

"You shall teach
them diligently to
your children..."

Deuteronomy 6:7



July 8, 2015

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

DARE TO BE DIFFERENCE MAKERS

"Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge." 1 Timothy 6:20 NIV

Be certain, convinced, absolutely sure, persuaded...assured, that there is no circumstance, no event, no care, no concern, no distraction, no person, no power, no thought, no clutter, clatter or chatter...nothing can overcome God's Kingdom...God's Truth...God's Presence...God's Power...but, we must watch over, protect, shield, and guard the faith which has been entrusted to us, in our lives...and as we guard and protect our families...

Paul's instructions to young Timothy are power-filled...They are profound and life-changing, inspired and preserved by the Spirit of the Almighty God...and etched permanently and eternally on the hearts of believers in Yeshua Christ... Young Timothy, in his home-town of Lystra, faced many of the same distractions and challenges which our families face today... Scripture reminds that there is nothing new under the sun...and I think that is especially true for the interruptions and the distractions in our lives. They existed long before there was technology, screen-time, and social media.

Lystra was a town in Asia Minor, present day Turkey, and had been made a fortified Roman colony. It was a pluralistic society embracing Greek and Roman Gods, with the population consisting of the local aristocracy of Roman soldiers, Greeks and Jews, and the native Lycaonians. The town, was sometimes known for its rude and rowdy population, and recognized for its emphasis on education and enlightenment. Hmmm, this sounds oddly familiar in our world today...

Timothy, as a young man, was reared and taught faithfully by his Jewish grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice, in spite of the fact that his father was a Greek, and there was not a synagogue in his home-town. And yet, the faith-filled and faithful hearts of his mother and grandmother, in their teaching and writing of the Word of God on the heart of Timothy, overcame any and all of the interruptions and the distractions in their lives... Education and Enlightenment which pervaded the town... Greek and Roman culture which countered much of God's ways and His Heart for His people, and a home life which, in all probability, was not unified in spirit.

There, no doubt, was a climate of Culture Chaos!
Controlling the Clutter, the Clatter, and the Chatter

I can just imagine what Family Time might have looked like during Timothy's early life, the results of his up-bringing testifying to what must have occurred during his time with his grand-mother and his mother in his home. Remember, there was no synagogue. And, based on the two books which the Apostle Paul penned to this young man, I predict that his Family Entertainment totally countered the cultural norm and the Culture Chaos that certainly existed, within his home-town, and in the Family Time of many of his contemporaries.

DIFFERENCE MAKERS...

"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and I am persuaded, now lives in you also." 2 Timothy 1:5

Paul, very affectionately, refers to Timothy as his spiritual son...confident of his faith... And because of the firm foundation of God's Truth which he received as a child, within the constraints of his family... he and his grandmother and his mother became followers of The Way...believers in Yeshua Christ, as Paul came to their town and ministered the TRUTH to their spirits, to their hearts...Countering the Clutter, the Clatter and the Chatter of his city...of the Culture...through God's Truth!

And because of Timothy's sincere faith...Paul trusted Timothy with the specific instructions concerning God's Church...

DIFFERENCE MAKERS-CHILDREN

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

May we teach and remind our children that no matter what age, no matter what stage, to stand firm, to stand strong, to stand faithful... To stand with God and His ways. Timothy was a Difference-Maker...

DIFFERENCE MAKERS-MOTHERS... FATHERS... GRANDS

And faithful mothers and fathers, and grands, you are Difference-Makers as you teach, defend, protect, and guard your precious ones. Be certain, convinced, absolutely sure, persuaded...assured, that there is no circumstance, no event, no care, no concern, no distraction, no person, no power, no thought, no Clutter, Clatter or Chatter...no Culture...nothing can overcome God's Kingdom... God's Truth...God's Presence...God's Power...But, we must choose to watch over and to guard our faith...our family. Your Family Entertainment and your Family Time are gifts and opportunities to edify, to empower and to equip the hearts of your family members. Family Entertainment is an opportunity to counter the Clanging Culture and to Connect Family members with one another...and with their loving Heavenly Father...May your family be connected and blessed...You, my friends, are Difference Makers!

APPLICATION

Grab your Bible, journal, a pen and some TIME. Invite your children to do the same...and enjoy the print-outs included for the young ones.
(You will need their crayons or markers!)

Then gather around the kitchen table or throw out a blanket on the lawn.

Read aloud: "God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid. He gave us a spirit of power, and love, and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7 ICB

Discuss: God has given you and your family this beautiful world and this life to enjoy. And, He wants to have Family Time with each one of you.

What are some ways your family can invite God into your Family Entertainment, into your Family Time?

How can you use the power, the love, and the self-control which He gives to His children to guard and to protect your minds, your hearts, and your Family Time?

Discuss how each person in the family is and can be a Difference-Maker.

Discuss Timothy's example.

Enjoy your Family Time as you Dare to Be Difference-Makers!