

Planning



Sunday, October 2 – Saturday, October 8 • 2022

Good Treasure

We find something to hold on to as the gift of faith is passed down from generation to generation, a gift we treasure in the community.

This week...

Ecumenical prayer calendar

Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

As listed in *Pilgrim Prayer: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*, edited by Ester Pudjo Widiastih and Karen L. Bloomquist. (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2018). <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle> offers valuable aids for intercessory prayers, prayer on behalf of and in solidarity with others.

Special days (commentary on p. 80)

October 2 – World(wide) Communion Sunday

October 4 – St. Francis of Assisi

October 5 – Yom Kippur (*Judaism*)

October 8 – Mawlid al-Nabi (*Islam*)

Personal reflection

There is longing in this letter to Timothy. Longing for those far away and remembering those who provided the foundation of the author's faith. A longing to see how Timothy has turned out as he has grown in his faith. This is also a letter of encouragement to one who is struggling in their faith. It is a reminder that even the most devout follower of Christ can grow weary and need renewal. We are reminded that our faith, even when it dims, can be rekindled.

How do you find yourself today? Do the dying embers of your faith need the Holy Spirit to breathe on them and rekindle them into a fire? Are you in a place where you are thankful for the gifts and treasures handed down to you from prior generations? Gifts of love and faith and hope? Are you thankful for the good treasure you have been given in your faith in God? The answers to these questions can help shape your worship this week as you consider where to focus your preaching, teaching, and worship leadership. On this World Communion Sunday, it may also be worth noting that Christians around the world are reading these same texts and asking similar questions.

The planning page is provided in text format for copying, adapting, and adding to your bulletin or online worship resources or website or social media (see Text folder, Worship Outline).

October 2, 2022

17th Sunday after Pentecost

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proper 22 (27)

Revised Common Lectionary (Year C)

Lamentations 1:1–6

Lamentations 3:19–26 or Psalm 137

2 Timothy 1:1–14

the focus in age-level materials

Luke 17:5–10



Seasons of the Spirit™
is based on semi-
continuous readings of the
Revised Common Lectionary.

Liturgical colour green

Notes

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Online Resources

Lection Connection

Essays and discussion prompts linking current events with this week's scriptures. Use for sermon preparation, Bible studies, and small groups or share on social media at <https://www.seasonsonline.ca/10/>.

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

An easy-to-share, weekly online resource supports the spiritual lives and faith formation of individuals and families at home. It is provided in the [Faith at Home](#) folder.





Lamentations 1:1–6
Lamentations 3:19–26 or
Psalm 137
2 Timothy 1:1–14
 the focus in age-level materials
Luke 17:5–10



Seasons of the Spirit™ is based on the semi-continuous readings of the Revised Common Lectionary.

Good Treasure

This week's readings illuminate a living faith from age to age and grief to grief; through the tears of captive Jerusalem likened to a widow in mourning, to the tears of Paul in prison recalling his joy in his protégé's faith, a faith nurtured in community that will go on. There are circumstances unique to each age, but there is also a commonality of experience portrayed in these readings: lamentation, grief, doubt, shattered hope. In the midst of these are proclamations of faith and testimony to the remembrance of a loving and merciful God. In the long history of faith, empires come and empires go, crushing and threatening, but they cannot extinguish the flame of love and hope that is passed from hand to hand in the shadows. Rekindling faith is a sacred task that belongs to all of us, for we are its inheritors.

The author of Lamentations, assumed to be an eyewitness to the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon in 587–586 BCE, laments the devastation of a people forced by their conquerors into exile. **Lamentations 1:1–6** takes the form of an acrostic poem. Each new stanza begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet and introduces an image of the city as a bereaved woman – isolated, grieving, vulnerable, dependent on her conquerors.

In **Lamentations 3:19–26** (the alternate reading to Psalm 137), the poet continues to proclaim faith by both expressing honest grief and affirming trust in God's steadfast love. The poem embodies the faithful act of making time for and finding words to express grief, tragedy and despair, and testifies to the spiritual courage of those who continue to place trust in God, even in times of great calamity.

Psalm 137 is the lament of those in exile. How can Israel worship God away from the temple? How can Israel remain faithful in a foreign land? There they must guard the faith treasure entrusted to them. The closing verses of this psalm seem unbelievably harsh, but they reflect the pain and anger of an oppressed people. We are called to serve others in obedience to God's teaching rather than in the hope of reward.

