following each chapel (except the last chapel). These questions are for use in small discussion groups—perhaps in the evening after the chapel with counselors and campers, or in breakouts after the chapels. We think it's vital to give the campers and staffers a chance to process what they are learning—to ask questions, raise concerns, pray together, etc.

1. When you imagine God, what does he look like to you?
2. And how do you think he feels about you?
3. How does this affect how you feel about him?
4. Does it surprise you to learn that God likes you?
5. What do you think it means to say that God has included you in his life?
6. If that's true, how do you think you might respond?



Chapel

2

Who is God?

Who am I?

Purpose: We all ask the same question: Who am I supposed to be? Who am I really? How can I know? How can anybody know?

Mom taught me one thing; Dad taught me another. Something inside seems to be calling me to something more!

In this chapel message, we'll 'flashback' to Timothy's Jewish-Gentile upbringing (with all the conflicts this brought). We'll also share a choice Timothy made---one we all make, really---in answering the question: Who is God? And what does the answer say about who I'm supposed to be? We'll find out that we all *really matter* in God's scheme of things.

Note: The following is a first-person narrative from Timothy.



Names in ancient Greece said a lot about a person. Who they are. Who they're supposed to be.

My name is Timothy. I met you at the last chapel.

My name in Greek is Timotheus.
It's from two Greek words:

- "Timo" meaning "to honor."
- "Theus" meaning "god."

But what God was I supposed to honor?
Well, it depends on which of my parents you ask.

My dad is Greek—a gentile. My Mom is a Jew. And when it comes to who God is and thus who I'm supposed to be—well, there are two different stories.

Let's start with my Dad's Greek story. From his perspective I guess you could say...

MY NAME IS TIMO-ZEUS

My Greek story is rooted in the town of Lystra in Asia Minor—you call the region Turkey. It's between Europe and Asia—the crossroads of the world in my day. It bridged two empires. The Persians crossed through here headed to fight the 300 Spartans. They tried to conquer us here in Asia Minor, but never did. Like the 300 Spartans, we held them off.

We were eventually conquered by the Romans. But a lot of our Greek culture and language endured and Dad taught me to be proud of it. Mom won't like me to say this, but Dad also taught me about the Greek gods. Greeks have 100s of them. One is named "the unknown god" in case they miss one. Dad named me after the father of the Greek gods, Zeus.

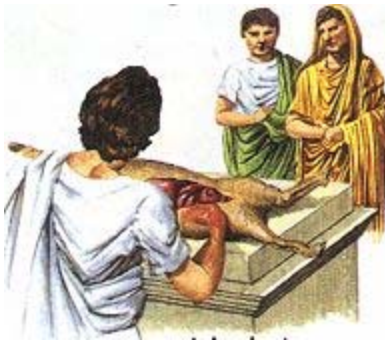


Zeus is pictured on this coin (left). And on this other coin (right), he's standing with his scepter, like a thunderbolt. Sort of an angry god, don't you think? That's how most Greeks in my day saw Zeus—sort of an angry judge.

Is that the way people in your day see god? Is that how you see him?



There are so many Greek gods that it gets confusing. They bless us when they feel like it, and chase us when we make them angry or they get bored. They are a lot like people.



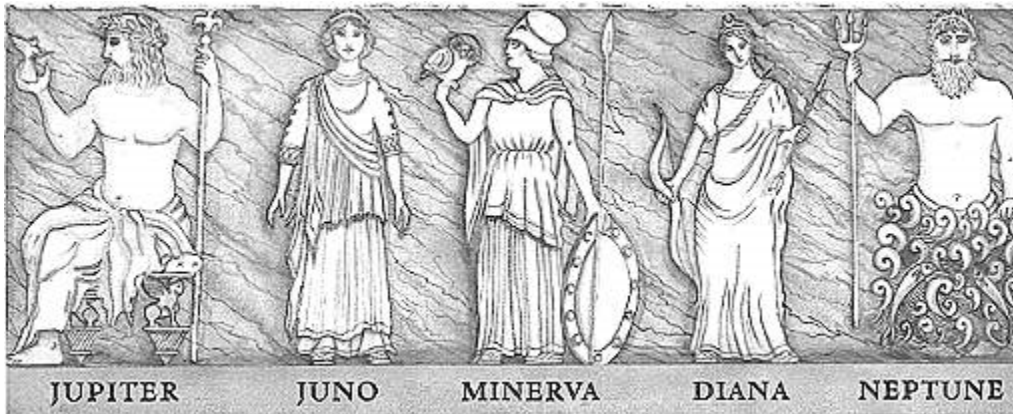
The will of the Greek gods is sought out using signs and omens, sometimes splitting open sacrificed animals to see what their insides say about the god's will for our futures.

