

# **BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW:**

## **Senior Sunday**

May 22, 2022

**Overarching Theme:** 2022 – *The Year of the Lord’s Favor* (Luke 4:19)

### **Instructions:**

When using this material as teacher, feel free to pick and choose the point you want to emphasize in the lesson. *The format of the curriculum is designed to have an abundance of information in which to refer as desired.*

### **Core Point:**

As the world begins awakening from 2 years of pandemic stupor, the words of Jesus proclaiming “the year of the Lord’s favor” is a message whose time has come. This passage from Luke 4 harkens back to the ‘year of jubilee’ of Leviticus 25 and Isaiah 61, a year of a fresh start, a clean slate and reset for everyone who can envision new *possibilities* with God this Easter season and always.

### **Reflect on this Scripture:** *2 Timothy 1:1-7 (CEB)*

*From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God’s will, to promote the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus.*

*<sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my dear child.*

*Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*<sup>3</sup> I’m grateful to God, whom I serve with a good conscience as my ancestors did. I constantly remember you in my prayers day and night. <sup>4</sup> When I remember your tears, I long to see you so that I can be filled with happiness. <sup>5</sup> I’m reminded of your authentic faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice. I’m sure that this faith is also inside you. <sup>6</sup> Because of this, I’m reminding you to revive God’s gift that is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup> God didn’t give us a spirit that is timid but one that is powerful, loving, and self-controlled.*

### **This Week:**

In this passage from 2 Timothy we see the theological emphasis on continuity with what had gone before: “apostle of Christ Jesus through God’s will”; the grace of Christ in conjunction with the mercy of God; Pau’s service in the gospel in continuity with the worship of his forebears; the sincere faith of Timothy inherited from mother and grandmother; the gifts given by the Spirit.

The continuity between Spirit first given and ongoing obligation was important for Paul. Maintaining the "first love" can be easily sentimentalized and become an excuse for failure to grow in faith, but Paul would not have re-called his converts so often to the beginnings of their lives as Christians unless he saw the decisiveness of that first commitment and yielding to God as somehow paradigmatic for the life of the committed in dependence on God. How can the freshness of first love and devotion be maintained without becoming overformalized and entrapped in rules and procedures? Not a few are still looking for the church that can answer that question effectively!

– *Adapted New Interpreters Bible Commentary, volume XI, pg. 834*

### **Questions to Ponder for Accountability in the Group:**

1. Remembering how Timothy was nurtured in the faith by mentors such as his mother Eunice, his grandmother Lois, and Paul, remember your mentors in the faith. How did they help you grow and become the Christian you are?
2. What are you doing to foster love, learning and growth in the next generations?
3. What does a spirit that is timid look like? What does a powerful, loving, and self-controlled spirit look like? What can you do to move closer to a powerful, loving, and self-controlled spirit?
4. What qualities do you see in the generations younger than you that can help the church right now? What qualities do you see in the generations younger than you that can help the church of the future?

### **Activity for the Life of a Disciple:**

1. Remember to find encouragement for the day by reading the daily devotional from FUMCC
2. Pray for how God's will can be done through us in the Bright Hope for Tomorrow campaign.
3. Find a ministry in the church that would benefit from your gifts. Work with a child or a youth in that ministry; help mentor them in the faith.
4. Ponder and pray on this scripture this week: 2 Timothy 1:7:  
*God didn't give us a spirit that is timid but one that is powerful, loving, and self-controlled.*