

Final Letter to a Friend

2 Timothy 1, 2; The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 203, 498-508

Do you like to hear news from a friend who is far away? Paul missed his friend Timothy, so he wrote a letter asking him to come visit him.

Paul looked around his bare prison cell. It was rough, dimly lit, and not very comfortable. But he smiled as he remembered his dear friend Timothy. They had been through a lot. Their trials and the joy of working together for Jesus had made them good friends. But more than that, they were like father and son.

Paul remembered when they first met. Paul had gone to Lystra. Some people there did not want him to preach about Jesus. So they dragged him outside the city gate and

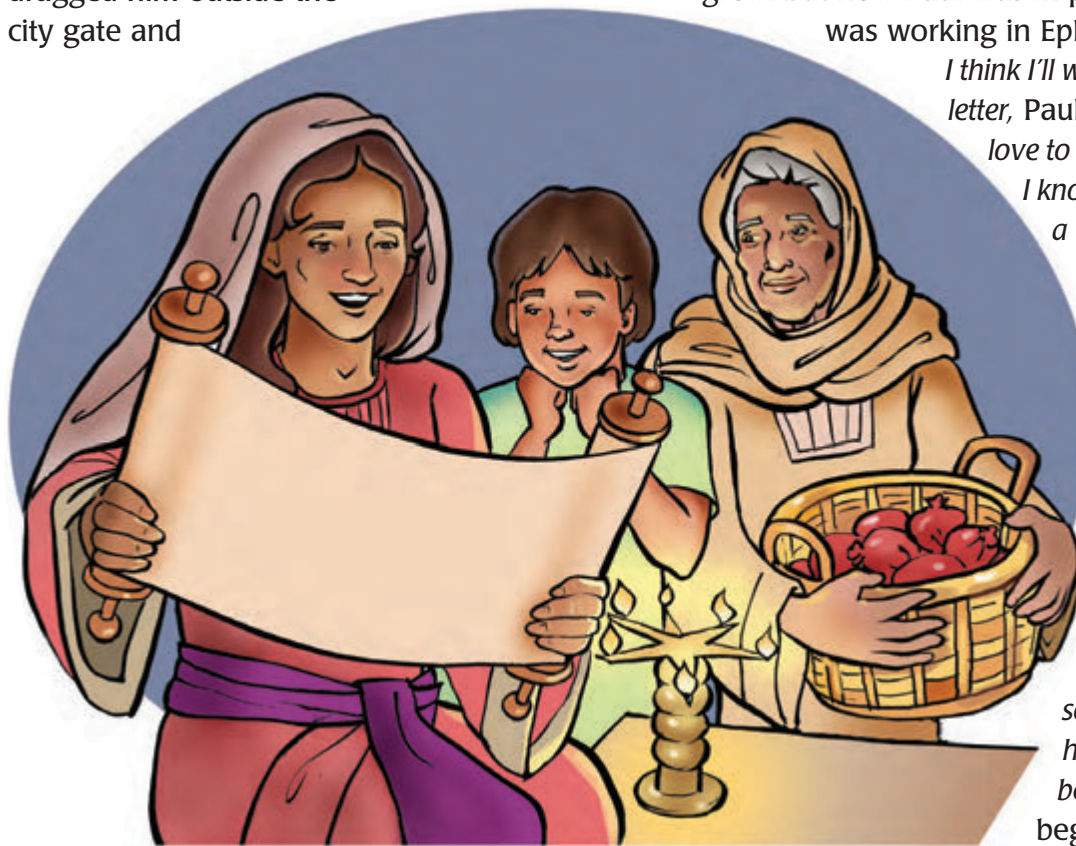
threw stones at him. That was when he met Timothy.

When Paul went to Lystra again, Timothy was ready to help him. Even though he was still a teenager, he knew the Scriptures.

Timothy's father was Greek. Eunice, his mother, and Lois, his grandmother, were Jewish Christians. They had taught Timothy from the Scriptures since he was a little boy. They had encouraged him to keep his mind and heart pure. It was their guidance that helped Timothy choose to serve God.

