

Mothers Day

"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. **4** Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. **5** 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. **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." 2 Timothy 1:3-6

Timothy's, 'sincere faith' came from his grandmother Lois initially, who passed it on to his mother Eunice. At some point, both Lois and Eunice became believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Both Lois and Eunice, 'lived' out their faith. In other words their faith was not fleeting, but a lifelong commitment to following Jesus. What we have here is a family which loves the Lord. Timothy is a 3rd generation Christian with an excellent spiritual heritage. He has witnessed what it means to live for Christ and have sincere faith.

As a parent or grandparent, do you live out your faith? Do your children see that you love Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?

"... but his (Timothy's) mother and grandmother were believers of great godliness. Paul commends them for the immense influence for good they had on Timothy and for the sincere faith that the apostle was sure to be in Timothy as well." MacArthur, *2 Timothy*

To have godly parents is an incredible gift that can have an eternal significance in the lives of children.

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." John 1:12,13

As parents, when we pass on the faith to our children we are giving them the best possibility of becoming eternal children in God's kingdom. We are offering them God's gift of eternal life. When our faith is real to us and we live it out, our children cannot fail but to notice it.

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

It is so important to teach our children the scriptures. We should actively read and pray with them. This is hard work and requires diligence. However, it is well worth it!

"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. 5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, 6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands." Psalm 78:4-7

As we see in Lois and Eunice's case they taught Timothy and had a great impact in his life.

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, **15** and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:14-17

I want to encourage you as grandparents and parents to invest bible time in your

grandchildren or children.

Do you read and pray with your children/grandchildren? How do you spend your time with them?

So many children know nothing about Jesus these days - not even basic bible stories.

By the time the apostle Paul met Timothy, Timothy had been brought up in and grounded in the scriptures. Timothy was spiritually mature and was a Christian in his own right. Timothy proved to be an excellent co worker for Paul and accompanied him in many of his mission trips as they advanced the Kingdom of God. Paul thanked God for Timothy (2 Timothy 1:3) but he also praises the faith of Lois and Eunice.

When we invest in our children, it can leave a tremendous spiritual legacy. This in turn can have a great effect in the Kingdom of God in the future. Timothy went on with Paul to shape the early church; especially among the Gentiles.

Perhaps you are here as a parent or grandparent this morning and you have children who have walked away from the faith. I want to encourage you in your disappointment.

You are in a prime position to intercede for your children. God the Father loves your children way more than you ever can and wants them to come home to him.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."
Luke 15:20

Do you pray for your children/grandchildren who have walked away from the faith?

Application

Father, thank you for___ who taught me about my Savior Jesus Christ.

Live out your Christian faith in front of your children/grandchildren on a daily basis.

Read and pray with your children/grandchildren from infancy.

Pray for your children/grandchildren who have walked away from the faith.