



Real Relationships

Paul and Timothy

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The most powerful force humans have at their disposal is the ability to believe. If someone truly believes in something, they will make it happen; they can change the world.

In real relationships, when we invest in someone, or are invested in, we are saying we believe in that person and in what they can become. That belief can change the trajectory of someone's life. A biblical example of this type of believing in someone is seen in the real relationship between Paul and Timothy.

Timothy was at a disadvantage socially.

Acts 16:1

- Timothy could not attend synagogue or be instructed by a rabbi because he was the offspring of a forbidden union between a Jewish mother and Greek father. (*Deuteronomy 23:2*)

1. How can someone's social standing, or lack of, affect how they view themselves and what they can accomplish?

Timothy believed in knowing the Holy Scriptures.

2 Timothy 3:14-15

- Though Timothy wasn't allowed to publicly study the scriptures, he devoted himself to studying them privately.

2. Do you devote yourself to knowing the Word of God?

3. What difference has knowledge of the scriptures made in your life?

Timothy was commended to Paul because of his knowledge of scripture.

Acts 16:2

- Timothy was socially outcast; however, he was spoke well of because of his knowledge of and adherence to the scriptures.

4. Is it enough to just ‘know’ scripture?

5. What would the people who know you commend you for?

Paul takes Timothy with him on the journey.

Acts 16:3

- Paul believes in Timothy; his ability to be of service to God and in the building up of the Church.

6. What effect has someone’s belief in you had on your life?

7. What effect has your belief in someone had on their life?

This week, ask yourself: 1) Who believes in me? and 2) Who am I believing in?

Family Connect Discussion Starter:

Share with your family the story of Paul believing in Timothy. Discuss the difference it makes when someone believes in them. Ask who they would say believes in them.