

PREPARING AT HOME

September 30-October 6, 2019

Focus reading: 2 Timothy 1:1–14 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=435132066>)

Other lectionary readings: Lamentations 1:1–6, 3:19–26; Luke 17:5–10

Theme: The Heirloom of Faith

What is your faith story? How were you introduced to the Christian faith? How did it take root and grow in your life? As you reflect on your faith story, you probably recall particular people and the relationships that you shared. In this second letter to a young Christian leader named Timothy, the author (most likely not Paul but one who spoke with Paul's authority) reminds Timothy of his faith story. He refers to Timothy as "my beloved child" (vs 2), indicating the loving relationship that they share. Mentioning Timothy's mother and grandmother, the author recognizes that Timothy's faith can be traced through two previous generations of strong and faithful women. In so doing, he affirms what contemporary research about faith development teaches us: that having relationships with faithful people of different generations is the most significant indicator that one will have a mature faith later in life. The faith that "lived first" (vs. 5) in Timothy's grandmother and then in his mother now lives in him, and it is time for Timothy to "rekindle" (vs. 6) that gift of faith. Faith is generative. It has been alive through the generations and will bring life to Timothy even in the darkest hour. Timothy's faith is his "treasure" (vs 14), having come to him through his family, which now includes the author of this letter. Our stories are intertwined. As we tell our stories to others, we become part of their story. These important relationships in which we share our stories and our love, in which we pray for one another, enliven faith and see us through whatever trials we must face.

THANK GOD FOR TEACHERS

Who taught you the faith? Give thanks for those teachers. Pray for them! What did they teach you? Encourage young children to draw pictures of those who are teaching them the faith.

WORLD COMMUNION

October 6 is World Communion Sunday. As you think about your spiritual heritage, use a map or globe to see where your ancestors came from. Do you know anything about the faith they practiced?

PRAYER

Loving God,
We thank you for all of those who love us
and show us how to love you.
Help us to remember what we have been taught
and to be faithful.
Help us to bravely tell others the good news about you
and to show your love to others.
Amen.

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