We believe that the gods can make our lives better in this life and the next. Dad says these gods and goddesses control everything, including the environment. There's a god for every aspect of life.

Dad says it's important to keep the gods happy--happy ones help you, but unhappy ones punish you. Zeus seems unhappy to me.

It seems like he's always chasing people and punishing them.

We build temples to the gods and people have special places in their homes where they pray to them. A whole bunch of them.



One more thing. We don't just pray to the Greek gods. We play with them too. Four times a year at sports festivals, athletes come from all over to compete in the Greek games. The most important festival is called the Olympic games, held at Olympia to honor Zeus.

Dad takes me to the gymnasium to train for sports. It's one thing we do together. Maybe one day I'll get to compete in the Greek games. Dad would like that. But mom wouldn't. Neither would grandma. They see me and my name very differently.

To them my name is not Timo-Zeus...

My Name is Timo-Theos

Remember, my mother is a Jew. A daughter of Abraham. Since my Mom is a Jew, that makes me one too. And we Jews are slaves to no man! We worship the One True God: the God of Israel. And we are people of this God's Book--you call it the Bible.

My Jewish story reaches back to ancient history recounted to me by my Jewish grandmother Eunice and my Jewish mother Lois. They taught me the ancient stories from the Bible.

Years ago, Abraham, the founder of our nation, lived in the land near the Persian gulf—the land that in your day includes Iran and Iraq.

He was a very old man, and had a beautiful wife named Sarah. God told him to leave his home and go far to the West to a land called Canaan—a land you call Israel. He promised to give that land to Abraham and his children.

There was only one problem- Abraham was very old, so was his wife Sarah. And they had no children.

Would you leave everything behind to follow after a promise that seemed so far-fetched? So impossible? We he did, because he had what grandma and mom called *faith*—faith in God.

And God kept his promise to Abraham and gave him a son when he was 99 years old, and his wife was 90 years old.

Abraham went through a lot of adventures in his journey with God. All because of his faith.

Abraham nearly lost his only son---and got him back, because he had faith.

His descendants grew to millions while they were slaves in Egypt. But God set them free and took them back to Canaan—the land promised to Abraham.

They conquered seven nations living in Canaan, fighting as God's mighty soldiers and winning-- because they had faith.

They built a beautiful Temple, and worshipped the One True God, because they had faith.

But they lost that faith, and stopped loving and listening to God. As a result, they went through all kinds of trouble including going into captivity: first in Assyria and then Babylon.

It looked very bleak. But somebody else had faith.
That someone was God himself.
He was faithful to my people, even when we lost faith in him.

This faithful God sent some of us back to Canaan. And others he scattered throughout the Roman Empire where we built synagogues—places to study the Bible and to worship God together.

Faith was returning to us.

Some say my mom broke with her faith by marrying a Gentile. As a result, my life is pulled in two directions. I love both my parents and both of their worlds. I love the sports in Dad's Greek world with the Greek hero-gods. Gods of sport; gods of war. Mom doesn't like that.

If I go the way of Mom's Jewish world, I'd have to be circumcised; and that would exclude me from going to the Greek gymnasium where they compete naked.

It's all very confusing. Which world is mine? Who am I?

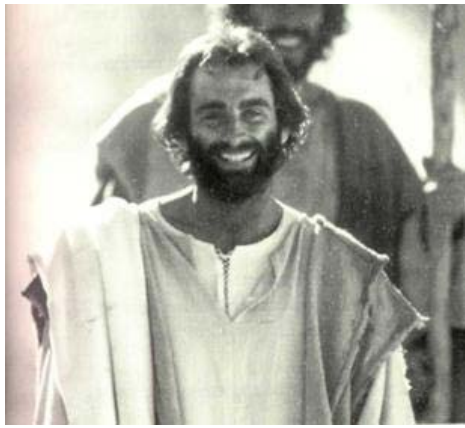
Timo-Zeus or Timo-Theos?

What am I supposed to want? To do? To be?

Can any one tell me? Can anyone save me?

