

From Inherited Worldview to Personal Conviction

2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14–15

The goal is a personally embraced and lived faith. Children receive truth from us; we pray they become persuaded of it and choose to continue in it.

Received truth → Believed truth → Lived truth

Timothy received the Scriptures as a child, became assured of what he learned, and was called to continue in it. His mother and grandmother influenced him, but the faith was also his own.

1 _____ truth

What truth are our children receiving from us?

- Children absorb our beliefs, standards, priorities, attitudes, reactions, fears, and loves—not only our formal lessons.
- Timothy knew Scripture from childhood. Eli’s sons knew religious life but did not know the Lord (1 Samuel 2:12).
- Proximity to Christianity is not the same as personal conviction. Received truth is necessary, but is not automatically believed truth.

“Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.” — Romans 14:5

2 _____ truth

How does received truth become personal conviction?

- A. Mentor and _____. Let them see love for Christ, obedience to Scripture, repentance, and sincere love for His church.
- B. Give _____, not merely rules. Explain the biblical principle and distinguish biblical conviction from family preference.
- C. Build _____, not merely compliance. Parental authority changes as children mature; relational influence can remain.

Notes

READY APOLOGETICS WEEKEND

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND HOW TO ANSWER

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2 *Believed truth (continued)*

- D. Keep the conversation _____. Remain a trusted person with whom your child can honestly discuss doubts.
- E. Don't fear the _____. Thomas expressed doubt and remained with the disciples. Jesus met him with truth (John 20:24–29). Pursue truth rather than settling into uncertainty.
- F. Listen lovingly and respond _____. A hard question does not automatically mean a hard heart. "I don't know—but let's find out."
- G. _____ rather than drive. Ask: What do you think? Why? What does Scripture say? What would honoring God look like here?

3 _____ truth

Personal conviction does not require knowing every answer. Look for someone who loves Jesus, submits to Scripture, prays, pursues Christian community, repents, and seeks truth.

"Continue thou..." — 2 Timothy 3:14. Eventually, the child must choose to continue.

- We can shepherd and nurture; we cannot regenerate the heart or manufacture conviction.
- Samuel's sons did not walk in his ways (1 Samuel 8:3). Faithful spiritual leadership does not give us control over another person's heart.
- Keep loving, listening, praying, modeling Christ, and speaking truth graciously. A child may move beyond our authority, but never beyond God's reach.

Don't run from the doubts. Pursue the truth.

Notes
