



You Need a Protégé

June 27, 2021

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Connect:

- Were you someone's protégé? Was there someone specifically who mentored you through some transformative growing experiences in your life? How did they come to mentor you? (*Did they earn that privilege?*) What did that mean for the direction of your life?

Engage

- Read **2 Timothy 1:1-14**. This opening passage is quite the heart spill of Paul over his protégé Timothy. Pull out some of Paul's heartfelt words that make it known that Paul believes in Timothy and trusts him to lead the movement forward. Is there someone in your life of whom you'd speak these kinds of phrases?
- It has been said that the three biggest questions in life are "Who Am I?" "Where do I fit?" and "What difference do I make?" (*Identity, Belonging and Purpose*). We are always wrestling with one or all three of these questions. Young people wrestle with greater urgency. When do you first remember wrestling with these questions? How did you come to some answers, if any, for any of the three big questions?
- Emerging Adults (*roughly considered ages 18-29*) are also the most absent age group from regular church engagement. This is also the phase of life where the biggest life choices are often made. Discuss the implications of this reality.
- "Do as I say, not as I do" is not the statement one can typically offer a protégé with any degree of effectiveness. Walking the walk is perhaps the first qualifier to create the openness of a protégé *withness* in your life. How are you keeping yourself prepared for such a calling to serve as a mentor to a hopeful protégé?
- If not in a long term relationship with a protégé, one can still offer a blessing to an upcoming generation through multiple forms of encouragement. What kind of blessing can you offer to the next generation to encourage them to keep the faith moving forward?

Next Steps:

- If you know who your *Timothy* is, reach out to them this week with a word of gratitude for the relationship you share. Even as you have mentored them, they have undoubtedly helped you become who you are today as well. If you don't know who your Timothy is, consider a ministry you might invest in with younger generations – volunteer in our youth or children's ministry. Spend time sharing your experiences with young people and learn from them about their experiences too.

Pray:

- "Thank you, God, for the protégés in our lives who keep us young and engaged in the future efforts of faith in the world. We thank you for the transformation that happens in our own lives even as we invest in the guiding efforts of those we are invited to mentor. Amen."