Debrief questions

1. How is Timothy's dilemma like the dilemma faced by teens today?
2. Do people worship "false gods" in our society? What are some of the gods of our world? Of teens in our world?
3. What pulls does culture have on teens today?
4. What pulls do you struggle with as an individual?
5. Do you ever have to pretend to be a certain way just to fit in?
6. What did Timothy need to be saved from in his situation?
7. What do you need to be saved from in yours?



Chapel

3

God: Who Are YOU? For Real? And who am I?

Purpose: Who are we? Who are we supposed to be? How can we know? How can anybody know? In this chapel message we continue Timothy's quest for answers.



First person narrative from Timothy:

I still can't stop wondering how Paul could be so driven.
I was there that day—my mom and dad were too.

Mom didn't throw any stones at Paul.
But some of her Jewish friends did. She didn't stop them.
Neither did I.
I was scared.

I remember it all clearly—
the look on Paul's face as he
was being stoned; the way he

looked when his eyes opened and he got up.

And how the next day he went out and preached again the same
message that nearly got him killed the day before.

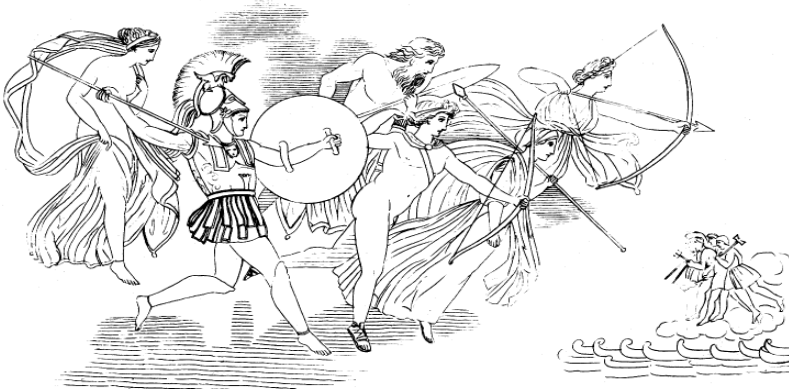
What he said changed my life.

Let me share what I heard.



Timothy's testimony:

You had to be careful, when it came to the Greek gods. If you weren't, they might take their blessings back. When Paul and Barnabas healed the crippled man, we Greeks thought they were gods, and our priests brought animals and flowers to offer sacrifices to them. If we didn't, the gods might punish us, or at least withhold blessings.

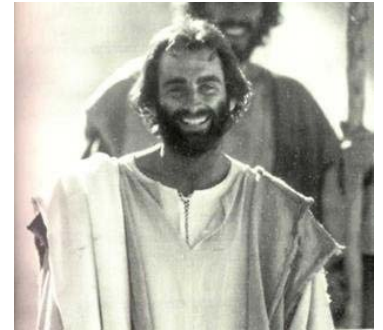


To be frank with you, sometimes the God of my mother's Bible seemed to me like the Greek gods. Mad at me. Seeking to punish me.

But Paul taught me that the God of Israel—the God of the Bible was different! He was a God of love—who out of love for me and all people became human so that we could see his heart, his attitude—his “face” in the face and flesh of Jesus—God who became man.

As a man, Jesus was descended from the Jewish King David; but as God, Jesus had been alive before David was even born. Before the universe was created. For he was the Creator.

From all eternity, Jesus was God's “Word!”-- God's thoughts, God's dreams, God's order, God's heart!



I know it's hard to grasp this, but let me share some of what Paul taught me about Jesus. These words have been written down in what you call the New Testament of the Bible.

The Apostle John said it this way:

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

And here's how Paul said it:

Colossians 1:15-17 He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

So Jesus is God—God's Word, who created everything—including you and me. We exist in Him. He holds everything together. The whole universe exists in Him and is upheld by Him. Then something amazing happened (again, John's words):

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Word became flesh—Jesus: still fully God but now also fully human. And he came here to be one of us so we could share his life and love with him.

Again, Paul's words:

Colossians 1:19-22 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him [Jesus], 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his [Jesus'] blood, shed on the cross. 21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation...

God loves you that much! And wants nothing to come between him and his creation—including you. So God, the one who created us all, came in the flesh. He was born into our world through the womb of his virgin mother Mary. He grew up like we all do, lived life like us (but perfectly), then died on the cross for us.

