

# AMITY BIBLE CHURCH

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*"To Know God and To Make Him Known"*

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY NOTES

— May 13, 2018 —

*Pastor Leslie Smith*

### **SERMON: The Influence of a Godly Mother**

**TEXT: 2 Timothy 1:5**

#### **Central Message:**

Now that I am a grandparent, the verse that will serve as the focus of our lesson still draws me to be mindful of continuing to nurture not just the faith of my now adult children, but of my grandchildren as well. It is a reminder to teach them God's Word at a young age. The Lord used the influence of Timothy's mother and grandmother in bringing him to a saving faith as they instructed him in the Scriptures.

It seems that Timothy's dad was a Greek unbeliever (Acts 16:1). The Scriptures don't tell us why Eunice married a man who was not a believer. The Old Testament was clear that Jews should not marry unbelievers, but I love the story of Eunice because it gives hope to those that are in mixed marriages. Eunice, by God's grace, raised up Timothy who the Lord used mightily. This gives hope and encouragement to your role and influence even if your husband is not a believer.

We know the Lord desires for the father to lead in the spiritual training of the children, but mothers can still have a great influence in the spiritual life of your children. This is a great encouragement for single moms. If your faith is genuine and sincere, your children will see the impact Christ has on your daily life. Many people have been richly blessed by what they learned at their mother's knee. Consider John and Charles Wesley. Their names would probably never have lighted the pages of history if it hadn't been for their godly mother who taught them that the law of love and Christian witness was to be their daily guide.

Susannah Wesley, who gave birth to 19 children, spent one hour each day praying for them. In addition, she took each child aside for a full hour every week to discuss spiritual matters with him or her. No wonder John and Charles were used of God to bring blessings around the world. Here are a few rules she followed in training her children:

1. Subdue self-will in a child and work together with God.
2. Teach him to pray as soon as he can speak.
3. Give him nothing he cries for and only what is good for him if he asks for it politely.
4. To prevent lying, punish no fault that is freely confessed, but never allow a rebellious, sinful act to go unchecked.
5. Commend and reward good behavior. Strictly observe all promises you have made to your child.

## **The Summary Statement for the Text**

We begin to grasp the impact of a godly mother when we consider that, despite the absence of a believing father, Eunice and her mother were able to pass their sincere faith on to young Timothy, who became a protégé of the Apostle Paul.

## **The Key Take-Away from the Lesson**

Whether the relationship is biological, spiritual, or social, a “mother” can have a tremendous impact on the lives of her children. As we examine the text at hand, we glean three significant influences that Eunice and Lois had on Timothy.

**Influence #1:** Godly mothers *minister* to their children by building into them their own sincere faith. (2 Timothy 1:5)

Lois passed her faith on to her daughter, Eunice. Together, they passed their faith on to Timothy. This is a clear illustration of the principle that Moses articulated in Deuteronomy 6 when he was speaking with the young families that had successfully come out of the wilderness. Almost all of the adults that came of

Egypt died in the wilderness because of disobedience and lack of faith. Moses had to instruct these young adults on how to live and prosper in the Promised Land. Their success would be rooted and grounded in the idea that parents should pass their faith on to their children, but the prerequisite was that they first possess the faith themselves.

**Influence #2:** Godly mothers *model* for their children what it means to be godly parents by first becoming godly people. (2 Timothy 1:5)

Research has proven that when it comes to passing an important lesson on to someone, that lesson is more easily “caught” than “taught”. In other words, a lesson has a greater possibility of being retained and a greater possibility of being applied when we can see that lesson being walked out in the life of another person. God designed our family structure such that boys would learn how to be godly men from their fathers and girls would learn how to be godly women from their mothers. In Timothy’s case, this was a problematic situation because his father was an unbeliever. When God has a plan and a purpose for our lives, he will always find a way to accomplish that plan and purpose. God ordained that Timothy would be a powerful preacher of the gospel, and He chose his mother and grandmother to model sincere faith in his presence. The Bible records the impact of the example that was set by these two godly women.

**Influence #3:** Godly mothers *motivate* their children to become what God intends for them to be. (2 Timothy 1:5)

Spurgeon said, “Never could it be possible for any man to estimate what he owes to a godly mother”. This was true for Timothy. He lived through the difficulties of becoming a strong believer in a house that was headed up by a man who did not know the Lord. His mother and grandmother encouraged him and pushed him to become all that God intended for him to be. Timothy’s story is my story. I grew up without my father in the home. My mother and maternal grandmother raised me. The biggest gift that they gave me was the gift of “high expectations”. They

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expected me to excel, and they made it clear that anything else was unacceptable. They did not take me to church...they sent me to church, and they expected me to get it. I did. Looking back over my life, I cannot put a value on what it means to me and my family that my mother and grandmother expected great things of me. I tried to live up to their expectations.