

Making Room for Children and Youth*2 Timothy 3:14-17*

Introduction: We are continuing our sermon series called *Making Room*, which is the name given to our building expansion project. The idea is that we need to make room in our building for people far from God, for children and youth, for worship and prayer. And, we need to make room in our own lives for these same things. In this sermon series, we are exploring what this means for us as a church and for us as individuals. Last week we talked about making room for people who are far from God. Today, we are considering how we can make room in our lives for children and youth.

Opening Question: Who is one person who had a significant positive influence on your life as a youth?

Read 2 Timothy 3:13-17

1. What indications do we get here of what had helped shape Timothy's life spiritually?
2. What is Paul's admonition to Timothy?
3. How is Scripture described in this passage?
4. How would you describe your experience with Scripture as a child?
5. What do you think might have given you a better experience in being shaped by the Scriptures as a child or youth?
6. Read 2 Tim. 1:5 and 3:10-11. Who influenced Timothy?
7. What insights do these passages give us into how these people influenced him?

8. Paul says that Timothy followed his example in a number of different areas (2 Tim. 3:10-11). Considering your influence on those around you (including children and youth), in which of these areas do you sense you need to grow stronger in your example?

Steve said:

As you think about your life and the impact you will make beyond your own family, is it possible that God would want you to invest deeply in the lives of children or youth? . . .

We don't actually need (or want) every single adult here to make this type of investment in our children and youth. You may be called to invest deeply in other ways and in other places (life group, Alpha, etc.); that's really fine. . . My point is not everyone can or should enter into this type of ministry. But I think we can safely assume that God wants **many** of us to make this type of investment in the lives of our children and youth.

This type of investment has to flow from a deep conviction in our lives; it shouldn't be the type of thing you do out of guilt or even out of obligation. Our vision is for this to flow from the lives of people who gladly and eagerly sacrifice for others and for other people's children. Our vision is that we would be the type of people who make room in our lives to invest deeply in this way.

9. In what ways, if any, are you sensing that God is prompting you to make room in your life to influence for children and/or youth?
10. What thoughts or ideas do you have about how we as a church might more effectively influence children and youth for Christ?