



“Examples of Believers”

3 Women from Acts
I Timothy 3:11

Jesus calls us to:

I. Faith - “Even so...be grave not slanderers” (I Timothy 3:11)

Acts 13:50....Gossip injures ministry

A faith that is : LYDIA (Acts 16: 13-15)

A. **Hopeful** - “prayer was wont to be made”

B. **Humble** - “which worshipped God, heard us ”

C. **Honorable** – “If you have judged me to be faithful...”

II. Family -“Even so... be...sober” (I Timothy 3:11)

The World does not value the homemaker, Read “No Occupation”

A family that is: LOIS (Acts 16:1-3) (II Timothy 1:5, 7)

A. **Successful** – “was well reported of by the brethren”

B. **Sincere** - “the unfeigned faith that is in thee” II Timothy 1:5

C. **Strong** – “the Spirit ...of power...of love...of a sound mind”

III. Fruit -“Even so...be...faithful in all things” (I Timothy 3:11)

A fruit from the: DORCAS (Acts 9:36-42)

A. **Master** – “a certain disciple named Tabitha”

B. **Ministry** – “full of good works and almsdeeds”

C. **Mission** - “known throughout all Joppa... many believed”

Sentence Sermon:

“Our faith calls us to be fruitful: starting with our own family and then extending out to others around us.”

Additional Verses

- II Timothy 1:3-5
- Proverbs 31:13-27
- Proverbs 31:28
- John 15:1-11
- I John 3:17
- Proverbs 19:17
- I John 3:17
- Jude 1:21-23
- Proverbs 30:17
- Psalm 127
- Proverbs 14:1, 31
- Proverbs 11:25
- I Timothy 4:12

Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words in the passages?
2. Why isn't Timothy's father or Lydia's husband mentioned?
3. How often has our society made it more difficult for godly women?
4. Who is your favorite woman of the Bible? Why?
5. How would you rate the importance of Mother's day from 1-10?
6. What is the most amazing thing that mother's do?
7. How can we as church family be supportive of mothers in our church?
8. Which one of the women in Acts is your favorite example? Why?
9. What aspect of Christian maturity is hardest for you?
10. How will you honor and support the women in your life today?

INTRODUCTION

Mothers deserve our love?!

YES ! We should love them:

- 1) Verbally
- 2) Physically
- 3) Patiently
- 4) Attentively
- 5) Gratefully
- 6) Generously
- 7) Honorably

Speaking of Verbally, SCRIPTURE SAYS....

Proverbs 31:28 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed;
Her husband *also*, and he praises her:

SO, this morning we would like to give out some flowers to our ladies...but we would love to have children, husbands, or friends to come up say a sentence of affirmation and present the flower.
Who wants to be first?

I Timothy 3:11

THREE (3) Qualities found in mature women....

1. *semnas*, - honorable character....**are to be worthy of respect**, (the same word, is used of deacons in v. 8),
 - not slanderers (*diabolous*, from *diaballō* “to slander”; from this verb comes the noun “devil,” the chief slanderer) of others,
2. *nēphaliōus* - **but temperate** (, “well-balanced;” cf. v. 2; Titus 2:2),
3. *pistos* - **and trustworthy** (lit., “faithful” or believing) **in everything.**

WOMEN´S ACTS

Women are mentioned either directly or indirectly over 20 times in the book of Acts.

There are 3 separate times that it mentions women were tortured for their faith:

No Occupation

She rises up at break of day and through her tasks she races.

She cooks the meals as best she may and scrubs the
children's faces

While schoolbooks, lunches, homework too, all need
consideration...

And yet the census man insists

She has— “No Occupation”

When breakfast dishes all are done

She bakes a pudding, maybe.

She cleans the rooms up, one by one,

With one eye watching baby.

The mending pile she then attacks
by way of variation.

And yet the census man insists

She has — “No Occupation.”

She irons for a little while, then presses pants for Daddy.

She welcomes with a cheery smile returning lass and laddie.

A hearty dinner next she cooks (no time for relaxation),

And yet the census man insists

She has—“No Occupation.”

Lydia

There is only one mention of her by name in Scripture—in Acts 16 we find the record of her conversion and her subsequent baptism (Acts 16:11–15).

