

# sermon study summary

Mother's Day

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Happy Mother's Day to all the amazing 'Moms' in our Church. We're incredibly grateful, and honour you for the love and sacrifices you make for your children and others whom God placed in your life. We, as parents and the larger family of God, need to follow three principles in order to raise this next generation to be strong in the faith.

**(1) Model a sincere faith:** Timothy became a strong Christian because his Mother and Grandmother modeled a sincere devotion to the Way, Truth and Life of Jesus, ensuring that, from a young age, he knew the scriptures, and teaching him that: Jesus is the highest priority in our lives, and we must: invite Him to work IN, and have complete authority OVER us; devote ourselves to Him through prayer, and reading His Word; joyfully obey Him at all times; be *intentional* and *kingdom-minded* in how/where we spend time and resources, and no matter what happens to our health, marriage, relationships, etc., CLING to God, seeking His wisdom and guidance, and obey His commands.

Our children, when they're little, take what we say at face-value; as they grow older, they seek authenticity about our faith, analyzing everything we say and do. They need verification that *we live out, daily, the faith we preach, putting God first and striving to follow His commands.*

**(2) Train them faithfully:** This can take many forms such as: reading scripture as a family, having 'faith conversations', praying for and with them; demonstrating humility by confessing pride and sin; showing them what Grace and Forgiveness looks/feels like; your kids should see you turn to God with small AND big challenges; assist them in understanding physical, relational and spiritual needs of those around them, encouraging them to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and teaching them practical ways to respond to and meet those needs; prioritizing the weekend worship gatherings, thereby teaching them the importance of worshipping with God's people.

**(3) Be on Mission:** This means aligning our lives with God's purpose/mission, walking closely with Jesus, living out the good news, God places each of us in 'communities' to be HIS representatives to a hurting and lost world, sharing His love and bringing others to Him. Eunice wasn't perfect, and she disobeyed God. When she came to Christ, through repentance, belief and faith in Him, she was *made new again*, and she 'modeled', for Timothy, a SINCERE FAITH, TRAINED HIM ACCORDING TO GOD'S COMMANDANTS, and placed a MISSIONAL SPARK in him, which fanned into a flame. God uses the brokenness of our lives and through His gift of forgiveness, brings His prodigal children back to Himself, to their families, restores broken relationships and gives us His *GIFT OF PEACE*.

When we invite God into our lives and put our faith and trust in Him, He begins a new work in us. Therefore, despite the *enemy's* attempts to paralyze us with fear and make us believe we're unworthy of God's forgiveness in our lives, that nobody cares about us and we're alone, etc., just trust GOD WHO IS ALMIGHTY! HE SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON – JESUS CHRIST – to die on the Cross for the remediation of our sins! As parents, we have the God-given responsibility of leading, guiding and helping our children in the way that they should go, and when we focus on Jesus, God will use us to raise up this generation to love the Lord our God! PRAISE GOD FOR HIS LOVE!

THE WORD (NIV)

## 2 Timothy 1:3-7

<sup>3</sup> I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. <sup>4</sup> Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> I am 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

## 2 Timothy 3:14-17

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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# sermon study guide

## IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What were your favourite family activities when you were young? What influence did they have on you?
2. What is a treasured memory of your parents?

## UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Read 2 Timothy 1:3-7 and 3:14-17. Describe Timothy's early life and further spiritual development. Who was involved? How did they model faith to Timothy, train him and include him on mission?
4. Read Psalm 78:1-11 and Matthew 28:19-20. What instructions were given to the Israelites concerning raising up their children? What were the consequences when adults failed to do this? How does the Great Commission pertain to families?

## OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Pastor Matt said, "One of the goals of parenting is to grow and develop children/disciples into responsible, trustworthy, loving Christ followers who understand who they are and their God-given purpose in this world." Share with your group the different ways you are using or have used the principles outlined in this message.
6. How is God prompting you to raise up the next generations in spiritual matters within the scope of your current activities? How may mealtime discussions foster missional thinking and living?

### For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

*Ponder the three principles of raising up children or adult disciples. Which are you consciously or unconsciously avoiding? Why? List your reasons. Are there lies you are believing? Reflect how God rebuilds, restores, renews and uses our brokenness for His glory. Believe His promises and step out. Memorize 2 Timothy 1:7.*

## THE WORD (NIV) cont'd.

### Psalm 78:1-11

- <sup>1</sup> My people, hear my teaching;  
listen to the words of my mouth.  
<sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth with a parable;  
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—  
<sup>3</sup> things we have heard and known,  
things our ancestors have told us.  
<sup>4</sup> 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.  
<sup>5</sup> He decreed statutes for Jacob  
and established the law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach their children,  
<sup>6</sup> so the next generation would know them,  
even the children yet to be born,  
and they in turn would tell their children.  
<sup>7</sup> Then they would put their trust in God  
and would not forget his deeds  
but would keep his commands.  
<sup>8</sup> They would not be like their ancestors—  
a stubborn and rebellious generation,  
whose hearts were not loyal to God,  
whose spirits were not faithful to him.  
<sup>9</sup> The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows,  
turned back on the day of battle;  
<sup>10</sup> they did not keep God's covenant  
and refused to live by his law.  
<sup>11</sup> They forgot what he had done,  
the wonders he had shown them.

### Matthew 28:19-20

- <sup>19</sup> 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,  
<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This week's writers: Asha Philipps, Gene & Karen Gibbs, Sandi Somers, and Elsa Henderson