

(Note: We will not be meeting on Sunday, May 8 so that we can celebrate Mother's Day.

You may access the video for this lesson at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PnwKkJ0aA7Pm9TyDTc1-KQeEwSWaDuWV/view?usp=drivesdk>
or by clicking this link: [The Story Lesson 30 Video](#))

Paul pens "the Prison Epistles"

Paul passes the baton to Timothy

Timothy stands up for his beliefs

Becoming a part of the new community called the church

Discussion questions:

1. Randy told a wonderful little story about a sculptor chiseling away everything that did not look like a lion. What is one area in your life that God is "chiseling" and how is he calling you to partner with him this sculpting project?
2. As the apostle Paul drew near the end of his life, he expressed some thoughts about how he had lived; how he had served God with humility, faithfully proclaimed the truth, called Jews and Gentiles to repentance, and bravely faced prison and other hardships. As you think about how you will invest the rest of your life, name one thing you really want to do for Jesus and one step you can take to move closer to this goal.
3. While under house arrest in Rome, Paul wrote a letter (an epistle) to the believers in Ephesus. In it he lifted up a beautiful, powerful prayer (Ephesians 1:16-23). What are some elements of this prayer and what can we learn about prayer from Paul's example?
4. What "before Jesus" and "after Jesus" pictures did Paul paint of the Ephesian believers (Ephesians 2)? Tell about one big contrast people would see if they could watch a 24 hour video surveillance tape of your life before you trusted Jesus as Savior compared to who you are today.
5. God cares greatly about unity among Christians. The apostle Paul gave several examples of our call to oneness (Ephesians 4:4-6). What are they and how can our unity around these "ones" strengthen the church and become a witness to the world?
6. Faith lived out within the family is another great concern to God. What is one practical lesson you learned from Paul's teaching on family relationships (Ephesians 5:21-6:4) and how might you live out that truth on a regular basis?
7. Beyond faith in our literal home, we have a larger Christian family. Just as Paul was a spiritual father to Timothy, we can enter relationships like this among the family of God. Tell about a spiritual parent of yours and how God has used this person to shape your faith. Then tell about a person God has allowed to be your spiritual child and how you are seeking to help him or her grow into maturity in Christ.
8. Paul celebrated the fact that Timothy had known the Scriptures from his youngest days because of a rich spiritual heritage of faith in his birth family. How can we make our homes a place of spiritual growth and health?

Homework: If you have a person in your life who has been a spiritual parent, write them a letter or give them a call to communicate how much they mean to you and how God has used them to help you walk with Jesus. If you have a person whom God is calling you to influence as a spiritual parent, make time in the coming weeks to connect with this person, continue to invest in their life, cheer them on, and be part of God's process of chiseling away anything that does not look like Jesus.

For next week, read Chapter 31 of The Story (Revelation 1-5, 19-22).