She was a seller of purple cloth, which Thyatira was famous for, being a center of indigo trade. Lydia apparently had moved to Philippi to ply her trade in that city. Archaeologists have found among the ruins of Thyatira inscriptions relating to a dyers' guild in the city.

The Macedonian Call – After Paul answered the callwho was the first person he encountered? LYDIA....She would be a trailblazer and an example for many to follow.

LYDIA (purple seller, a standing pool, a Lydian)

Lydia was also a worshiper of God (Acts 16:14), and, when Paul found her, she was honoring the Sabbath, which means she was likely a Jew. The account of Lydia's conversion says that she was gathered with a group of other women on the Sabbath at a place of prayer near the river outside of Philippi. The fact that Paul, Timothy, Luke, and Silas came to the riverside to speak to the women most likely indicates there were not enough Jewish men in Philippi to open a synagogue there. (10)

Whether “her household” refers only her family, or if there were servants included in the number “she prevailed upon us,” which indicates the fervency of her desire to be hospitable.

Up to that point, the gospel had not gone further west than Asia Minor. In fact, on this journey, Paul's original intention had been to stay in Asia, but God had changed his plans. The Lord sent Paul a vision calling him westward across the Aegean Sea and into Macedonia ([Acts 16:6-10](#)). **Lydia**, although a native of Asia Minor, is the first person recorded to have been saved in Europe.

Later in biblical history, we discover there is a church in Thyatira ([Revelation 2:18](#)). Paul did not visit that city in any of his missionary journeys, and we have no record of who might have established that church. Could it be that Lydia is the one who brought the gospel to her hometown?

LOIS – (Best or most Beautiful)

There is not a lot of information in Scripture regarding Lois and Eunice, but what we do know is an encouragement to all mothers who

want to raise their children to love God. **Lois and Eunice were a mother/daughter team that raised up a man of God**, Timothy, who was the Apostle Paul's most trusted companion and disciple. It is only in Acts 1:6 and 2 Timothy 1:5 that we find record of these women, but what a strong commendation the Apostle Paul gives to them. In 2 Timothy 1:5, the Paul writes: **I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.** **These women were responsible for passing their faith on to the next generation.**

First, let's look at Lois. The name Lois means **agreeable** or **desirable**. And she appears to have lived up to her name! The Apostle Paul praises her in his second letter to Timothy as one who passed on the mantle of faith to both her daughter and her grandson. While there are numerous grandmothers mentioned in the Bible, 2 Timothy is the only place where the term **grandmother** is actually used.

Lois was a devout Jewess who had obviously instructed her daughter and grandson in the Old Testament Scriptures. The Scripture is silent about Lois' husband, yet we do know that she gave her daughter a Greek name, which might indicate that he himself was Greek. The family lived in Lystra, among a people who worshipped the gods of Greece, yet she faithfully raised a daughter who loved God and helped raise a grandson who shared that love.

Coming to Lystra on his second missionary tour, Paul found the young man highly spoken of by the little group of Christians in that city. He was of such evident ability and promise that Paul made him a missionary helper.

Since his father is not mentioned in connection with Timothy's faith, it is apparent that these two godly women trained him up so that he both knew and loved God's word. The name Timothy means one who fears God, a name obviously picked by his faithful mother. Christian truth; for Paul calls to remembrance the earnest faith which first dwelt in them.

The record of Timothy demonstrates the value of positive Christian training in the home. Lois and Eunice took the responsibility to pass on their faith very seriously and as a result they raised up a young man to become a servant of Christ.

DORCAS (Gazelle)

Dorcas, or Tabitha, in the Bible lived in the town of Joppa, a city on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

Dorcas was also called Tabitha—*Dorcas* is a Greek name meaning “gazelle,” and *Tabitha* is the Aramaic rendering of the same name.

Dorcas was known for her good works and acts of love for the poor (Acts 9:36); she was much loved in the community of Joppa. When she

. They all showed Peter “the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them”—tangible evidence of Dorcas' loving service (Acts 9:39).

“ This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord” (Acts 9:40–42).

Bringing Dorcas back from the dead was not done for Dorcas' sake—

\ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it” (1 Corinthians 12:25–26). Dorcas was one of their own, and her absence left a huge void in their lives.