



# Week 5

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# **WEEK 5:** LEGACY, NOT CONFUSION

## This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## WEEK 5: LEGACY, NOT CONFUSION

**Looking Back:** What did God teach you this past week as you read the daily devotions? What opportunities did you have to apply what you learned?

**Looking Up:** Play the video and work through the discussion questions.

What legacy would you like to leave those who come after you?

Would you say leaving a legacy of faith for others is something that just happens or takes intentionality? Explain.

Have you ever considered yourself as a mentor? Why or why not?

Read Hebrews 12:1-2. Based on these verses, what do you need to do to mentor others in the faith and leave a legacy?

Who is someone you consider to be in your “great cloud of witnesses”? What has that person taught you about leaving a legacy of faith?

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-4. What do these verses tell you about Paul and Timothy’s relationship?

When you think about mentoring someone, are you motivated more by duty or love? Why does it matter?

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-11. How much of Paul’s life did he share with Timothy? Why is this level of vulnerability and life sharing necessary if we want to influence others spiritually to live up to their God-given potential?

**Looking Forward:** How will you take what you learned today and apply it to your life this week? Take a few minutes to plan your next meeting and spend some time in prayer together.

## WEEK 5: LEGACY, NOT CONFUSION

### DAY 1—READ HEBREWS 12:1-2

*<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

The author of Hebrews referred to the heroes of the faith listed in chapter 11. These faithful servants of God comprise a great cloud of witnesses that spur us on in our faith. They show us we are not alone in our struggles and that there is no reason to lose heart.

These believers left a legacy of faith. And they did that without having received the things promised (11:13). But we have received the promise.

In fact, the whole point of Hebrews can be summarized in one sentence: Jesus is better. Jesus is the fullness of the hope the Old Testament saints longed for. He is better than anything they could have imagined and is better still than anything we can create.

If those faithful Old Testament witnesses were able to leave a legacy of faith, how much more can we? We see clearly what was only a shadow to them—Jesus has come!

Will you run your race pointing others to Him?

**When you read about a “great cloud of witnesses,” what do you picture? Why is such a group significant to believers?**

**Who encourages you in your Christian life? How? What particular struggles have they helped you through?**

**Who needs you to encourage them in the faith? How will you seek to do so?**

**Thank God for those who have left a faith-legacy for you. Ask Him to help you be that for others.**

### DAY 2—READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-4

*<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup> I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup> As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy.*

Is there anyone in your life you think of like family, even though there is no biological or legal connection? Is there anyone who thinks of you in that way?

Paul referred to Timothy as his “beloved child.” We don’t have much information about Timothy’s biological father, but we know plenty about his spiritual father. Paul came to Timothy, became Timothy’s mentor, and helped develop his already sincere faith.

The letters we have from Paul to Timothy are rich and deeply personal. It is easy to tell the impact made by Paul, and vice versa. Here in 2 Timothy 1, we see that Timothy was so dear to Paul that he prayed for him night and day. Paul wanted to see Timothy because their relationship brought him so much joy.

This is the natural result of these types of relationships. As we invest in each other toward spiritual legacy, God joins our hearts together and we each reap the blessing. As we commit to serving the next generation, we will see men and women rise up in faith as they are strengthened by the message of the gospel. And we will be overcome with joyful gratitude for that privilege.



Based on these verses, why do you think Paul felt so close to Timothy?

How does spiritual mentoring connect you to another person in a unique way?

How can you help the next generation connect to faith in Jesus?

Thank God for the love your spiritual mentors have had for you. Ask Him to grow in you that type of love for other people.

### DAY 3—READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:5

*I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.*

As Paul helped lead and disciple the young Timothy, he recognized that Timothy stood on the shoulders of those who invested in him long before Paul came along. Timothy's mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois had been especially formative in his sincere and deep-rooted faith.

Timothy came to faith and grew in faith, in part, because of the influence of his mother and grandmother. They disciplined Timothy, and that intention resulted in a faith that was lived out in sincerity.