But on the third day he was *resurrected*—he came alive. God still human, but now a glorified human. In Jesus, humanity has been saved, perfected and drawn up into the life of God. Forever.

Jesus took our humanity inside himself, died our death, and rose as winner with us. We all exist in him. Inside him we are safe. We are secure. We are with God forever because forever he is with us—we are him. That's how much he loves us.

When Jesus died, you and I and all our sins died with him.
And now in him we are forgiven and in him we are alive forever.
In Jesus, we have all the things God has for us!

[Altar call]

So what is our response?

Believe. Stop seeing Jesus—our God—as a God who is angry at you.
See him for who he really is, the Creator who is your Savior. Who loves you and will never stop.

And **trust him.** With your life. Join his journey. **Follow him.** Don't hold back.

You have nothing to fear from God.
He's not like Zeus who is throwing thunderbolts around. Trying to punish and harm.

You are not perfect and never will be in this life, but Jesus, the true God is perfect for you.
And wants to share his perfection with you as you become more and more like him.

So open your hearts to believe, to trust and to follow.

If that's what you want to do today, why don't you....

[And here the one playing Timothy can invite people forward, or ask them to raise their hand, or invite them to a meeting afterward].

Debrief questions:

1. Who is Jesus? [fully God; fully man, now glorified]
2. What does that say about who you are? [in Jesus, I am saved, perfect, God's dear child, forever]
3. Timothy invited us to believe, trust and follow. What do you think that means? What do you think happened today to those who said they had decided today to do that?

Baptism counseling:

Those who indicated their acceptance of Jesus' gift to them can be invited to discuss proclaiming their belief and acceptance through baptism—either at camp or back home. Be sure to review previously written guidelines for this counseling and for the protocols related to camp baptisms.





Chapel

4



Join the Journey!

Purpose: The purpose of this message is to help young people catch a vision for a life devoted to Jesus. It tells about Timothy's journey with Paul, which included hardships, lessons and blessings. That's how a journey serving Jesus goes. On the journey Timothy grew from a child to an adult. This growth was physical and spiritual. And Paul was Timothy's mentor—his spiritual "Father"—helping him through multiple phases in his *life development*.

Timothy's journey with Paul and Jesus meant laying aside any aspirations to be an Olympic athlete or a Roman soldier. Instead, Timothy began to run and fight with and for Jesus--spreading the gospel of light in a dark world. At times this journey was as arduous as any athletic competition. Timothy's endurance was often challenged. But the rewards he gained were more than those from any worldly endeavor.

Timothy: first person narrative.



Back to church.

I used to dislike the meetings at my Mother's synagogue (you guys call it "church"). Mostly old people there, and lots of Bible reading. It often seemed irrelevant and boring.

But as I began to travel with Paul you know where he first took me? Right back to the synagogue—right back to church. Paul's strategy was to take the good news about Jesus right to the Jews as they met in the synagogue.

So there I was, back at church. Not only to be ministered to; but also to minister with Paul to others.

But me in the synagogue presented a problem. Only circumcised males were allowed to participate fully. I was the son of a Jewish mother, but because my father was Greek I had never been circumcised. So you know what Paul did? You guessed it. Circumcised me! Ouch!

I became the Greek poster boy for religious tolerance.
So much for my career as an Olympic athlete!

But for my new career as a Jesus follower and fellow-traveler with Paul, it worked. The Jews listened to Paul. At least some of them did. And many became Jesus-followers. And that started getting the Jews stirred up. And life got very hard.

But you know what I learned? Following Jesus is not about going the *easy* way. It's about going the *right* way.

Waiting for God's Direction

A lot of the time I didn't have a clue about what would happen next. Some things we tried didn't work. We'd plan one thing, but the Spirit would say, "No!" It was often tough. And I'll be honest with you; sometimes I just wanted things to go my own way.

I often wondered if Paul felt the same way. But he always taught me to look to Christ—to seek his will, not my own. And Paul taught me to listen to the Spirit's voice and receive the Spirit's direction. I'll never forget one incident. Let me read about it from your New Testament:

Acts 16:9-10 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, *we* got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called *us* to preach the gospel to them.

These folks were, well, a little *out there*. They didn't look like us or think like us. And they'd gotten into some pretty crazy things in their world---drugs, sex, all kinds of weird things. But you know something? God sent us to them anyway. And Paul taught me to where God sends. And to go there as *a team*.

