



### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Luke 2:22-40, 2 Timothy 1:1-14 & 4:1-5  
1 Samuel 20, Mark 5:21-24 & 35-43,  
Psalm 78:1-8.

### DAY 1

Read [Luke 2:22-40](#)

We sometimes forget that Jesus was raised as a child by Mary and Joseph, his human parents. They were careful to teach him the Law and bring him up in a home where they practiced the tenets of their Jewish faith. As an adult, it was clear that Jesus had learned the scriptures and practiced his faith. He also learned to work by his father Joseph's side and became a carpenter.

- **As a parent, grandparent, or adult role model, how do you share our Christian faith with younger people?**
- **What do the children who live in close relationship with you - your own son or daughter, niece or nephew or grandchild learn about the Lord from your words and actions?**
- **What more should you do to share your faith with children or younger adults?**

**Ask God to help you discern your next steps as a teacher of the faith.**

### DAY 2

Read [2 Timothy 1:1-14](#) and [4:1-5](#).

Timothy was not Paul's biological son but Paul chose to be Timothy's encourager, teacher and mentor. Throughout Paul's letters and in several chapters of Acts, we read about how Timothy joined Paul in his ministry and became like a beloved son to him. Many of our young people would benefit from a mentor who is a faithful encourager like Paul was for Timothy.

- **Reflect on Paul's relationship with Timothy. How did Paul help Timothy grow in his faith and ministry?**
- **Do you know a child who needs a role model, mentor or encourager? What is preventing you from becoming a special adult in that child's life?**
- **Make a commitment to encourage a child to a life of faith. It can be your own child, grandchild or a neighbor. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your decision.**

## **DAY 3**

### **Read [1 Samuel 20](#)**

The story of David's friendship with Jonathan provides an example of a terrible lesson a son can learn from a father who pursues his ambitions too zealously. Saul had been chosen by God to be King of Israel, yet Saul allowed his own ambitions and jealousy to govern his treatment of David. Saul reminds us that a parent can be a bad example when he or she focuses on power, prestige or ambition. Imagine how Jonathan felt when he realized his father's ambitions caused such unfair treatment of David, Jonathan's best friend.

- **Can you think of an example of a parent who sends his or her children the wrong messages about what matters most in this life? Have you ever done this yourself?**

- **Do you know parents who seem to teach their children how NOT to act instead how they ought to act?**

**Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen you in your role as a child's best example of the way to live a Christ-like life.**

## **DAY 4**

**Read [Mark 5:21-24, 35-43](#)**

In last Sunday's message, Pastor Pam used the example of a father named Jairus to show us how our actions can teach our children to let go of pride, prestige and the world's bad advice, as we seek a closer relationship with our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. How do you think Jairus felt when his friends encouraged him to ignore Jesus?

- **How do you respond when friends, colleagues, or family members scoff at your faith?**
- **Are there ways that you can demonstrate your faithfulness so that others, young and old alike, can follow your example?**
- **Ask God to help you let go of your own pride or prejudices so that you can model the faithfulness of Jairus.**

## **DAY 5**

Throughout the Bible we read about parents including Abraham, Jacob, David, Lydia, Mary and Joseph, who make it a practice to teach their children about the ways of God. By their words and deeds, their children learned about God's mighty acts and were taught to follow their parent's faith traditions.

**Read [Psalm 78:1-8](#)**

The Psalmist reminds us that each generation has a duty to pass the faith on to the next.

- **How is your generation doing in passing knowledge of our Almighty God to the next generation?**
- **Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it. It provides every adult at St. Paul an opportunity to pour into the youngest generation. Pray about VBS and if you are so led, volunteer to help us make this the best VBS ever.**
- **What other opportunities can you take to become a teacher of the faith? Could you volunteer to teach a Sunday School class, lead a small group, or mentor in one of our partner public schools.**

**Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live into the words of Psalm 78.**

## **DAY 6**

Thank God for his grace and take some time today to think about how you could demonstrate the Father's love by being an example for a child in need.

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