2 Timothy 1:1–14 Writing from a Roman prison, from which he does not expect to be released, Paul testifies to the gospel

Holy Spirit, who kindled faith in our ancestors, rekindle that same sincere and powerful faith in us. Inspire us to worship you and to testify to you, gladly and fearlessly, relying on your gift of grace. Amen.

message he has long proclaimed and appeals to Timothy to continue that proclamation. Paul laments many things: followers who have deserted him, his awareness of ongoing conflict with the larger Christian community, and his knowledge of people turning away from faith. Yet despite such sorrows, Paul demonstrates remarkable calm in the face of impending death. Affirming his calling as an apostle and teacher, Paul calls upon Timothy to carry on his legacy, urging him as a leader in the church to rekindle his faith by trusting and relying on the spiritual heritage gifted to him by his biological family, his mother and grandmother, and by his family of faith, Paul himself.

Scholars debate the letter's origin. While some accept Paul's authorship, the three letters known as the "Pastoral Epistles" (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus) differ enough in language and content from Paul's undisputed letters to suggest either an author who may have been a follower of Paul, present during his last days, or one from a generation later who responds to church conflict by invoking Paul's authority. Regardless, the author intends to communicate to church leaders a call to remain faithful to the tradition they have received and to demonstrate that faith by passing it on.

The theme of remaining faithful through hardship continues in **Luke 17:5–10**. As often is the case in Luke, the disciples provide Jesus with an opportunity to illustrate his message. After hearing stories that lift up the small, poor, sick and humble, the disciples ironically demand an increase in the size of their faith. Jesus responds in frustration – perhaps at their self-focus, perhaps at their lack of understanding – telling disciples then and now that even a small amount of faith in God will be enough.

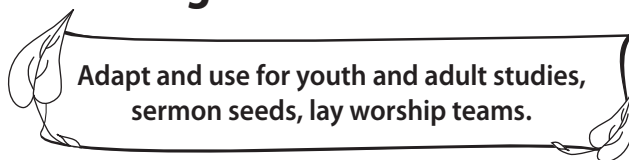
Faith is the good treasure that is its own reward.

• • • • •

This week's readings remind us that faith grows in community. One generation passes the knowledge of God's grace on to the next, and a faithful community both remembers its heritage and considers its future legacy. As we reflect on the "good treasure" of faith (2 Timothy 1:14), we consider: How can our faith lead us to hope when we find ourselves in a strange land? Who has led and encouraged us in faith? How are we passing on our spiritual legacy?



Reflecting on the Word



Connecting with life

In the 1997 movie *Paradise Road*, women held under brutal conditions in a Japanese prison camp during World War II create a vocal orchestra. Their singing is an act of spiritual – if not always physical – survival, which even has the power to move the emotions of their captors. The tagline for the movie is “Courage Echoes Forever.”

- **In what ways has spiritual courage been demonstrated in the lives of people you know? How have their examples created echoes that continue to influence your life? the life of your community?**

Scripture

Lamentations 3:19–26 offers not only the pain of lament but also a note of hope.

- **How does your community help one another move within these two realities?**

2 Timothy 1:1–14 Paul, recalling Timothy’s faith, urges him to rekindle this gift of God, encouraging him not to be ashamed of his testimony.

- **What circumstances might have been at work to create a sense of shame around the testimony of the gospel? Have you encountered similar circumstances or feelings around gospel testimony?**

Paul calls on Timothy to remember “the faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice...”

- **Where did your faith live first, before it lived in you?**

Luke 17:5 The apostles demand that Jesus increase their faith, a demand that Jesus resists.

- **What might be the difference between Paul’s encouragement to Timothy to rekindle the gift of God that is within him and the apostles’ demand to Jesus to increase their faith?**
- **What was happening for the apostles that they were seeking an increase in faith? What were their concerns?**

Consider Jesus’ response to his apostles in Luke 17:6 that faith the size of a mustard seed contains strength enough to uproot a tree and plant it in the sea.

- **How might the apostles have understood Jesus’ answer? What does it say about the nature of faith?**

Connecting scripture and life

Paul writes what we might consider a living love letter, a personal encouragement to Timothy in a time of uncertainty. He writes to Timothy as a beloved child in the family of faith, recalling the grace given to both of them in Christ Jesus and urging Timothy to guard what has been entrusted to him. We can only imagine what this letter might have meant to Timothy.

