

Introduction:

Text: 1 Timothy 4:1-16

A. Question: Why is it important for us to influence and teach the next generation to follow and love God above all?

1. **Protection** from false teachings (vv. 1-5)
2. **Promotes** godly living (vv. 7, 12)
3. **Produces** future ministers that will proclaim, preach and teach God's Word (vv.13-14)

B. Question: How can we effectively influence and teach the next generation to follow and love God above all through our words and ways?

1. **Love** - the way we relate (Matt. 10:37; Deut. 6:5-7)
2. **Listen** - the way we communicate (James 1:19-20)
3. **Learn** - the way we understand (Col. 3:12-13; Prov. 14:29)
4. **Lift** - the way we encourage (Eph. 4:29 NLT; Prov. 18:21 NLT)
5. **Lead** - the way we influence (Eph. 6:4)
6. **Leave** it to God - the way we entrust our children to HIM (1 Peter 5:7)

Conclusion:

1. According to the Barna Research group, "three out of every five young Christians (59%) disconnect either permanently or for an extended period of time from church life after age 15." In your own opinion, what do you think are the main reasons?

2. Read 1 Timothy Chapter 1 and answer the following questions:

- a. What was Paul's relationship with Timothy like?
- b. What are some of the warnings, teachings, or encouragements that Paul mentioned in this chapter that helped Timothy grow as a leader and fulfill his life's calling?
- c. As parents, grandparents, mentors and teachers, what can we learn from Paul's relationship with Timothy on how to effectively influence the next generation to follow and love God above all?

3. Out of all the six points mentioned under letter B in your sermon outline, in your relationships with others, which one do you need to improve on the most, and why?

4. As a Life Group, suggest some practical ways in how your group can partner with the church in discipling and influencing the next generation to love and follow God.

Prayer