

# Sermon Based Small Groups Study Questions

## Strengthening Family Ties

### 1 Timothy 5:1-16

#### Start It: Connecting with each other

1. At work, were you ever in a position of authority over men or women older than yourself? When you had to correct them, did you treat them differently from your age or from those younger than you?
2. How does our society today show concern for the elderly who are in need? Do you think this has changed over the years?

#### Study It: Connecting with God's Word

1. [5:1-2] Timothy was considered a young pastor ([4:12](#)). Why do you think Paul included this instruction to him? (remember also that in all of the letter, Paul has the false elder / teachers and their negative influence in mind) Why are the instructions different for each group?
2. [5:3-11] Define (i.e., list the criteria) who a 'true' widow is from the viewpoint of church support. On what basis was Paul concerned for all widows (see [Exodus 22:22-24](#); [Deut 10:18; 24:19-21](#); [Isaiah 1:17](#); [Zechariah 7:10](#); [Mark 12:42-43](#); [Acts 6:1](#); [James 1:27](#))?
3. [5:4, 8] Who should take care of widows? Why should they? What benefit do they obtain from doing so? What judgement if they do not?
4. [5:11-12] The "previous pledge" refers most likely to the pledge the young widows made when first put on the list; that is to live solely for Christ. However, what was Paul concerned about when such young widows were supported financially by the church?
5. [5:14-15] How does Paul's advice in this verse differ from the false elder's teaching (cf. 4:3)? How does Paul's advice protect both the young widow and the church?
6. [5:4, 8, 16] Compare verses 4, 8 and 16. How are they the same and how are they different?

#### Live It: Apply the Truth of Scripture

1. Are you (or have you been) in the position of supporting a mother or grandmother in her old age? Did you see your support as something 'godly'? How does v. 8 effect you?
2. In v. 5 Paul states that a widow "fixed her hope on God." Do you "fix your hope on God?" What does this mean to you in your everyday life?
3. Have you ever made a promise to God and then because circumstances changed broken the promise? Is it still possible to fulfill the promise? Is it sometimes better not to make such promises in the first place? See [Leviticus 5:4; 19:12](#); [Numbers 30:1-2](#); [Ecclesiastes 5:4-7](#); [Matthew 5:33-37](#); [James 5:12](#). Does God forgive such sins (see [1 John 1:9](#))? Is there condemnation for these ([Romans 8:1-2](#))?
4. Do you think the church should take care of elderly widows if they are active in the church? Does the church have such a 'list'? What is the criteria to get on the list?