The point of 2 Timothy 1:5 isn't for us to try to earn spiritual brownie points or take credit for what the Spirit does. It is to remind us that our lives are meant to be multiplied.

Whether we have children of our own, or we raise and invest in the spiritual family God provides, we are to multiply our lives in the next generation. That starts in our own homes, just as it did for Lois and Eunice. Even Paul could see how they had laid the spiritual ground work in Timothy's life that would continue to inform how he walked with Christ later on. It was likely the day-in and day-out acts of faith that helped shape Timothy into the kind of Christ follower He became.

We all have that opportunity to impart the influence of faith on the next generation. Whether it is our own child, another family member, or someone else who doesn't have others to invest in them, the call remains the same—multiply your life through discipleship.

What does your spiritual heritage look like? Who was a “Lois” or “Eunice” in your life? How did they help shape you as a follower of Christ?

Who is a Timothy that the Lord has placed in your life? How are you investing in that person?

If you have children, how are you laying a foundation of faith in their lives? Even if you don’t have children, how are you seeking to multiply your life in others?

Thank God for those who have invested in you to impart an example of faith. Ask Him to show you how you might play this role for those who follow after you.

### DAY 4—READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-11

<sup>10</sup> *You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,*  
<sup>11</sup> *my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.*

This was no small or insignificant praise. Paul had been explaining that deceivers would arrive on the scene—people who had an appearance of godliness but no actual power of godliness in their lives. In fact, those types of people were already making inroads among believers and causing trouble. And the problem was only going to get worse.

Paul recognized that Timothy was different. What a resumé Timothy had! Whatever struggles he faced, Timothy was a shining beacon of faithful Christian living. He had excelled at following his teacher, Paul, who imitated Christ. Timothy followed Paul's teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance as Paul followed Christ.

This isn't a random list of virtues Paul threw together hoping to encourage Timothy. Paul wrote with the specific purpose to encourage Timothy in the work of the ministry. As such, Paul ended the list with an elaboration on endurance, naming specific episodes of suffering and then went on to say that the Lord rescued him from them all.

In other words, Timothy would need to continue to persist. He would need to dig in, cling to Christ, and endure. And if we are going to leave a legacy instead of confusion, so do we.

**How did Paul describe Timothy's way of life?**

**How are all Christians to imitate these same traits?**

**Paul sought to encourage Timothy as he faced a time of hardship. What are some practical ways you can guide and encourage the person(s) you are discipling?**

**Thank God for the teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance we are given as examples in His Word. Ask Him to help you continue to endure, no matter what struggles you face in life.**

### DAY 5—READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:12-17

*<sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> While evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

We've learned that a legacy of faith is often given to us by mentors and family members. In 2 Timothy 3, Paul wanted to make sure his readers didn't miss the main source of legacy they have received—God has given us His Word. In it, we find power for daily living that's greater than we can imagine.

All Scripture is inspired by God. In the Greek language this literally means "God-breathed." When we open our Bibles, whatever we're reading is the literal Word of God.

Have you ever wondered what God has to say about something you are going through? Open your Bible and start reading. These words are more than just inspiring phrases or interesting stories; this is God's communication with us, showing us who He is and what life is like with Him.

God has given us a legacy greater than any other: He has given us Himself with a direct pathway to know Him more. These aren't ordinary words—they are powerful! Scripture speaks into our lives today and will last forever. If you want to know God, read His Word. If you need direction, read His Word. If you want to learn how to live out your faith, read His Word. God has given you the gift of a rich legacy of faith—will you take it?

From verse 17, what is the purpose of God's Word in your life?

Have you ever thought about the Bible as a gift from God? How does this truth change your interaction with it?

What are some difficult things you are going through right now? Do you know any verses that speak to those situations? What might God have to say about what you are going through?

Pray for God to give you passion for His Word and eyes to see the wonderful gift it is.