- **To whom might you write, encouraging them in faith? What would you say?**
- **In what ways are you, individually and as the church, “good treasure,” in word, action, and deed – a legacy passing on to a new generation? How might you be?**

Focus for Worship, Learning, and Serving

Faith endures through adversity, as demonstrated by Paul’s testimony from prison and the poet of Lamentations, who bore witness to the devastation of exile. Faith does not make light of hardship, distress and suffering, but faith endures and sustains those undergoing times of trial. The disciples’ demand that Jesus “Increase our faith!” reveals a misconception about faith that many wrestle with today.

This week’s readings instruct us not to aim to increase our own faith but to share our faith with others and pass on the legacy passed on to us. As described by Timothy, the treasure of faith is one of “power, love, and

self-discipline” and contains all that we need to endure the challenges life deals us. We may well find it easier to focus, like the disciples, on strengthening our own faith than on sharing our faith with others, yet sharing the good news we have learned is an essential part of our call as Christians.

What object or symbol might be placed today to help people recall and remember those who passed on their faith and observe how that faith has sustained during difficult times? How might worship, this week, encourage the people in witnessing to the love and way of God?



Good Treasure

Prepare

NOTE: The following suggestions are mere starting points; adapt, delete, and add according to your local needs and context. If a community is gathered in person, they may speak the **bolded** lines. If worshippers are not all physically present, consider having a different individual say the bolded responses. Instructions are *italicized*.

- ❑ Recruit volunteers needed for worship: multiple voices for the opening prayer (optional); a scribe to record responses to the reading from Lamentations 1:1–6.
- ❑ Choose an option for hearing 2 Timothy 1:1–14. For the Bible story, arrange for a storyteller to present “A Letter for Timothy” on p. 82 or “Telling Jesus’ Story” in Exploring Our Faith at the end of this week’s materials. For the dramatic reading, arrange for a reader and four actors.
- ❑ Bring items for setting the worship space.
- ❑ You might choose to print *Just as We Are One* on or in your bulletin (in the Images to Project and Print folder). For background to the art and artist, see “Connecting with the Art” on p. 8.
- ❑ Bring song such as “I Am a Child of God” (*Seasons Songbook*, vol. 8, #13 on *Seasons Music CD*, vol. 8. Printed music and recording also available at *Seasons MP3 Downloads*, www.seasonsonline.ca).
- ❑ Set stations as described on pp. 83–84.



Music Suggestions

I Am a Child of God

Bruce and Cheryl Harding; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 8

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

Ruth Duck; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 5

Everyday Loving

Linnea Good; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 5

The Heart of Your Dreaming

Kevin Bates; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 5

Christ Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisholm, William M. Runyan

When We Are Living

Anonymous

Within Our Darkest Night

(You kindle the fire that never dies away)

Taizé



A chart that shows the licence holder(s) for each song in each of the 9 *Seasons of the Spirit* Music Volumes can be found at www.seasonsonline.ca. Click on Library; Seasons Music Information. Please contact a licence holder for permission to duplicate.

Gather

Opening prayer

This prayer may be read by one voice or by multiple voices alternating lines (either as leader and people or a variety of voices).

We are not possible without you, God.

We are the products of those who came before.

We influence those who come after.

You bind the generations to one another.

We offer the treasures we find in you to one another.

Passing them down through the ages.

Hear us as we worship you.

Prayer of confession

Gracious God,

we come before you as bearers of a faith

for which we are not always known.

Sometimes we shrink from the gift entrusted to us,

as if it is the least part of ourselves,

as if passing trivialities matter more,

as if faith has no real weight in the scheme of things.

Forgive us our unfaithfulness.

Forgive us for our turning from your gifts.

Call us back to life in you,

today and every day.

Amen.

Words of affirmation

God is merciful and forgiving. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ, we are assured that God sees us from far and greets us with tender mercy when we return to God. Therefore, let us be at peace with ourselves, with God, and with each other.

Amen.



Engage

Opening the word

Make sure candles and wrapped gifts are prominently displayed to provide visible reminders of the themes of rekindling and spiritual gifts.

