## Paul's Mission: Guiding Children in Faith



Explore Paul's mission to share the gospel, focusing on nurturing children's faith and their place in God's kingdom.





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## Introduction

Throughout his missionary journeys, the Apostle Paul emphasized the importance of faith, community, and the transformative power of the gospel for all ages, including children. **Children hold a special place in the kingdom of God**, and Paul's teachings offer timeless insights on how the early church welcomed and nurtured young believers. This 7-day Bible study will guide you through Scripture to understand Paul's heart for sharing the gospel and discipling the next generation. *As we explore Paul's mission, we'll discover practical lessons on guiding children in faith, the responsibility of adults in their spiritual growth, and the encouragement that children can themselves be powerful witnesses of God's love.* 

From the innocence and humility Jesus commended to the example of Timothy—who learned the Scriptures from a young age—we will reflect on how Paul's ministry underscores the importance of intentional teaching and loving guidance. This study aims to deepen your appreciation for children's role in the church and inspire you to participate actively in their spiritual formation.

By the end of the week, may you be encouraged to embrace Paul's mission with renewed passion, sharing the gospel effectively across generations and fostering a vibrant faith community where children are cherished and equipped to grow in Christ.















#### Your Verse

Mark 10:13–16 NIV – 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Matthew 19:14 NIV 'Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them..."'
- Psalm 127:3 NIV 'Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.'







## Devotional: Children: Cherished in God's Kingdom

Paul's mission always echoed the heart of Jesus, who welcomed children with open arms. In Mark 10, Jesus explicitly states that children belong to the kingdom of God, highlighting their intrinsic value. Paul understood this deeply. Though much of his writings focus on adult believers, his teachings imply a responsibility to include children in faith communities and nurture them.

Children remind us of the purity and trust we must have in God's promises. They symbolize new beginnings and the future of the church. Paul's mission entailed sharing the gospel with everyone, including those just beginning to learn about Christ. His letters encourage the community to care for and disciple younger believers who would grow into mature faith.

As we start this study, consider how Paul's message extends to the youngest members of the church. Reflect on the ways your life or community welcomes children into God's love and teachings. Embracing children means embracing the future of the gospel.







## Reflect and Apply

	How does Jesus' attitude toward children influence your view of their spiritual importance?
	In what ways can you contribute to welcoming and nurturing children in your faith community?
3.	What would Paul say about the role of children in the church today?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a childhood memory of faith or church that shaped you.
2.	List ways your community can better support children's spiritual growth.
	Reflect on how welcoming children changes the dynamic of a church service or Bible study.







## Prayer for Today

**Dear Lord,** thank You for valuing children and welcoming them into Your kingdom. Help me to see them through Your eyes and to be a source of encouragement and guidance in their spiritual journey. May I embody Paul's mission by sharing the gospel with patience and love, nurturing young faith with care. Bless the children in my life and community, that they may grow in wisdom and grace. In Jesus' name, *amen.*  $\bigwedge$   $\bigcirc$   $\swarrow$   $\bigcirc$ 







# Day 2: V Equipping Timothy: Faith Passed to the Next Generation









Day 2: **(**) Equipping Timothy: Faith Passed to the Next Generation

## Your Verse

2 Timothy 3:14-15 NIV - 'But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of... from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures.'

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NIV 'Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home...'
- Ephesians 6:4 NIV 'Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.'







Day 2: **(**) Equipping Timothy: Faith Passed to the Next Generation

## Devotional: Mentoring the Next Generation in Faith

Paul's relationship with Timothy shows the power of intergenerational faith transfer. Timothy knew the Scriptures from infancy because of his mother and grandmother's teaching. Paul's mentorship highlights the critical role adults play in guiding children to embrace the gospel early.

Equipping children with knowledge of God's Word sustains their faith through life's challenges and empowers them to participate in God's mission. Paul instructed Timothy not only in doctrine but also in how to be a leader and a teacher. This demonstrates that nurturing children involves both imparting foundational truths and modeling a Christlike life.

Reflect on the mentors and faith leaders in your own life. How has someone's teaching shaped your beliefs? Consider how you might invest time and love in a younger believer, following Paul's example.







Day 2: **(**) Equipping Timothy: Faith Passed to the Next Generation

## Reflect and Apply

	Who has been a spiritual mentor in your life, and what impact have they had?
2.	How can you intentionally pass your faith to children or younger believers?
	What practical steps can you take to help a child understand Scripture from an early age?







