

**GUARDING THE WORD:
ENTRUSTING THE WORD TO THE NEXT GENERATION
2 TIMOTHY 1:8-2:2**

Read This First

The goal of this lesson is to understand the importance of entrusting the Word to faithful men and women who will then teach others. Our key text is found in 2 Timothy 1:8-2:2, however, reading all four chapters of 2 Timothy would be helpful in preparing to lead the discussion.

Relate to It

Name a skill or a love for something that your Mom/Dad or Grandma/Grandpa handed down to you. (i.e. canning, knitting, fishing, Gma's famous sugar cookies, etc.)

Reflect on It

1. **The Players:** The apostle Paul handed something he loved to Timothy--the gospel message. Although Paul and Timothy were not related, Paul considered Timothy to be his beloved son in the faith. What else did you learn about each man through your study this week?

Paul

an apostle
suffering for the gospel
rec'd gospel from God not man
formerly persecuted the church
formerly murdered Christians
now...preacher to the Gentiles

Timothy

Paul's spiritual son
Gma - Lois; Mom - Eunice; Dad - a Greek
good reputation by the brothers
learned sacred writings since childhood
traveled with Paul
preacher, teacher, evangelist
endured suffering for the gospel
timid, young, frequent ailments

2. **The Plan:** Paul encouraged Timothy to entrust and guard the treasure (the gospel message). Using your word study tools (Blue Letter Bible App; Hebrew/Greek Key Word Study Bible) define and discuss the following:

a. Entrust (G3866) *paratheke* -- a deposit, a trust or thing consigned to one's faithful keeping; used of the correct knowledge and pure doctrine of the gospel, to be held firmly and faithfully, and to be conscientiously delivered unto others.

- Describe the attributes of those to whom you should entrust the gospel.

(F - Faithful; A - Available; T - Teachable)

b. Guard (G5442) *phylasso* -- to watch, keep watch, have an eye upon lest he escape; to guard that it may remain safe; to protect; to keep from being snatched away; preserve safe, and unimpaired.

From the list of 2 Timothy passages referencing the gospel/good deposit/treasure, list ways to Guard the Treasure:

- do not be ashamed of it
- suffer for it
- teach it
- follow the pattern of sound words
- guard, through the Holy Spirit
- entrust it to faithful men who will teach others also
- be diligent
- rightly handle the word of truth
- correcting opponents with gentleness
- recognize opposition
- follow the teaching
- continue in what you have learned from childhood
- preach it
- be ready in season and out of season

3. **The Potential:** We all have circles of influence. Have your group members draw several circles on a sheet of paper. Inside each, write a category summarizing an area of influence or a group with whom they interact (i.e. Family, Friends, Co-Workers, Sports Team, Book Club, School, etc.). Underneath each circle, list specific names of people they might entrust the gospel to. Discuss as a group.

Remember It

If your group is larger than six, break down into smaller groups (no more than five or six in one group.) Then do the following:

1. Pair up so you can say your memory verses to one another. Explain why you chose that particular verse.
2. What are you feeling/thinking regarding the directive to make disciples? What attributes of God will help you as you endeavor to obey God's command?
3. Pray for one another.