



I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. 2 Timothy 1:5



When you hear, "*Actions speak louder than words*" who is someone in your life who lived that, and what is one thing they did that left an impression on you?

Read Proverbs 24:16, Lamentations 3:22-23, & 2 Corinthians 12:9.

1. As we follow Jesus our falling (or failure) doesn't have the final word. How does our culture's pressure for perfect parenting (or perfect living) contradict the biblical theme of God's strength being made perfect in our weakness?
 - How should this change the way we see failure?
 - How can we as a Life Group, Church assembly, and/or community help others feel that is ok to "fall" without feeling they have failed in faith?
2. In **Luke 2:19 & 2:51** Mary treasured and pondered things in her heart – why is the invisible investment of praying in private, modelling character at home, often more impactful than public Church services?
 - 87% of children in the NCLS survey cited their mother as the best example of following Jesus – what specific non-verbal actions do you think are most effective in pointing the next gen to Jesus?
 - What are some forms of spiritual faithfulness that often go unnoticed in everyday life – but are deeply formative over time?
(*Examples: prayer, consistency, restraint, self-control, forgiveness, showing up*)

Read 2 Timothy 1:5 & Titus 2:3-5

3. True “Mothering” often happens in the Church outside the biological role – how can we as followers of Jesus honour the “mothers” who may be aunties, mentors, sole fathers, siblings who are the spiritual mums of the next gen?
 - Who are the Christian women in your life who have had an impact on your walk? (*it may be a biological mum, or someone else*)
 - Who are the people God has placed in your life (*children, siblings, younger believers*) where your everyday faith could have a meaningful influence on them? (*This is about your faith being an example – not pressure to perform*)

 4. Jesus wept (**John 11:35**) How does this verse speak to you?
 - Why did Jesus weep if He knew He would soon raise Lazarus?
 - Knowing that Jesus wept at this time, how should that change how we approach Him in our times of grief?
 - If Jesus didn’t rush to fix this situation before connecting with those grieving – what does that teach us about comforting others?

 5. Read **Proverbs 31:28-30** carefully.
 - What is the difference between being excellent or perfect and being called blessed?
 - Why is this important?
 - In what ways does embracing God’s grace, rather than striving for excellence or perfection, free us to love others more?

 6. **Application Challenge.**
 - Send a text or note to a “mother” acknowledging the hard work they do that no one notices.
 - Identify your Lois, think of someone in the Church who has influenced your walk of faith – reach out this week and tell them how they have impacted your life – be specific.
 - Organise a Life Group project that benefits families in need. (Maybe serve in a shelter, provide food, look for a community project.)
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