

GROWTH GROUP

Study Guide

A Caring Community – 1 Timothy 5:1-16

My Story

1. Who are/have been the 4 most significant women in your life?
How has each influenced you?

Digging Deeper

2. How would you compare Paul's recommendations on dealing with older and younger people (vv.1-2) with how those in our western culture deal with those groups today?
3. How do you react to the idea that a person who does not provide for family (including older parents) is "worse than an unbeliever" (v.8)? Why do you think Paul uses such strong language in this verse?

4. Read Acts 6:1-7. This gives us some idea of how widows were being cared for in the early church. How might this system become corrupted? How would the guidelines in verses 4-8, 9-10, and 11-15 eliminate some of these dangers?

Reflection

5. Does the way you speak to and treat other people around you (children, peers, elderly) vary depending on if they are relatives, friends, or strangers? Where do you need to better put Paul's instructions in verses 1+2 into practice?
6. Name some ways the church cares for the elderly in our midst today? How might we do better at this?

SERMON NOTES

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Taking the Next Step

Who are the widows in your extended family? Are their needs being met? Take time this week to pray for them and consider reaching out with a phone call, note, or visit.

Praises / Prayer Requests