Day 2: ① Equipping Timothy: Faith Passed to the Next Generation

## **Journaling Prompts**

1. I	Describe a lesson or verse that was meaningful to you as a child.
-	
	Write a letter of encouragement to a young person in your faith community.
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	List ways mentors can support children in deepening their relationship with God.
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Day 2: • Equipping Timothy: Faith Passed to the Next Generation

## Prayer for Today

**Lord,** thank You for the gift of mentors who have shared Your Word with me. Help me to be like Paul and faithfully pass on Your truth to children and youth. Give me wisdom, patience, and love to guide them well, inspiring a lifelong passion for You. May the seeds of faith we plant today grow into strong roots in Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, *amen.* Page 1992 \*\*

















Day 3: Sharing the Gospel Boldly

## Your Verse

Romans 1:16 NIV - 'I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.'

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Acts 13:47 NIV 'For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles..."'
- Matthew 28:19 NIV 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...'







Day 3: Sharing the Gospel Boldly

## Devotional: Bold Faith: The Power of the Gospel for All Ages

Paul's mission to share the gospel exemplifies fearless boldness and urgency. He understood that the message of Christ is powerful and life-changing, capable of transforming hearts regardless of age, background, or status. For children, this means they too are invited to embrace this transformative power early in life.

Sharing the gospel boldly means overcoming hesitation or fear, trusting that God's Word will work in hearts. Paul never limited the reach of the gospel; he preached everywhere and to everyone, including households with children. The Bible encourages us all to be witnesses and to nurture faith courageously.

Reflect on your own boldness in sharing the gospel with children. Are you intentional about helping children understand and embrace Jesus? Pray for courage as Paul did, knowing the gospel has the power to save and renew.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	What fears or hesitations do you have about sharing the gospel with children?
2.	How does understanding the gospel's power affect your approach to evangelism with youth?
3.	In what ways can you create safe, welcoming spaces for children to encounter Jesus?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time you witnessed God's power in a child's faith journey.
2.	List practical ways to share the gospel with kids around you.
3.	Reflect on what boldness in faith means in your daily interactions.







Day 3: Sharing the Gospel Boldly

## **Prayer for Today**

**Father God,** thank You for the gift of Your gospel, powerful to transform lives of all ages. Help me to share Your good news boldly, without shame or fear. Open the hearts of children to receive Your love and truth. May I be a faithful witness reflecting Paul's passion for missions. Empower me by Your Spirit to shine Your light in dark places. In Jesus' name, *amen.* ?

















Day 4: R Spiritual Parenting and Community

## Your Verse

1 Thessalonians 2:7 NIV - 'Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children...'

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Colossians 3:21 NIV 'Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.'
- Galatians 6:2 NIV 'Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.'







Day 4: R Spiritual Parenting and Community

## Devotional: Nurturing Children Within the Church Family

Paul often likened his care for believers to that of a loving parent, illustrating the tenderness required in spiritual leadership. For children, the faith community acts as an extended family, providing nurture, protection, and encouragement. Paul saw his mission as one of care — teaching gently, bearing burdens, and fostering growth.

Spiritual parenting isn't limited to biological parents; it's the church stepping into the lives of children to support their development. Paul calls believers to create environments where children are not only cared for but also empowered to flourish without discouragement.

Consider the spiritual family you belong to. How does it hold and nurture children? What can you do to strengthen this support system, ensuring every child feels valued and encouraged to grow?







Day 4: Parenting and Community

## Reflect and Apply

1.	How does Paul's example shape your view of spiritual parenting?
	What roles can the church community play in supporting children's faith journeys?
	Have you experienced moments of encouragement or discouragement in faith growth? How can you offer encouragement to children?







Day 4: Parenting and Community

## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time you felt spiritually nurtured and cared for like a child.
2.	List ways your community can better support spiritual parenting.
	Commit to one practical step you can take this week to support a child's faith.







Day 4: Parenting and Community

## **Prayer for Today**

**Lord Jesus,** thank You for the gift of community and the example of spiritual parenting Paul modeled so well. Help me to be a source of love, encouragement, and care for children in my church and beyond. Teach me to nurture young hearts firmly and gently, reflecting Your grace. May our church family carry each other's burdens with compassion. In Your precious name, amen. (a) (b) (b) (c)







## Day 5: 6 Living Out the Gospel Example









Day 5: O Living Out the Gospel Example

## Your Verse

Philippians 3:17 NIV – 'Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.'

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- 1 Corinthians 11:1 NIV 'Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.'
- Titus 2:7–8 NIV 'In everything set them an example by doing what is good... Integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech...'







