

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

Scripture

2 Timothy 1:8-14; 2:1-7

Session Summary

Paul was imprisoned not for being a criminal, but for doing the work of the Lord, so Timothy did not need to be embarrassed to be associated with him. When fellow believers suffer for following Christ, our response should be solidarity. It can be a powerful witness to show our love for other believers even when it risks our social status. That is what Paul was calling Timothy to—a willingness to take risks in order to identify with Jesus and himself. We see similar examples throughout the Bible, especially in the Book of Hebrews. Moses “chose to suffer with the people of God” instead of taking advantage of his status as Pharaoh’s grandson (Heb. 11:24-25), and some Christians endured “taunts and affliction” in order to care for believers in prison (Heb. 10:32-34)

Rather than be embarrassed, we should live unashamed of the gospel. The church has been entrusted with the sacred truth of the gospel, and we should stand for it boldly. Simultaneously, we need to speak the truth in a way that embodies the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness. Our tone and demeanor matter. Paul said we should guard the gospel with faith and love. Jesus was full of grace *and* truth Himself (John 1:14). We must speak the truth in a way that seeks to win the person and not just the argument.

- How can we stand with others who are being mistreated?
- How can we be more bold in our commitment to the gospel?
- What should we do when we are tempted to be combative and unkind?
- What kind of difference would it make if Christians stood up for what was right *and* did it with the fruit of the Spirit?

Choose a few things to debate as a family, starting with things that are insignificant (chocolate ice cream vs. vanilla, etc.) and moving towards things that are more significant (doctrine, public policy, etc.). Create two teams and assign viewpoints to defend. Here’s the challenge: make your case as strongly as possible, while resisting the tendency to be rude or disrespectful. Work as a family to be full of both boldness and kindness.