

# A Faith Worth Passing Down

## 2 Timothy 1:3-5

### 2 Timothy 1:3-5 (NASB)

<sup>3</sup> “I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,

<sup>4</sup> longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.

<sup>5</sup> For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that *it is* in you as well.”

The most precious thing we can pass down to our children is our faith—the confident conviction that God is who He says He is and will do all He has promised. Timothy’s strong relationship with Christ didn’t materialize out of thin air; it grew because his mother and grandmother were godly examples.

Here are ways we, too, can hand down a rich legacy to the next generation:

**Teach practical biblical principles.** Kids need to know God’s views on matters such as material wealth ([Psalm 24:1](#)), the way to meet needs ([Philippians 4:19](#)), and direction in life ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)).

### Psalm 24:1 (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> “The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.”

### Philippians 4:19 (NASB)

<sup>19</sup> “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

### Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup> “Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.”

**Model character through lifestyle.** How we live—whether with transparency, peace, and perseverance, or with fear, anxiety, and self-reliance—loudly communicates what we believe about our heavenly Father.

**Serve God by serving others.** Actions show our faith is real ([James 2:26](#)). If we want children not to develop a self-centered perspective, servanthood is key.

### James 2:26 (NASB)

<sup>26</sup> “For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”

**Intercede for them.** Kids won’t forget hearing us pray regularly for them.

**Communicate love to them.** Young people need to know we love them the way that God loves us—unconditionally rather than based on what they do or don’t do. Spoken words of love breathe life into their heart. And as we affirm them for trusting God, they see that we value their spiritual growth.

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As parents, we must be intentional about leading and inspiring our sons and daughters to follow Jesus Christ. But even people without children of their own can leave a legacy. The example to follow is Paul: Though neither married nor a natural parent, he was a spiritual father to many. (See [1 Corinthians 4:14-16](#).)

**1 Corinthians 4:14-16 (NASB)**

**<sup>14</sup>“I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.**

**<sup>15</sup>For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet *you would not have* many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.**

**<sup>16</sup>Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me.”**