

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



INFLUENCERS

1 Timothy 4:11–16 Paul's advice to Timothy

Who are you influencing? Jesus' great commission to the disciples, 'So go and make followers of all people in the world' (Matthew 28:19 *ICB*), was an instruction to all followers, not just adults. Followers of Jesus all have a responsibility to invest in the lives of others. As we explored earlier, Barnabas did this in the life of Paul, and today we see how Paul did this in the life of Timothy. Remember God invites us to build meaningful relationships with others. Who is God calling you to help him transform their life?

Each child will need:

- An adult nearby – see Start It section
- A piece of string or cord
- Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

- A piece of string or cord
- Pens/pencils and paper

Start It

Explain to children they are going to do a 'trust fall' with an adult in their house. (Remind adults to make sure they are in a safe space with soft flooring and are happy to take part.)

Ask children to stand a step in front of the adult with their back towards the adult. When the adult says they are ready, fall back without bending your knees into their arms.

Ask: How did it feel falling back? Did you trust your adult?

💡 **Say:** Some people we know we can trust and believe they will always have our best interests at heart.

Ask: Who are these people in your life?

💡 **Say:** There are some people who have influence over us without us maybe even realising it.

Ask the children to think about the people they like to watch, listen to or follow on social media, on YouTube, on TV. Children could search for them and show them or give you their name for you to look them up.

Ask: Why are you interested in them? Why do you follow them?

💡 **Say:** We often call these people influencers because they are people who have built a reputation for their knowledge and expertise on a specific topic. They share information on their channels and people enjoy seeing what they are saying.

Ask: Are all these people a good influence? Should we always follow what they say?

💡 **Say:** We can be influenced in a number of ways. By adverts, by social media, by what we read and hear, through our relationships. And just as we can be influenced, so we too can influence others.

💡 **Say:** In fact, Jesus instructs us to do just that. Matthew 28:19 says, 'So go and make followers of all people in the world.' We have a responsibility to invest in the lives of others.

In our story this week, we will continue to look at the lives of Paul and Timothy and their journey together with God.

Sing It

Join in with this version of Chris Tomlin's award-winning song. The ending of this song refers to Romans 8:31 (ICB), 'So what should we say about this? If God is for us, then no one can defeat us.'

'Our God' by Kids' Praise! Company (4mins 22secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emdd3ZOyKxA>

Tell It

Ask: Can you remember what we learned about Timothy last week? Who was he? Why had he been with Paul? What did they do? How did Paul care for Timothy?

🗨️ **Say:** 1 Timothy 4:11-16 (ICB)

'Command and teach these things. You are young, but do not let anyone treat you as if you were not important. Be an example to show the believers how they should live. Show them with your words, with the way you live, with your love, with your faith, and with your pure life. Continue to read the Scriptures to the people, strengthen them, and teach them. Do these things until I come.'

'Remember to use the gift that you have. That gift was given to you through a prophecy when the group of elders laid their hands on you. Continue to do those things. Give your life to doing them. Then everyone can see that your work is progressing. Be careful in your life and in your teaching. Continue to live and teach rightly. Then you will save yourself and those people who listen to you.'

Discuss

- ➔ I wonder what it means to be an example.
- ➔ I wonder how you can be an example.
- ➔ I wonder what gift Timothy was given.
- ➔ I wonder what gift you have.
- ➔ I wonder who Timothy was influencing.
- ➔ I wonder who you can influence.

Screen share: Jesus' great commission to the disciples.

'So go and make followers of all people in the world' (Matthew 28:19 ICB).

🗨️ **Say:** I wonder what this verse means. This was an instruction to all followers, not just adults. Followers of Jesus all have a responsibility to invest in the lives of others. As we explored before, Barnabas did this in the life of Paul; Barnabas reached out and nurtured him. Today we see how Paul did this in the life of Timothy.

🗨️ **Say:** Remember God invites us to build meaningful relationships with others. Your family, your friends, your neighbours, are all those whom God invites us to share his message with.

Action It

🗨️ **Say:** As a follower of Jesus we can follow Paul's advice to Timothy too.

Screen share: extracts from

'Do not let anyone treat you as if you were not important.'

'Show them with your words, with the way you live, with your love, with your faith and with your pure love.'

'Remember to use the gift you have.'

'You will save yourself and those people who listen to you.'

Activity

Ask the children to fold a piece of paper in half and half again. In the middle of each box write: WORDS, ACTIONS, LOVE, FAITH.

🗨 **Say:** Let's help each other think about the different ways we can help each other to share Jesus with others.

Screen share each word in turn and ask the group to add their ideas for how they use their words, actions, and love for others to make disciples in the world.

Children can then write a few ideas in their boxes using the group's ideas if they are not sure. In the faith section, support the group to think of ways they can spend time with Jesus to seek encouragement and courage to tell others.

Pray It

Ask the children to take a piece of string or cord and tie five knots in it to represent five people they can commit to pray for. Suggest that they could carry the knotted string in their pocket, place it somewhere that they'll see it regularly, or even attach it to their school bag. Use the knots to remind them to pray for each person on their list of five.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.