Lamentations 1:1–6 If worship leaders prefer to focus on Lamentations, which may be the case if a painful event has occurred in the congregation's life, offer a dramatic reading of the passage and explain that the Israelite poets used structure and form to help them express emotions that felt almost too painful to express. Then engage the congregation in creating a communal acrostic poem. Have letters of alphabet run down a large sheet of paper, or projected computer page, and have a scribe record words or sentences beginning with each letter to express the pain people are feeling. Remind them to trust in the Holy Spirit: the goal is not a beautiful poem but an honest expression of lament to be lifted up to God.

Introduction

What do you think are the most important lessons to learn in this life? Think of a young person in your life for whom you care deeply. If you knew you could only contact them one more time, in a handwritten letter, what would you write?

What pops into your head as the most important things to impress upon them? Would you write about fond memories you want them to treasure? Would you impart words of wisdom, or guidance, or encouragement? Would you write at length or keep your words brief?

2 Timothy 1:1–14 *the focus scripture for age-level materials in ENCORE*

Choose from the following.

Bible story Have a storyteller present the story "[A Letter from Timothy](#)" on p. 82. Alternatively, for younger children, tell the story "[Telling Jesus' Story](#)" (in Exploring Our Faith at the end of this week's materials).

Dramatic reading Have someone read while others act the story. An actor plays Paul, in prison, writing his letter, while another actor (Timothy) sits apart, a small candle beside him, reading the letter. As verse five is read, two women appear behind Timothy, holding candles. As the passage concludes, have the actor playing Timothy contemplate both his candle and the gifts displayed.

If gathering in person, invite children, young people, and all who wish to move to the stations. Others will remain seated for proclaiming the word. For those participating at home, you might encourage them to use materials that have been sent.

Respond

After proclaiming the word, you might invite those who have not already done so to move to and around the stations, taking ten minutes or so with a chosen practice.

Sing or listen to the song "I Am a Child of God" (*Seasons Songbook*, vol. 8, #13 on *Seasons Music CD*, vol. 8. and available for purchase as an MP3 download) as people gather again.

Depending on the proclamation of the word and the practices engaged, the congregation may

- offer a communal statement of faith.
- engage in a laying on of hands for those in need of comfort, healing, or "rekindling" in their faith.
- share acrostic poems.

Prayers of the people

God of steadfast love,
our faith was born
in ancient prisons,
kindled from ashes,
sustained amidst mourning,
and passed to us to light our paths.

We recall with tears and joy
the ones in whom our faith first lived.
We name them now in our hearts.

Pause for silent remembrance, or invite the congregation to offer names out loud.

This is their testimony:
that your love is unceasing,
your mercies are new every morning,
and you are the portion
for those who wait for you.



We recall their testimony
with tears and joy.
Pause for silent remembrance.
God of steadfast love,
write our lives as living love letters
to those who will come after us,
just as our mothers and fathers in the faith
passed love letters of their lives to us.
Amen.

Invitation to the offering

God has given us good gifts:
the gift of life, the gift of love, the gift of mercy,
the gift of this good Earth, our home.
The gift of teachers, the gift of presence,
the gift of people to love, the gift of a call to serve,

and the gift of hope for the future of God's world.
God has given us good gifts.
Let us return for God's use a portion of what God has
given us,
to further God's purposes in this world.

Prayer of dedication

Holy One,
may our hearts be attentive to your voice.
Open our eyes to the needs of the world.
Strengthen in us the mission and spirit of this faith
community.
Accept and use this offering towards furthering the reality
of your realm on Earth
through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Bless

Go forth in the promise of God's steadfast love.
We go forth in the promise of God's new mercies.
Go forth as bearers of faith, ancient and new.

We go forth with the kindled faith of our forebears.
May your paths shine with light and love.
Amen.

Special Days Commentary

October 2 – World(wide) Communion Sunday

This day is observed in many parts of the world, although not by all churches. Some denominations produce special worship and learning resources for this day. Some ecumenical agencies encourage churches to acknowledge that on this day, perhaps more than any other, Christians around the world are – symbolically – gathered at a common table.

October 4 – St. Francis of Assisi

Generally known as a lover of birds, animals, and creation in general – statues of St. Francis frequently appear in gardens – Francis of Assisi was also a strong champion of the poor and outcast of his time and society. The son of a wealthy Italian cloth merchant, Francis underwent a profound spiritual transformation. He lived a humble, peaceful life, rebuilding the ruins of church buildings as places of worship and refuge.