God himself is like a team—he's three-in-one and one-in-three. A communion.
And he wants us to be together sharing ministry with him as a team.
That's how Jesus did ministry. He had his team of 12 and other teams too.

So Paul and his team (including me) got ready. It was team ministry and we were going together. The church needs us all—working together. Young and old.

Life with Paul

Once in one city when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a demon spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

She was spiritually healed, and didn't have the same look she had before. But when the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. The crowd joined in the attack and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. They were severely flogged and thrown into prison.

This sort of thing happened a lot. Listen to Paul's words:

2 Cor 11:23-28 "I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.



It wasn't easy being Paul, but he never gave up

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.



Paul's life following Jesus was never easy. And he needed my help.

I'll bet your pastor and other leaders in your church need your help too.

Debrief questions:

1. Why would it have been hard for Timothy to leave his home?
2. Would life have been as exciting for Timothy if he didn't take on the cause of Christ?
3. What role do you think Paul played in Timothy's life?
4. What kind of things do you think Timothy learned from Paul?
5. Do you have a Paul in your life?
6. What do you think you can do to help minister in your church?



Chapel

5

Crossing the finish line!

Purpose: Our life's mission is to participate with Jesus in what he has uniquely created each of us to be and to do. This message invites campers to understand that mission more clearly, to run the race set before them more purposefully and ultimately to cross the finish line sharing in Jesus' victory.

Timothy first-person narrative:

As I journeyed with Paul, he gave me more and more responsibility and my life's work in serving Jesus became more well-defined.

Eventually Paul gave me churches to pastor. It was a challenge for a young man. Once Paul wrote the following to me:

1 Timothy 4:12-13 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

And that's what I did. And staying loyal to my calling often meant giving up things that I might have done otherwise. Life is full of such choices. And it has many challenges as we strive to run the race Jesus has marked out for us to run with him.

Do you know what that race is for you? Jesus has a specific one for you, you know.

Have you asked an older Christian to help you find yours? Perhaps you could ask a parent, a pastor, or other church leader.

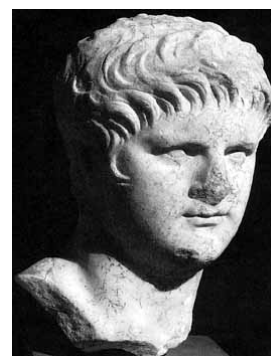
Paul was a huge help to me. Others were too—including my mother and grandmother and men like Barnabas and Silas. We need to listen to each other, as we ask, "What is God saying?"



One of the churches Paul put me in charge of was in the Greek city of Ephesus—a major commercial and religious center, kind of like your Chicago or New York City. Ephesus was home to a huge pagan temple to the goddess Diana. It was longer and wider than a football field and six stories high with 127 white marble columns.

Magic arts were practiced in that temple and city. Many who became Christians there burned their books of magic. On one occasion the books burned were worth 50,000 drachmas. One drachma was a day's wage.

While I was pastoring in Ephesus, Paul wrote to me. He was in a lot of trouble. The emperor was Nero—he required people to worship him as a god. Here's a statue of him (see right). Look at his eyes!



Only three years earlier the city of Rome had burned. Many thought Nero has set the fire himself. But he blamed the Christians and had thousands of them arrested. A few who admitted to being Christian were tortured until they revealed the names of others. Some of them were burned alive. Others were sewn into the skins of wild animals and given to hungry dogs. Still others were crucified. Nero even illuminated his gardens at night with the burning bodies of Christian men, women and children.

We have no idea how many Christians lost their lives in Nero's persecution. It lasted several years and spread to the rest of the Empire. The Apostle Peter was martyred during this persecution, and so was my travelling companion Trophimus (Acts 20:4). Then a few years later, it was Paul's turn. He wrote me from prison awaiting his execution:

2 Timothy 1:1-9 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, **2**To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. **3** I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. **4** Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. **5** I have been 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. **6** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. **7** For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. **8** So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, **9** who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

Paul taught me to be strong despite my weaknesses. To draw strength from prayer and the study of the Holy Scriptures. To not give in to those trying to divert my focus from my journey with Jesus. And to never abandon my duty to serve him by serving the church.

Here's how Paul concluded his last letter to me:



2 Timothy 4:1-11 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

9 Do your best to come to me quickly, 10 for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

“Do your best” he said. “Come to me quickly.” Everybody else had deserted Paul. And now it was up to me—would I support him? Would I hang in there when the going got very tough? Well, I did hang in there. I did finish the race—the course marked out for me. I’ve got to tell you there were many times when I got discouraged; fearful; weary, but I ran my race all the way to the end. I pray that you will run yours too.

