**Sunday School from Home**

**July 12, 2020**

The reading this week comes from Paul’s second letter to Timothy, which is Paul’s final letter in the New Testament. Paul is again instructing and encouraging Timothy and other church leaders, but the tone seems more reflective. Paul is writing from prison and anticipates being executed soon. This letter is Paul’s “famous last words” to his protégé, Timothy.

* Read 2 Timothy 1:3-7 from your Bible or online.
* Older kids and adults can read the entire book of 2 Timothy (it is short!) for further context.
* A video summarizing the entire book can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urlvnxCaL00>
* Paul makes a point of reminding Timothy that his mother and grandmother were important in the formation of his faith. Discuss with your family who in your childhood (or present) helps to encourage your faith, and for whom do you serve as a faith leader? Look at the family photographs around your home – they probably serve as clues!
* What kind of things does a faith leader do? For younger children, ask them to draw or paint a family portrait while talking about these attributes.
* While thinking about these faith leaders in our lives, create a faith family tree. You can make one tree for the entire family, or each person could make their own. Include people who encourage your faith, regardless of biological connections.
* For elementary aged children and older, try an art project called a split-face self-portrait. One side is meant to look like a realistic self-portrait (try putting a mirror in your art space), and the other side is meant to reflect who you are on the inside. This is a good opportunity to elicit some conversation about the way we see ourselves vs. the way others see us. Then try to circle this conversation back to the Bible lesson: what can we infer about Paul and Timothy based on Paul’s letters? How might they have seen themselves?

Below are some examples of this project. You can use any medium: colored pencils, watercolors, etc.

 

* Paul wrote many letters of instruction and encouragement to other church leaders. During this season of uncertainty, we may be in need of some encouragement too! Pretend to be Paul and write a letter to yourself – what do you think Paul would have said to you?
* For another way to find encouragement when we need it, have each family member create an encouragement box. You can use any small container – a mason jar, a small gift box, a brown paper lunch bag, etc. Dollar stores often sell small boxes intended as gift boxes or jewelry/trinket boxes. If you like, use whatever craft materials you have at home to decorate your box, and be sure to include your name. Once everyone has a box, write encouraging messages on small pieces of paper and put them in each other’s boxes. Display the boxes in a family space and add to the messages periodically. Allow each person to read their messages whenever they are feeling in need of some encouragement.
* Are you still working on memorizing the books of the Bible? If you have not started already, now is the time! Since we have been learning about Paul, try learning the books that are Paul’s letters in order. Physical learners might like jumping rope (or other movements) while reciting the books in order. When everyone can say them, reward yourselves with a special treat!