October 5 – Yom Kippur (Jewish)

Yom Kippur (literally "Day of Atonement") is the holiest, most sombre day of the year and is first mentioned in the Bible in Leviticus 23:26–32. On this day, Jews abstain from eating, drinking, wearing leather (a sign of comfort) and

even sexual relations in order to focus not on physical needs but on spiritual ones. The holiday begins with everyone absolved of the ambitious vows made in the past year, which people could not fulfill. On Yom Kippur, everyone has the opportunity for teshuvah or returning to the divine way of living. We are obligated to seek forgiveness from God and from those we have hurt. This last is often the more difficult of the two because God is obligated to forgive us, but people are not.

We recite litanies of sins we have committed, always saying "we have sinned" rather than "I," perhaps to remind us that we are always part of the community and responsible for communal transgressions, no matter how we pursue the benefits individuality. – *Rabbi Adam Morris*

October 8 – Mawlid al-Nabi (Islam)

Muslims celebrate this day as the birthday of the prophet Mohammed, the founder of Islam, born this day in 570. Since the 13th century, the day has been a significant festival, usually preceded by a month of celebration. The day itself includes special worship, gift-giving, and feasting. While observed in many countries, some conservative Muslim sects consider the celebration idolatrous.



Rekindle the Gifts

Directions

1. Use the chart below to develop a personal plan for rekindling the spiritual gifts that are present in you. These might include things like serving, teaching, leadership, giving, mercy, prophecy, or specific talents that are helpful to your spiritual life or useful in your congregation. You might also want to develop specific spiritual or social justice passions. You can use this chart for that, too. Whatever your endeavour, the Holy Spirit is with you and will guide you along the way. (Note: Biblical references to spiritual gifts: Romans 12:6–8, 1 Corinthians 12:8–10, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11, 1 Peter 4:11)
2. Think of someone who might serve as a mentor or guide as you work on developing your spiritual gifts. In the next week, reach out to her/him and ask for support.

Your Spiritual Gift	"Rekindle" Exercises	Mentor
Example: Giving	1. Practice giving money to the homeless without judging what they might use it for. 2. Volunteer to serve on the board of a local community organization.	Sunday school teacher
Example: Prophecy	1. Read an article about a community concern you are passionate about. 2. Share this concern with your congregation and educate them about the role you can play in making a difference.	Young adult minister

Your Spiritual Gift	"Rekindle" Exercises	Mentor



A Letter for Timothy

Based on 2 Timothy 1:1–14

The cell was dark and cold. Paul sat in the corner with a small oil lamp and a bit of papyrus. It was not easy to get parchment to write on, so he had spent the better part of the day thinking carefully about the letter he would write to Timothy. Paul had been ill for some time now, and every day he grew more tired and weak. Serving Christ was a joy for Paul, but it was not easy to be a follower, and now he was paying the price – locked inside a cell, lonely and sick. Paul didn't know how much longer he could live this way.

The last time he tried to get word to Timothy, he had asked

him to come and visit him. He had so much he wanted to tell him and teach him, and writing was getting more difficult. He also wanted to hug Timothy, to see his strong and happy face one last time.

But there had been no word from him, and now Paul knew that with his time running short, he needed to write him one last inspired letter. After much praying and thinking, he was ready to begin. Paul coughed, massaged his cold, stiff hands above the oil lamp, dipped his sharpened reed into thick black ink, and began:

I, Paul, a teacher for Christ by the will of God, write to my beloved Timothy. I wish you grace, mercy, and peace.

Every night, just before I go to sleep, I pray. As I pray, I think of you and how grateful I am for you. I think of your sincere faith, a faith that has been passed down from your grandmother Lois to your mother Eunice and now lives in you. I long to see you to explain this in person, but this letter will have to serve.

Remember that feeling when we prayed together, and I laid my hand on your shoulder? That feeling of deep faith and wonder? I want you to remember it always and continue to rekindle that feeling. God didn't give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and love, and self-discipline. Don't be ashamed of these feelings or the fact that I, who share them, am in prison. We have both been called by the grace of God to spread the word of Jesus the Christ.