Day 5: O Living Out the Gospel Example

## Devotional: Modeling Christ-Centered Living for Children

Paul didn't just teach the gospel with words; he lived it out daily as a model for others, including children and young believers. His life was a tangible lesson in faithfulness, humility, and love. Children often learn best through observing actions more than hearing sermons.

As Paul urged the Philippians to imitate him as he imitated Christ, so too we can be conscious of the example we set before children. This means living lives characterized by integrity, kindness, and a consistent walk with God.

Consider the ways your behavior and attitude might influence children around you. Are you portraying Christ's love in visible ways? This is part of sharing Paul's mission — demonstrating the gospel so clearly children can follow eagerly after Jesus.







Day 5: **(iii)** Living Out the Gospel Example

## Reflect and Apply

1.	Who are the role models influencing your spiritual journey?
2.	What behaviors do you display that children might imitate for better or worse?
	How can you intentionally cultivate Christlike character to inspire younger believers?







Day 5: **(iii)** Living Out the Gospel Example

## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time a role model helped you grow in faith.
2.	Identify habits you want to develop or change to better reflect Christ.
3.	List practical actions you can take to be a positive example for children.







Day 5: O Living Out the Gospel Example

## **Prayer for Today**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of Paul and the life of Christ as our perfect model. Help me to live intentionally, reflecting Your love and truth in every action. May children see Jesus in me and be drawn closer to You. Strengthen me to walk humbly and serve others faithfully. In Jesus' name, amen. 🙏 💥 👣 🖏















## Your Verse

Proverbs 22:6 NIV - 'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.'

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- James 1:5 NIV 'If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God...'
- Ephesians 5:15–16 NIV 'Be very careful, then, how you live... making the most of every opportunity.'







## Devotional: Equipping Children with Godly Wisdom

Paul's mission also involved equipping young believers with wisdom and discernment to navigate life's challenges. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us of the lifelong impact of early spiritual instruction. Providing children with a firm foundation helps ensure they remain rooted in faith as they grow.

As children mature, the need for guidance in making wise choices becomes increasingly important. Paul's letters urge believers to seek wisdom from God and to live carefully, using time and opportunities for God's glory.

Consider how you help children discern right from wrong and make Godhonoring decisions. Are you providing tools and encouragement to build their spiritual discernment? Embracing this responsibility is a vital part of continuing Paul's mission today.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	How can you foster wisdom in the children and youth you know?
2.	What spiritual tools or practices help you make wise choices?
	How do you encourage young believers to be intentional about their faith daily?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Recall a piece of advice or wisdom that guided you in youth.
2.	Write about ways to teach children to seek God's wisdom actively.
3.	List spiritual disciplines that children can practice to grow in discernment.







## Prayer for Today

**Gracious God,** thank You for the gift of wisdom. I ask that You fill children and young believers with discernment and understanding as they follow You. Help me to be an instrument of Your guidance, encouraging faithful living and wise decisions. May their hearts remain steadfast, making the most of every opportunity to honor You. In Jesus' name, *amen.* 















## Your Verse

Acts 16:1–3 NIV – 'Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived... He was well spoken of... so Paul wanted him to accompany him.'

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Matthew 5:14 NIV 'You are the light of the world...'
- Luke 2:52 NIV 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.'







## Devotional: Empowering Children as Gospel Ambassadors

**Timothy's story illustrates that children and young believers are vital partners in God's mission.** Paul saw Timothy's potential as a disciple and entrusted him with significant responsibility. This encouraged early involvement in ministry, demonstrating faith's transgenerational nature.

Children are not just recipients of the gospel; they are also future bearers of the Good News. Teaching and empowering them equips the church for ongoing mission, ensuring the gospel continues to spread. Their fresh perspective and sincere faith bring unique gifts to the community.

As you conclude this study, reflect on how you can support and encourage children to become active participants in sharing God's love. Paul's mission to share the gospel lives on in each new generation.







## Reflect and Apply

	How can you encourage children to take on leadership roles in faith communities?
	What qualities in Timothy's story inspire you about youth involvement in ministry?
3.	How does involving children in mission impact the church's future?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Describe how you envision children contributing to the church's mission.
2.	List ways to empower young people to share their faith confidently.
3.	Reflect on your role in equipping the next generation for gospel work.







## **Prayer for Today**

**Lord,** thank You for raising up children and youth to carry forward Your mission. Inspire and empower young hearts to boldly proclaim Your name and serve Your kingdom. Help me to support and encourage their faith journeys, trusting in their God-given potential. May each generation build on the faith of the previous one, glorifying You in all they do. In Jesus' name, amen. \*\*



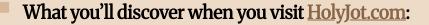




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