

## Lesson 27: Preaching and Teaching: Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, Part 2

**Biblical Passage:** 2 Timothy 4:1–4 **Memory Verse:** 1 Timothy 4:12

Our teenagers are surrounded by the message that homosexuality is a normal part of life. It's built into television. Some schools have organizations that promote it. We're being told we can expect to find it in youth sports.

Paul predicted this day would come. He encouraged Timothy to focus on proclaiming the Word of God. Read 2 Timothy 4:1–4. Paul's words are relevant for us today. If we fail to focus on what God has to say, we will turn to our own ways and find ourselves at war with God.

How important is it for us to teach God's Word at home? If we do not, we risk losing our children to the influences that come through TV, the Internet, movies, and school. The world tells our children that its way is right and our teaching concerning God is wrong. We cannot fail our youth at home. We must be faithful in teaching them truth even as we teach others. When we have equipped them with the truth, they will be able to influence their culture. It's an uphill battle, but God promises us His Word will not return to Him empty. It will fulfill the purpose for which He has sent it (Isa. 55:11).

### **Family Devotion Time . . .**

#### **Connect . . .**

First, family members find a plumb line or make one out of a weight and a piece of string. Go through the house and use the plumb line to test how vertically straight and upright your furniture is (i.e., bookcases, floor lamps). A parent explains that construction workers use this tool to see if structures are leaning. Say: **If we're not careful, our minds can play tricks on us and our eyes can be deceiving. That's why we use a plumb line.**

#### **Explore . . .**

First, a family member reads 2 Timothy 4:1–4. Then, another family member reads: **Paul encouraged Timothy to be faithful in teaching and proclaiming God's Word all the time, even when it wasn't popular. Just as we used a plumb line to test how vertically straight our furniture was, the Bible is a plumb line we use to see if we are living according to God's standards. We need to know what it says and proclaim it as truth to others.**

#### **Transform . . .**

First, the family identifies and lists ways our culture influences them to ignore God's Word. Ask: **What messages make us believe that something clearly crooked in God's Word is vertically straight? How might our culture begin to believe these evil messages over time if we do not become an influence by proclaiming God's Word?**

*Pray together that your family will use God's Word as a plumb line in their own lives and against the influences of the world.*

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