

Values Matter Discovery Starters

We Are Visionary

6. CHAMPION YOUNG PEOPLE

YWAM is called to champion youth. We believe God has gifted and called young people to spearhead vision and ministry. We are committed to value, trust, train, support, make space and release them. They are not only the Church of the future; they are the Church of today. We commit to follow where they lead, in the will of God.

[1Sa 17:32-50](#); [Ecc 4:13-14](#); [Ecc 12:1-7](#); [Jer 1:5-10](#); [Dan 1:17-20](#);
[Joe 2:28](#); [Joh 6:9](#); [Act 16:1-5](#); [1Ti 4:12-16](#); [1Jo 2:12-14](#)

Value #6 – Champion Young People: Despise Not Youth

Biblical Foundation:

Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. Until I get there, focus on reading the Scriptures to the church, encouraging the believers, and teaching them. Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecy spoken over you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you. Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress. Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you (1Ti 4:12-16).

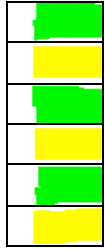
Discovery Starter:

As Paul writes to his "true son in the faith" (1Ti 1:2) , two things are of paramount concern to the apostle:

- the well-being of Timothy, and
- the well-being of the Church.

This dual concern is reflected in the very structure of the letter. Paul goes back and forth between these two topics. At times he instructs Timothy about his life as a minister of the Gospel. At other times he focuses on the nature of the ministry in the church. This literary "interchange" can be portrayed as follows:





A ₁	1:1-4	Charge to Timothy
B ₁	1:5-17	Focus on the Church
A ₂	1:18-20	Charge to Timothy
B ₂	2:1-4:5	Focus on the Church
A ₃	4:6-5:2	Charge to Timothy
B ₃	5:3-20	Focus on the Church
A ₄	5:21-23	Charge to Timothy
B ₄	5:24-6:10	Focus on the Church
A ₅	6:11-16	Charge to Timothy
B ₅	6:17-19	Focus on the Church
A ₆	6:20-21	Charge to Timothy

Everything he writes in this letter reflects his love for and his trust in Timothy to act as an anointed minister of the Gospel. Timothy is a young leader who is being mentored by Paul and who in turn is mentoring other emerging young leaders. In our foundational passage, part of the longest of the six "Charge to Timothy" segments, Paul gives eight imperatives to Timothy: two regarding what he should not do; six about the priority items for a young leader:

- 12a *despise not* youth
- 12b *set* an example
- 13 *pay attention* to the public reading of Scripture, preaching and teaching
- 14 *neglect not* God's gift
- 15a *devote* yourself to these things
- 15b *immerse* yourself in these things
- 16a *keep a close watch* on yourself and on your teaching
- 16b *persevere* in these things

The instructions that Paul gives to a younger leader underscore his confidence in Timothy's ability to be able to make spiritually mature choices. You entrust a charge to someone who is trustworthy, and that is a character issue; not an age issue. Paul confidently delegates to Timothy a leadership role in the church. These are encouraging words of endorsement.

Keep Going:

Meditate on the eight commands/instructions Paul gives to Timothy. What do you like about them? What do you find challenging? On which of them do you feel like God would want you to focus? How can you cultivate more the spiritual gift not only in yourself, but also in those around you? Are there any younger leaders near you that you can encourage like Paul did with Timothy? How can you endorse them in their ministry contribution?

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