

April 13/14, 2024
"Fanning the Flame"
Pastor Jeff Manion



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

April: Read Exodus to see how people, situations and events point to Jesus

Day 1 2 Timothy 1:1-8 | Paul and Timothy

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 2 Timothy 1:1-2

The Apostle Paul meets Timothy during his second missionary journey. Timothy lives in the town of Lystra and is a young follower of Jesus (see [Acts 16:1-5](#)). Timothy's grandmother, Lois, and mother, Eunice, have trained Timothy in the Scriptures. Paul then takes Timothy under his wing as a protégé. Timothy travels with Paul and is given important spiritual duties, such as serving as Paul's representative (see [1 Thessalonians 3:2](#); [Philippians 2:19](#)). Timothy later pastors the church in the major city of Ephesus.

The letter of 2 Timothy is Paul's last letter before his death. Timothy is Paul's "son in the faith" ([1 Tim. 1:2](#)) and someone with whom he shares a deep affection ([2 Timothy 1:4](#)). Paul and Timothy's relationship is key in the New Testament story. It also shapes our understanding of this text—a passionate letter from a spiritual father to a young, timid protégé. When appropriately read, these words encourage anyone facing discouragement or fear in spiritual struggles.

TODAY: Ask God what he desires to do in your heart and life through our study of this letter. As we begin this series, consider reading or listening to 2 Timothy. (An audio reading of 2 Timothy only takes about 10 minutes.) Pray for the grace to understand and apply this book's truths to your life.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 17](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.

Day 2 2 Timothy 1:3-4 | Spiritual Friendship

I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 2 Timothy 1:3-4

Paul and Timothy are more than mere acquaintances or work companions. They are spiritual friends. They know each other deeply and care for each other thoroughly. They encourage each other in their gospel work and faith in Jesus. They experience painful lows and spiritual highs. Their friendship develops through trials, victories and shared meaningful work over many years. Paul's departure is deeply emotional for Timothy ([2 Timothy 1:4](#)).

Spiritual friendships encourage and challenge one another to grow and deepen their relationship with Jesus. These friendships are a tremendous gift. Deep, spiritual friendships often result when people take Christian community to the next level. Two members from a small group may decide to meet for deeper conversations

and accountability. Christians at work or from the community can become meaningful spiritual friends. Wherever these friendships start, they need ongoing intentionality to cultivate further intimacy and depth of relationship.

TODAY: Consider your current relationships and who could be a spiritual friend. Ask God to reveal someone or bring someone new into your life. Then, take steps to invest in this relationship. Maybe invite them to meet for coffee to share your Christian journeys. If you already have deep, spiritual friendships, thank God for them and send a text today thanking them for their friendship.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 18-19](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note how Moses goes between God and the people and speaks God's words to them.

Day 3 2 Timothy 1:5 | Spiritual Influence

I am 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

Timothy is already well-grounded in the faith when he meets Paul. Paul notes later in this letter that Timothy has been taught the Scriptures "from infancy" ([2 Timothy 3:15](#)). Timothy is nurtured in God's Word and ways by his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, from the earliest moments of his life. Through Timothy, the spiritual heritage of these women paints the pages of Scripture and has left a lasting mark on church history.

Lois and Eunice's examples reveal the importance of spiritual formation in the home and from one generation to another. God has given us the responsibility of leaving a legacy in the hearts and lives of our children and grandchildren. As parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends live godly lives and share how to follow Jesus, the next generation can grow to follow him, too. The way of Jesus is both caught by example and taught through intentional conversations, church attendance and mentoring those in our home, family, or sphere of influence.

TODAY: Spend time journaling about who you can spiritually invest in from the next generation. This may include your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or neighborhood kids. Write their names down. Pray over them and ask God for wisdom. Then, take steps to invest in their spiritual development.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 20](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note Moses's growing role as a mediator between the people and God.

Day 4 2 Timothy 1:7 | Inadequacy

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

Timothy journeys with Paul and witnesses much of the hardship Paul faces in ministry. Timothy also begins to face hardship and resistance in his ministry. As a young pastor, Timothy is likely experiencing feelings of inadequacy and timidity. Like many others who step into roles of service or leadership, Timothy potentially questions his ability for the work God has given him.

The Bible provides many examples of God's people feeling uncertain or unconfident about their God-given abilities or tasks. Moses questions God after being called to lead Israel: "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ([Exodus 3:11](#)). When we step into spiritual service or leadership, we may feel inadequate, fearful or weak at times as well. We, too, may wonder, "Who am I to lead these people?" Scripture reveals it's not about our ability, knowledge or wisdom. Instead, God's power accomplishes his work

through the lives of finite and often fickle servants. He uses imperfect but willing (and growing) people to achieve great work in the lives of others.

TODAY: One of the ways God grows us in confidence in him and his calling on our lives is through intentional study. Join us for Sharing Your Faith with Confidence or Bedrock of Belief. These three-week classes start April 25 and will equip and encourage you to grow in your faith and live out your God-given purpose. Learn more and register at www.adabible.org/ada-bible-academy/.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 21-22](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.

Day 5 2 Timothy 1:6-8 | Fan the Flame

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2

Timothy 1:6-7

Timothy is tempted to look at his abilities (or lack thereof) and doubt God's work can be accomplished. Paul, however, reminds Timothy to make a Godward turn. Rather than focusing on his limitations, he is to fan into flame the gift God gave him. He must remember God is at work to give him courage and power for the work ahead.

Likewise, we must turn toward God in our spiritual duties and service. God is at work. He is the one who gives us spiritual strength, courage, and power. He provides spiritual gifts and transforms lives. Rather than focusing on our weaknesses and limitations, we can focus on him. He calls and gifts each of us to serve. We can use our gifts knowing God is with us and enabling us to accomplish the work he desires for us to do.

Spiritual intimacy and impact are connected at the hip. In other words, our walk with God (intimacy) is related to our spiritual impact on others. When we are spiritually healthy, engaging in spiritual practices and using our gifts to serve others, God does his great work in and through us.

TODAY: Evaluate your spiritual health. Is there a practice you need to begin, renew or refresh to deepen your intimacy with God as you serve others? See a list of spiritual practices [HERE](#). Then, join the Ada Bible Worship Team as they sing "[Firm Foundation](#)." Thank God he is the one we rely on as we do his work.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 23-24](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus