



## ***BIG IDEA***

No matter your age, your life can show others who Jesus is.

## ***BIBLE***

Titus 2:1-10

## ***ABOUT THIS WEEK***

Whether you're young or old, male or female, Paul says our actions matter. How we treat people helps others see how good God is.

*WHAT? What are we talking about today?*

**HOOK – Share a story of a mentor or someone who you really looked up to.**

- Maybe you even share the story of a bad influence that you had.
- It's no secret that the people we surround ourselves with matters, but the people who may play an even bigger role are the ones who we choose to follow.
- Think about someone in your life who really helped you—maybe they taught you something, gave you great advice, or simply believed in you. Now think about how different your life might be without that person. That's kind of what discipleship is. It's one person helping another grow to be more like Jesus.
- In today's portion of Titus, Paul gives Titus – a young man he's leading – instruction to pass on to the people.

**Titus 2:1-10 Highlights:**

- In this passage, Paul gives instructions to five distinct groups within the church: older men, older women, younger men, younger women, and slaves.
  - Each group is supposed to live in a way that reflects Jesus—and many of them are told to **train** or **model** what following Jesus looks like for someone else. Older women are told to **teach younger women**. Younger men are told to be **self-controlled**, and Titus is told to **be an example**.
  - **[A note about slavery] Before we move on:** When we hear the word "slavery," we often think about the terrible things that happened in American history—people being stolen, treated cruelly, and forced to work without freedom or rights. That kind of slavery was evil, and the Bible never supports it.

- But in Bible times, slavery looked a little different. It was still not good or fair, but it was often connected to things like debt or war. Sometimes people would become slaves to survive or to pay off what they owed. They weren't always treated terribly, and some had the chance to earn their freedom. But it was still a hard life.
- So why does Paul talk to slaves instead of saying slavery is wrong?
- Paul knew that slavery was part of the broken world he lived in. Instead of starting a rebellion (which would have led to even more danger for Christians), he gave instructions to help people live like Jesus—even in unfair situations. Paul wasn't saying slavery was okay. In fact, the way Christians treated each other—with love, respect, and equality—eventually helped end slavery in many places. The message of Jesus changes hearts, and that changes cultures.
- So what Paul says to slaves is really about this: *Even if you're stuck in a hard place, your life can still show people who God is.*
- His point? No matter who you are, if you follow Jesus, your life should show it.

#### Key Truths from the Passage:

- Discipleship means growing and helping others grow.
- Everyone—young or old—has a part to play in the family of God.
- The way we live helps others see what following Jesus really looks like

### SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

#### Bridge the Gap:

- Middle schoolers often think, "I'm just a kid—does how I live really matter?" Paul would say YES! Even young people have the chance to show others who Jesus is through kindness, self-control, honesty, and respect.

#### Illustration:

Middle schoolers might feel like they're not ready to "teach" or "train" anyone. But discipleship doesn't have to mean standing on a stage. It can look like:

- Being kind when others aren't.
- Helping a younger sibling understand a Bible story.
- Asking an older Christian for help when you're stuck.

It's kind of like a relay race. Someone hands you the baton of faith, and your job is to run with it—and then pass it on. You're both learning and leading at the same time.

#### Key Phrase to Repeat:

Disciples make disciples.

### NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

#### Call to Action:

- Who is someone older in the faith that you can learn from? Talk to them this week. Ask a question.
- Who is someone younger or newer to faith that you could encourage?
- What's one way you can live your life this week to show someone else what Jesus is like?

#### Closing // Set up discussion

- The church grows best when we grow together. You don't have to have all the answers. You just need to be faithful—to learn from others, and to help someone else follow Jesus too.
- And right now, we're going to go to small groups, where you will have a chance to live this out, right now!