Note: At this point in the chapel, the camp director, chaplain or other leader could lead the group in a ceremony of dedication, perhaps including communion. There will no doubt be parents and other visitors in this last chapel, so it’s a good opportunity to tie this message to a broader audience, making an appeal to all to “run the race” together.

Epilogue from Timothy:

According to tradition, the end of my race on earth came at Ephesus where, as an old man, I continued to serve as Bishop of the Christian churches in the city. The pagans in the city were holding a feast-day in honor of their pagan gods—carrying their idols through the city, dancing and singing. What I saw grieved me deeply because of my love for God and for those people who did not know the true God.

So I took action—I tried to halt the procession and to reason with the people, urging them to have faith in the true God, Jesus. Some in the crowd attacked me, beat me, and dragged me down the street to the outskirts of town where they stoned me until I died. Sometimes going all the way with God means giving your life. That’s what happened to Paul. That’s what happened to me.

I don’t know what God has in store for you in your journey with Jesus. But what’s most important is that you LIVE with Jesus and for Jesus—every day, all the way to the end of your journey. **The Lord be with your spirit as you travel. Grace be with you. Amen.**



Class

1

Christian Living Class

Who Am I?

(a class for teen boys and girls together)

Who are you Who are you supposed to be?
Boy? Man? Girl? Woman? Or child of God? What's the difference?

What are you *going* to be? What does it take to be a “real man” or a “real woman” according to the Word of God?

The first step in discovering who you are is to discover who God is!

[Play clip from “Bruce Almighty” where Morgan Freeman represents God—ask the audience if they think this is an accurate representation of God]

Let's see what Scripture tells us about God. Here's what Paul wrote to Timothy:

1 Timothy 2:1-6 1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 **For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,** 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men-- the testimony given in its proper time.

This passage of Scripture starts out talking about prayer and ends up saying a lot about who God is! Let's read the same passage in **The Message Bible** :

The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live. He wants not only us but everyone saved, you know, everyone to get to know the truth we've learned: that there's one God and only one, and one Priest-Mediator between God and us—Jesus, who offered himself in exchange for everyone held captive by sin, to set them all free.

Discussion Questions

1. Paul calls God our “Savior”—what does that mean?

Note: To be saved means not only to be delivered from sin, but from purposeless-existence; and ultimately from non-existence. God created the cosmos as a time and place to have fellowship with us—fellowship that gives life meaning. God wants to save you from anything that detracts from that meaning and purpose.

2. What other truths do we find here about God?

- He's One.
- But He's also more than One --- Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
- God is a Trinity—a communion of love and life.
- He has a “Mediator” between God and us—Jesus who is both God and human. In him we are united with God.
- And Jesus takes away anything that stands in the way—including our sins.
- He lived for us, he died for us and he is alive forever—God and man together.
- His desire and plan is to share that life and fellowship with us.

3. What does life in fellowship with God look like? What is it supposed to be?

- Genesis 1:26 – Being God's image bearer
- John 17:20-23 – Being part of God's “team.” We fellowship with God by fellowshiping with one another.
- Participating actively with others in God's love and life

4. In light of all this, answer this question: WHO AM I?

Let them take some time to write it, or say it. This could be funny, awkward, or embarrassing, but be sure to articulate the following:

- a. You are someone God personally created to live forever, and to let him live through you doing his work in the universe. And that's going to last for eternity!
- b. You were created to be a child of God, loving and living with him forever.



Class

2

Christian Living Class

Who Am I?

(a class for teen boys)

To follow Christ, Timothy may have given up an Olympic career or a chance to be a Roman soldier. Nevertheless he became a premier athlete and an formidable warrior in a different arena. His race; his fight, was spiritual. And he ran and he fought to win.

Note: this class seeks to empower teen boys to think biblically about being a Jesus follower. The goal is to help them see what it means to be strong in the Lord's grace (his power, vision, mission and love) and how to express that as a young man.

