



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

ROOTED IN FAITH SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

PRAY

Holy God, as we study Paul's letter to Timothy, open us to the word you want us to hear. Move us to identify new leaders and show us how to empower and nurture them. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen

WATCH VIDEO

Learn about how the World Communion Sunday special offering is making the difference in the life of a student and his community.



<https://youtu.be/-ui-u9MCleo>

READ THE SCRIPTURE: 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14

Ask participants to note any phrases, words or ideas that leave an impression on them. Suggest that they pay special attention to mentoring relationships.

LOOK AT THE CONTEXT

Timothy is one of Paul's students. Paul encourages Timothy to stay strong in his faith and to continue to grow in Christian faith. Timothy has had a strong upbringing through his mother and grandmother. He also has been spiritually fortified in the laying on of hands. Paul writes that strongly rooted faith is a valuable treasure. It is through a legacy of faith that we can live out the preferred future that God has for us.

"THE POWER OF GOD, WHO SAVED US AND CALLED US WITH A HOLY CALLING, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS BUT ACCORDING TO GOD'S OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE," WRITES PAUL.



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DISCUSS THE CONNECTIONS

- 1. Paul names Eunice and Lois as family members who raised Timothy with a strong sense of faith.** Who are the members of your family who raised you in the church? Share a story about how this impacted you as a child.
- 2. Paul is a spiritual mentor to Timothy.** He offers encouragement, even though being faithful sometime requires sacrifice. Who are spiritual mentors to you? Where do you find encouragement when the hostilities in the world threaten your relationship with God?
- 3. Paul instructs Timothy not to compromise the message of faith and love, even though he may face hostility.** Timothy is a teacher to others, passing on his faith just as others cared for him. Who are the potential leaders in your congregation whom you could mentor? What are the ways you serve in church that would allow you to partner with someone else to help him or her take on new leadership responsibilities?
- 4. World Communion Sunday is the first Sunday in October.** United Methodists have marked this as a day for receiving an offering to support scholars from around the world who are pursuing higher education. Many of the students supported are the first in their family to attend college. In what ways does this special offering reflect the roots of our United Methodist faith tradition?

PRAY

Thank you, God, for sending us mentors to deepen our faith with strong roots. As we partner with others, help us to be flexible and gracious. Just as Paul encouraged Timothy, give us just the right words to ease anxiety and fill us with a spirit of power, love and self-discipline. Amen.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

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