Yes, it is because I answered this call that I am now in prison and suffer as I do, but I am not ashamed. I put my trust in God, serve the best I can, and teach all who are willing to hear. I have taught YOU, Timothy. I have given you all the teachings that have been entrusted to me by God, and now they are yours as well. Hold to them and share them in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Guard this treasure well, Timothy, and share it with all who are ready to accept the gift.

Paul straightened up as a teardrop fell and blurred a bit of his last sentence. He had so much more to say, but it would have to wait. It was late, and Paul was tired. He turned down

the wick of the lamp and closed his eyes, praying to God and remembering warmly his dear young friend, Timothy.

A recording of this story is available in MP3 format in the Audio Stories folder.



Bible story

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Paper or drawing pads
- Recording of today's story
"A Letter for Timothy"
- Alternatively, arrange for a storyteller to present the story

The practice of storytelling

Directions

1. Listen to the story "A Letter for Timothy."
2. How might you show God's love to someone? Use the drawing materials to write or draw what you might do.



Living, Learning, Growing as Disciples

The following stations might be set up around your worship space, or in other places around the church, in your home, or outdoors. Choose one or more practices, depending on your space and numbers. Display the directions for all to see onscreen or in person. Adapt stations for use when physically distancing and above all, follow the safe practices of your congregation and local health officials.

For your convenience, directions are formatted for printing and available in the Stations folder.

Health and Safety Practices



Basic supplies pens, pencils, markers, crayons, white glue/glue sticks, scissors, hand sanitizer, wipes placed in a basket or bin, two containers marked “clean” and “used”



Setting the space Utilize large spaces where people can maintain a safe physical distance. Spread out chairs around a large table or use tape to mark off the space around stand alone chairs.



Keep it clean Wipe down and disinfect places used for stations. Provide enough arts and crafts supplies to reduce sharing and mark containers “clean” and “used.” Remind people to use hand sanitizer as they begin and as they end stations.

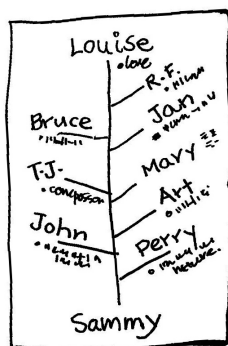
A faith family tree

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Bibles or copies of 2 Timothy 1:5
- Large sheets of paper
- Personal journals (optional)



Suitable for all ages working together



The practice of giving thanks

Directions

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:5 to yourself and reflect on who are the people that have passed the faith to you.
2. Use the paper and drawing materials provided to draw a faith family tree. Write your name at the bottom of the page. Above your name, write the name of someone who passed on the faith to you. Connect your names with a line. Connect your name to as many names as you can remember of people who passed on the faith to you.
3. Write an attribute of faith that you inherited from each person on your tree.
4. If time and space allows, share with someone else at this station about one of the names on your tree.
5. Offer a short prayer thanking God for the “heirloom” of faith and those who passed it on.

Younger children Draw a picture of someone in your faith community who cares for you and loves you.

Lament and healing

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Current newspapers and magazines
- Paper
- Bible open to Lamentations



Suitable for ages 9-adult

The practice of lament

Directions

Read Lamentations 1:1–6 either to yourself or aloud together.

1. Consider the laments of both the world and you. Select either articles and/or photos from the magazines and newspapers on the table that represent these laments and cut them out.
2. Glue the articles and pictures that you cut out onto the provided paper to make a collage.
3. Close your time with a prayer for healing and for the wounds that might need to continue to “air out” in order to heal over time.



Naming our gifts

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Bibles or copies of 2 Timothy 1:1–14
- Several packages of large sticky notes (at least 7.5 x 12.5 cm/ 3 x 5 in)
- Large sheet of poster board divided into three layers: Community gifts; Congregation gifts; Personal gifts



**Suitable for all ages
working together**

The practice of building community

Directions

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:1–14, paying particular attention to verses six and seven, where Paul tells Timothy to “rekindle the gift of God that is within you.”
2. Use the sticky notes to name your spiritual gifts (personal), the congregation’s gifts, and the community’s gifts. Place these in the appropriate layer on the poster board. Think about these questions:
 - **What gifts do you bring to the table? (Think about your spiritual gifts or gifts related to your faith and think about your talents and the things about which you are passionate.)**
 - **What gifts do you see in others in your congregation – or maybe in the congregation as a whole?**
 - **What are the gifts of the larger community? What individuals or organizations outside of your church community have spiritual gifts that might help your congregation grow in some way?**
3. When you have finished, step back and look at the gifts you’ve identified.
4. Close with a short prayer of gratitude for all that the Holy Spirit is doing in your congregation.

