

FAITH AT HOME: October 17, 2021

This resource is intended to be used in your household: around the dinner table, at bedtime, or any other time you can gather together to share and reflect.



I've been meaning to ask...what do you need?

Beaten and imprisoned, Paul writes to Timothy with a simple request: “Come quickly.” He lists those who abandoned him, but says, “I hope that God doesn’t hold it against them!” In his greatest moment of need, Paul doesn’t need revenge, but instead asks for companionship.

SHARE

Share highs and lows from the week or use one of the questions below to spark conversation with your household.

READ: 2 Timothy 4:9-18

Read the passage aloud or silently and share a word or phrase that sticks out to you.

9 Do your best to come to me soon, ¹⁰for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. ¹²I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. ¹⁵You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message.

¹⁶At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

TALK

This time is for reflecting on the Scripture and theme in light of our own experiences. Use the following questions/activities as a starting point.

1. Questions that connect to Scripture:
 - a. Recall Paul’s story when he was still known as Saul, wreaking havoc in Jerusalem and persecuting Jesus followers (Acts 9). In his letter to Timothy, he is nearing the end of his life, imprisoned for following Jesus. Imagine what Paul is thinking and feeling as his life comes full circle.
 - b. Paul mentions the friends who abandoned him and then deserted him when he was on trial. His letter hints at the resentment, bitterness, and anger many of us feel toward those who have wronged us. However, it invites us to consider what we truly need to heal and move forward. According to his letter, what does Paul say that he needs?
 - c. Paul asks Timothy to “Come quickly.” When in your life has someone dropped everything to come be by your side? When have you done this for another?

2. Questions that connect to the theme (“What do you need?”)
 - a. Share a memory of a time someone extended care for you. What did they do and how did it make you feel?
 - b. Share a memory of a time you tried to extend care for someone else, but didn’t give them what they needed. What do you wish you could have changed about that experience?
 - c. What is your love language? (The five love languages are: physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, gifts, and acts of service.) Name a time when you have experienced this type of love and connection.
 - d. Share about a time you needed help but didn’t ask for it. What do you wish you could have changed about that experience?
 - e. What emotion do you feel most often: shame, fear, or anger? When you are in one of those spaces, what helps you move through those feelings?
 - f. What’s a gift (tangible or intangible) you’ve received that you’ll never forget?
3. Talk about what things help us feel better when we are sad or invite each person in the household to share what they do when friends or family members are sad. Notice that different people might need different things (or we might need different things at different times).
4. Write or draw cards or pictures to send to someone who might need to know they are not alone (or even send a text message or make a phone call!). Maybe a neighbor? Grandparent? (Ask a Pastor or the church office if you’d like a list of people from church to send the cards to!)

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for friends that help us, even when that help is just being with us. Help us to remember to ask what others need instead of assuming we know. Amen.

BLESS

Mark the cross of Christ on the hand or forehead of one another and say the words: “Name, God made you and God loves you!” Make sure everyone in the household is included – both giving and receiving this blessing!