Timothy became Paul's assistant. They traveled many miles together, facing many hardships. And their love for Jesus grew and grew. But now Paul was in prison, and Timothy was working in Ephesus.

I think I'll write Timothy a letter, Paul thought. I would love to have him visit me. I know it will take quite a while for him to get here, even if he comes right away. Why, it will probably be several months before I can see him! And who knows—I could lose my life any day. But I'll write and ask him to come anyway. And I'll leave some instructions for him in case I should die before he comes. He began to write:



The Message

I worship God when I thank Him for Christian role models.

Memory Verse

“Do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord”

(2 Timothy 1:8, NIV).

Dear Timothy,

You have been like a son to me. I wish you grace and peace and mercy from our Lord Jesus Christ. Every day I pray and thank God for you. I am so happy for your faith. And for all you learned from your mother and grandmother. Use that gift of faith. Let it grow into a big fire.

Don't be afraid of anything or anyone. If someone is doing something wrong, tell him. Use the power that God gave you. God gives us strength to tell everyone the Good News. Never be ashamed to tell people about Jesus. Preach the gospel every time you have a chance.

Use the Bible as your weapon. Do not listen to what men say; read for yourself what is true. Do not listen to false teachers. Protect other believers from their lies. Teach them everything I have taught you. The Holy Spirit will help you.

Even though I am in prison, keep believing in God. Please come and see me as soon as you can. When

you come, please bring my coat and my books. Be careful of the people who have hurt me. They will try to hurt you too. Say hello to our friends.

May the Lord's grace be with you,
Paul

Paul's letter to Timothy guided and encouraged him. And it guides and encourages us today.



S A B B A T H

READ Read and discuss 2 Timothy, chapter 1, with your family. Who were Timothy's role models? Of what does Paul say Timothy should not be ashamed? Where was Paul at this time? (See 2 Timothy 1:17.) Where was Timothy? (See 1 Timothy 1:3.)

DO Find Rome and Ephesus on a Bible map. How far apart are they? What would be the quickest route from Ephesus to Rome?

PRAY Pray for people who travel to teach others about Jesus.

M O N D A Y

READ During worship read and discuss 2 Timothy 1:8, 16, 17. What does this tell us about Paul's life in prison?

DO Tie your wrist to that of another person. (Use yarn or string.) Stay tied for 30 minutes. How do you feel? How do you think Paul felt about being chained?

PRAY Thank God for freedom to worship Him.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ With your family read and discuss 2 Timothy 3:14-17. How can you and your family learn more of the Scriptures?

PRAY Make a people prayer chain by standing in a circle and holding hands. Ask each person to pray for the person on their right. Pray that God will help him or her study and understand the Bible.

S U N D A Y

DO Write the memory verse word on each of ten strips of paper. (Don't forget the text.) Glue the papers together to make a paper chain. Use the chain to teach the verse to your family during worship. Ask Jesus to give you and your family courage and wisdom to tell others about Him.

T U E S D A Y

READ For family worship today, read and discuss 2 Timothy 2:1. What does it mean to grow and be strong in Jesus' grace? Read and discuss 2 Peter 3:18. How does God want us to grow? Ask each person to list things needed to grow physically, and to grow spiritually. Compare your lists and pray that God will help you grow.

T H U R S D A Y

READ During worship read and discuss 2 Timothy 1:3-5. Ask each family member to draw a circle in the center of a paper and write their name in it. Then draw smaller circles around it and name in each a person who is a positive influence on them. Then write a note to one of those people and thank them. Thank God for each one.



F R I D A Y

Paul trained Timothy to take over his work as a preacher and missionary.



DO Ask your family to share a favorite part of Paul's letters to Timothy. Then read a verse that offers instruction. (See 1 Timothy 2:1-3; 6:10, 11; 2 Timothy 1:6, 7; 2 Timothy 2:1-3, 15, 16, 22-24; 3:14; 4:1, 2.)

DO Write a family letter to God. Thank Him for Paul and Timothy, and for the Bible, His Word. Ask Him to help you learn from it each day.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Find the following names from this week's lesson: Timothy, Lois, Eunice, Paul, God, Ephesus, Jesus