Younger children Help younger children write down an example of their gifts or the things they do well. Ask them about the things they like about their church and the community – those can be added to the poster board.

Bracelets

Materials

- Variety of embroidery yarn
- Hand sanitizer or wipes



**Suitable for all ages
working together**

The practice of remembering

Directions

Timothy was reminded of the ancestors of the faith who had sown seeds of faith for new generations

1. Create “living faith” bracelets that will remind you of those who have mentored you in faith.
2. Cut embroidery floss or yarn into lengths of about 45 cm/18 in.
3. Form pairs and have each person choose lengths of yarn in three hues.
4. Secure and knot at one end, and then braid these together.
5. When the braid is long enough to encircle the wrists, tie with another knot and trim.
6. As you work on your bracelets, tell stories about people who have been important to you. These are the people you will remember whenever you wear your bracelets.

The article “[Connecting with the Art](#)” on page 8 provides background to this season’s posters and art engagement ideas for individuals and groups. You might add an Art station and select one of the art engagement ideas.



Story and activities for the very young to use in church or at home.

Telling Jesus' Story

A story based on 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Jesus was a teacher
whose love for God was true.
He showed God's love to others
saying, "God loves you."

Timothy was a disciple.
He had no time to lose.
He passed on Jesus' story,
telling others the good news.

Lois was a disciple.
She had no time to lose.
She passed on Jesus' story,
telling others this good news!

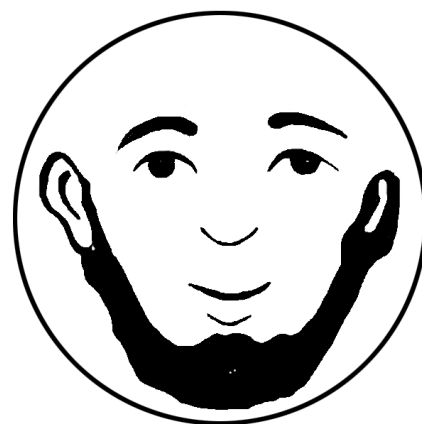
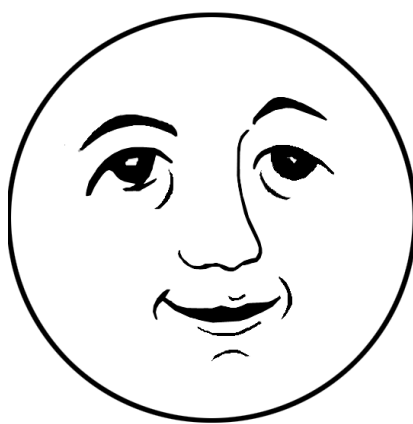
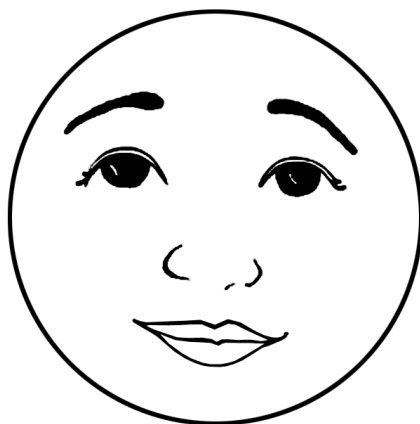
Now we are all disciples.
We have no time to lose.
Let's tell people Jesus' story,
and share the good news!

Eunice was a disciple.
She had no time to lose.
She passed on Jesus' story,
telling others this good news!

Puppet faces to tell the story

Instructions

- Cut out each face and glue it onto a small paper plate.
- Add yarn for hair.
- Attach a craft stick to the back of each plate for a handle.
- Decide which puppet is Lois, which puppet is Eunice, and which puppet is Timothy.
- Repeat the poem "Telling Jesus' Story," holding up the puppet faces as you say the names.
- At the last verse, put down the puppets so all can see your own disciple face.



We each have special gifts – things that we do well. We can use them to show God's love to everyone. What are some things you can do to show God's love?

Draw pictures of what you are good at doing, gifts that you can use to show God's love.