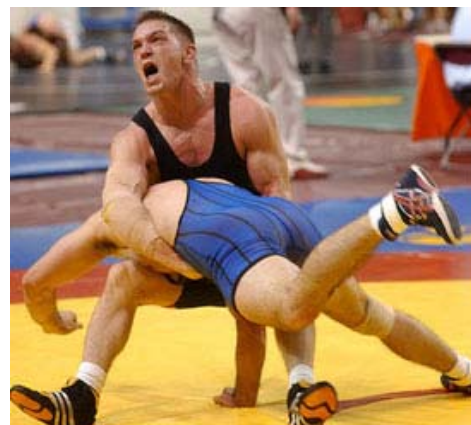
Let's hear Paul's words to young Timothy:

2Tim 2:1-6 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. 5 Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.

Discussion questions:

1. What is a man of God supposed to be strong in?

(Answer: The grace that is in Christ Jesus.)



2. What is this grace?

(Answer: You can participate in life with God's "Grace"---God's being, God's life, God's Presence not only around you but IN you. You have already been brought to God's Presence in Jesus. God's life is there for you to experience, embrace and express)

3. Will it be easy to live a life tracking with God and living out His working through you?

(Answer: See that they answer biblically. Go beyond the initial "no" that they give as an answer. Ask them why this verse shows that it won't be easy. Get them to focus on the words "endure" and "hardship" and ask them to spell out what that might mean. Try to make life application examples at this point: e.g., "endure" the "hardship" of being sexually tempted and getting yourself out of the situation until the temptation subsides, rather than giving into the temptation and getting in a mess. Other examples may come to mind that you deem relevant to your group)

4. What does Paul say a "strong man of God" will be like?

(Answer: utilize the analogies Paul gives: A soldier; an athlete; a farmer.)

5. How can a man of God remember all these things, even after camp.

(Have them read the following passage, helping them find answers.

7 Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. 8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal.

6. What good does "remembering Jesus" do?

(Have them read the following summary of the gospel, talking about the power of Jesus' life which we share)

11 Here is a trustworthy saying:
If we died with him, we will also live with him;
12 If we endure, we will also reign with him.
If we disown him, he will also disown us;
13 If we are faithless, he will remain faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.

7. What other secrets does Paul give a man of God?

22Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.



Class

3

Christian Living Class

Who Am I?

(a class for teen girls)

Strong, godly women played an important role in the life of Timothy. Of primary importance was his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. In this class let's put the spotlight on what it means to be a woman of God.

Note: this class is meant to help young women explore some key Scriptural themes about being a godly woman.

1. Let's talk about the women in Timothy's life. Who were they?

2 Timothy 2: 5 I have been 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.

2. What can we know about them?

Acts 16:1 [Paul] came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek.

3. What kind of challenges do you think Timothy's mother Eunice faced being married to someone from a different culture and a different religious background?

(Great opportunity to get the girls to focus on how they will chose a mate—the father of their children)

Here are some Scriptures to consider:

John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his **Father doing**, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

Note the role of the Father's example. What do you want your child to see its father doing? (Help them see that their child will follow their human father's example. It will be very difficult to counter a bad example. Use this as a discussion point to illustrate that "making a child" with a "worthy father" is a goal to "endure" for. Appeal to their future maternal instincts---protect your babies now by choosing a father who honors your Heavenly Father!)

4. Despite our best intentions, less than ideal marriages occur. Even though Timothy's father was a nonbeliever, what was it that his mother working with his grandmother were able to do in Timothy's life?

2 Timothy 2: 5 I have been 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.

(Answer: they passed to Timothy their spiritual DNA—their faith in God. The power of a faith-filled woman is incredible. But don't use this as an excuse to marry a nonbeliever!)

5 How do you think Eunice and Lois transferred their faith to Timothy?

(This could lead to a very interesting discussion, with all kinds of questions---who's the primary "faith" giver in your family?; what role does your mom play? Your dad? What kind of dad do you want your daughter to have?)

6. When do you think Eunice began transferring faith to her son? How?

Here's a Scripture to consider:

2 Timothy 3:15 [Paul says to Timothy]: from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

(How do you think she taught Scripture to Timothy? When will you start introducing your baby to God? What will you read out loud will you're carrying him? What will you listen to or say when you sing to him or are nursing him? When will you begin learning the Scriptures so you can pass them on? Have you ever considered starting a journal entitled "Things from the Bible I want to say to my baby before he's one year old?").

7. Who do you want your child's father to be?

(This is a trick question. They will probably describe some guy. And that's OK. But ultimately we want God to be our child's Father. And as Timothy's mother and grandmother demonstrated, a godly woman plays a huge role.