



LESSON TWO: THE APPRENTICE

follow the pattern

2 timothy 1:3-5; 9-2:3

GRAND CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
STUDY GUIDE FOR SERMON

objectives

1. To remind those who are Christians of the faith they have been called to live and express in their lives
2. To encourage Christians to follow the examples of godly men and women who have demonstrated in their lives a willingness to live their faith regardless of the cost
3. To challenge believers to recognize opportunities to be apprenticed and take advantage of those
4. To challenge believers to recognize opportunities to serve as a mentor to others and to be aware of the pattern they are setting for others to follow in the pursuit of the cause of the gospel of Jesus Christ

getting started

1. Think of two or three people who were, or are, significant spiritual influences in your life. Share with the group one or two insights you have gained from them about life and what it means to follow Jesus Christ.
2. Think of a time when you, or someone you know about/care about, seemed to be growing frustrated, discouraged or weak in the faith. What words or actions helped “turn things around” for you or for them?
3. Since its Fathers Day, share with the group a life lesson you learned from your father (or, as Paul to Timothy, one of your spiritual fathers).

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. ³Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:13-14; 2:1-3

study (Paul the mentor)

1. Consider Luke's account of Paul's association with John Mark (Acts 13:5-13; 15:36-41).
 - a. If you had been Paul, would you have thought it unwise to take him on the second trip?
 - b. What about Barnabas's character led him more likely to extend a second chance to John Mark (Acts 9:26-30; 11:25-26)? Why do you believe Paul was less willing?
 - c. Do you think it is possible for Christians to disagree and both still to be engaged in fulfilling God's will?
 - d. How should they view one another?
2. Now, take the time to look at some of Paul's final written words in 2 Timothy 4:11. Who has changed: Paul and/or John Mark? Who has grown? Why do you answer in this way?
3. What is Paul's relationship to Timothy (Acts 16:1-5; Philippians 2:19-23)?
4. As Timothy's mentor, or spiritual father, Paul uses a number of "tools" in helping Timothy in his spiritual life. Make a list of the different ways Paul seeks to help mold Timothy into the man God wants him to be.
5. Look at 2 Timothy 1:13-14 and 2:1-3. What has Paul done in the past that he believes will provide present and future aid to Timothy in the faith?
 - a. What is the "pattern of sound teaching"?
 - b. What is the "good deposit"?
 - c. How does the Holy Spirit work in this process?
 - d. What is Timothy to entrust to "reliable men"?
 - e. What qualification are these men to possess?
 - f. What is the significance of this qualification?
 - g. What is Timothy to expect (2:3)?

mentoring & apprenticing

1. Examine your life: In what sense have you been apprenticed by others?
2. As you look at those who have had a significant impact on your life, what qualities have they displayed that have been most effective in providing you with guidance and direction?
3. Has anyone ever "given up" on you? What influence(s) have they had on your life since that time?
4. Have you "given up" on someone in the past? Have you ever been pleasantly surprised when you later discovered they had "recovered"?
5. Do you think it is possible that sometimes people need more than one mentor?
6. What do you think we can learn from the story of Paul and Barnabas as they both worked with John Mark?
7. Do you see yourself as being more like Paul or Barnabas? Why?
8. Timothy seems to be discouraged as Paul is writing him this second letter. What circumstances have caused you to become discouraged about your faith?
9. What helped you to recover, to get back up and get into the fray?
10. Paul indicates that one of the key components of his teaching his apprentice Timothy was his verbalizing and living his faith before him. What steps have you/are you taking to ensure that those you wish to influence are hearing and seeing your faith?