These authors gave the following **responses to this incomplete sentence: "Mothers are**..." Angela Liddon, "...selfless in every way." Harriet Beecher Stowe, "...instinctive philosophers." J.D. Salinger, "all slightly insane." *Reader's Digest, May 2013, p.188*

The course of HISTORY has been changed by mothers:

* Jochebed, mother of Moses, saved his life.
* Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord before he was born.
* The mother John and Charles Wesley gave birth to a revival.

Although Winston Churchill was a major catalyst in Great Britain’s survival of WWII, he was voted out of office in 1945. The defeat was a crushing and demoralizing blow for him. In seeking to console him after having witnessed the toll his body had taken from serving as Prime Minister during the war, his wife said, “It may well be a blessing in disguise.” Churchill replied, “At the moment it seems quite effectively disguised.” Mothers regularly face that same paradoxical perspective. Being a mom is a wonderful blessing that’s often very cleverly disguised. *NationalChurchillMuseum.org*

Timothy’s mom was **Eunice** (means  ***victorious =*** good + victory)

She was of Jewish descent

*Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the* ***son of a Jewish woman*** *who was a be liever,but* ***his father was a Greek****. He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.*  (Acts 16:1-3, ESV).

Eunice was married to a Gentile. Apparently , Timothy’s father was not a believer.

Timothy’s mother’s mother was **Lois**. Her name means “agreeable” or “desirable.” It looks like Lois was the first convert in the family.

She came from a Jewish background. The Bible says, “a *faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother*” (2 Tim 1:5, ESV).

It seems that Timothy’s family lived at Lystra.

Paul went there after he had to leave Iconium (AC 14).

Paul and Barnabas healed a crippled man and were hailed by the crowds as Greek Gods.

Later, angry Jews from other places followed Paul, stirred up a crowd against him and they stoned him, drug him out of city, and left him for dead.

Needless to say, Paul moved on.

Later on, Paul retraced his steps, back to Lystra and on to Iconium and then to Antioch.

Eventually, Paul came back through Iconium and Lystra. He selected Timothy to accompany him, along with Silas.

Look at 2 Tim 3, … “*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it  and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.  All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,  that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work* (2 Tim 3:14-17, ESV).

**1. A MOTHER’S FAITH MAY SPREAD TO HER CHILDREN**

A. We don’t know when Lois believed

B. We DO know that at some point she was saved

1. Understood her need

2. Grasped the concept of grace

3. Responded in faith to God’s love thru Jesus Christ

C. Her faith was genuine (unfeigned)

D. She shared with her daughter, Eunice

E. Eunice wanted what her mother had

**2. mother’s faIth may spread to her Grdchldrn**

A. Eunice gave birth to Timothy

1. No doubt they all had high hopes for him at his birth

2. She gave him the name Timothy, “honoring God”

B. How did they reach Timothy??

1. They showed real faith in their lives

Hellen Collins’ family gathering included karaoke, so they asked their 90-year-old grandmother what she’d like to hear. Nat King Cole’s “Unforgettable” was her favorite so three of the ladies “tried” to sing it. Afterward, the granddaughter hugged her grandmother and sweetly said, “We sang that because we love you.” The matriarch replied, “And I listened because I love you.” *Reader’s Digest, June 2010, p.161*

  2. They modeled it in their prayers, example and teaching

There was a young college student, who had started off with some other boys in quest of a riotous evening. As he passed along the way he heard the town clock strike nine. He remembered that his mother had said, to him as she told him good-by: "Every night at nine, I will be on my knees praying for you." Is it any wonder that the young man halted as he heard the clock and counted the hours? He said: "Boys, I cannot go with you." The fact was this, he could not get away from his mother's prayers. (Sermons and Bible Studies – Volume 10: Helpful Messages for God's People.)

3. They taught him the scriptures

4. It still works today

Billy & Ruth Graham knew the agony of prodigal behavior in their home so Ruth came to realize there are limits to what a parent can do. In her definitive book about parenting a prodigal, Ruth Graham said, “We mothers must take care of the possible and trust God for the impossible.” She explained that a mom can “love, affirm, encourage, teach, listen, and care for physical needs” but “we cannot convict of sin, create hunger and thirst after God, or convert. These are miracles, and miracles are not in our department.” *Prodigals and Those Who Love Them, Ruth Bell Graham, 1991, p.81*

**3. MOTHER’S FAITH MAY SPREAD TO FUTURE GENRTNS**

A. Timothy became Paul’s helper, a partner in ministry

B. Timothy preached and ministered at Berea, Corinth,

Macedonia, Ephesus and Rome

C. Paul sent two letters to Timothy, encouraging & instructing him

D. Through Timothy, Lois and Eunice kept spreading their faith

¨ Mothers probably played a part in the salvation of ***many*** of us

¨ Mothers taught us ***many*** things

Best-selling author Susan Page wrote Barbara Bush’s biography, *The Matriarch,* which came out one year after she died in 2018. Access to the former first lady, and the many journals she’d filled through the years, gave Page a solid understanding of the woman in pearls. Although Bush was the only American woman to see her husband and son both serve as U.S. presidents, her greatest interest and focus was her family. The relationship she had with her own mother was strained due to the focus placed on her childhood chubbiness. This led to a lifetime of insecurities about her looks, yet she was resolute about giving her own children something she never received. That’s why in the summation of Barbara Bush, after writing nearly 500 pages about her life, Page stated: “She believed the most important job she ever held was that of mother. Indeed, she thought that was just about the most important role anyone could hold.” *USA Today, 5/10/19, p.1A*

¨ How about it Moms, **are you making it happen for Jesus??!!??**