

# INVESTING IN OTHERS

Paul and Timothy // Acts 16:1-5; 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 3:10-12

## THE POINT

Focus your mentoring on growth in Christ  
and in His Word.

Paul told Timothy that he was to teach other faithful followers of Jesus what he had learned, and it was to be passed on from generation to generation. Timothy had spent many years serving alongside and learning from Paul. Now, Timothy was responsible for applying the truth of Scripture and sharing it with others.

### › Key Question

**Why is a relationship of trust and openness such an important part of discipling others?**

We might be tempted to think of discipleship as the same as Bible study. In fact, many churches call their Sunday evening times of studying the Bible “discipleship training.” Of course, growing in understanding Scripture is an important part of discipleship. However, this is not all there is to it. Real discipleship happens when a teacher or mentor models for a learner what it is to follow Jesus. Think of Jesus’s relationship with His disciples—He didn’t just teach them the Scriptures; Jesus invited them to follow Him as He ministered to people and taught the good news of the kingdom. In the same spirit, discipleship involves a leader investing in real ways into the life of a learner.

### › Keep in Mind

Many students can trace their faith lineage back through generations. It’s an incredible blessing to have parents and grandparents who model what it is to follow Jesus and point their children and grandchildren to the truth. However, many students don’t have this same lineage. It’s important to help students who may have been brought up in different environments that we must honor our parents and other caregivers, focusing on and giving thanks for the things they did well. (This is not to minimize legitimate traumas. Point students with deeper struggles to the appropriate help.) It is possible to follow Jesus in a healthy and dynamic way, even without this kind of heritage—a mature teacher or mentor is an important part of this process.

### › Application

How specifically will you invest in others, helping them to grow in living out these values?

### › The Win

Students might be tempted to believe that discipling others is a reality reserved for people older than themselves. However, the truth is that no matter how young or old we are, God wants us to invest in others to help them grow in their faith. Help students identify specific ways they can invest in a young or less-mature believer.

STUDENTS

**BIBLE**  
STUDIES  
FOR LIFE.