



Sharing the Faith

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6 What does sharing your faith with your children or grandchildren look like? Singing, praying, drawing, and reading with them are all ways to share God’s word with our little ones. I taught the Catechism to my children during breakfast time before school. I also led a weekday Christian education program before Grace had a day school. My grandchildren learned songs and heard stories about Jesus from their youngest days. We sang the “Psalty” songs and danced to the music after they learned to walk. Deuteronomy 6:7 says, **“You shall teach them (God’s commands) diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”**

We also have to teach the hard things, like Romans 3:23, which says, **“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”** reminding them that bad behavior is sinful. And then sharing the pure joy of Romans 10:9, **“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”**

Then how did we learn these truths? Mom and Grandma!?! Sometimes, but not always.

I found these two handwritten notes in two vastly different Bibles:

January 18, 1911: Started reading this Good Book; finished January 26, 1913; started again January 27, 1913.

“Fight the good fight of Faith, lay hold on Eternal Life.” I Tim 6:12 (7/23/17)

The first one is from my Papa Zimmermann's huge German Bible. The second is from my Grandpa Brandon's much smaller KJV translation. Both brought tears to my eyes as I lovingly remembered the Papa I never knew, (he died when Daddy was 15) and my beloved Grandpa Hod who set a Christian example for me every time I saw him. My Grandfathers were *men of faith*. They did not know one another, never discussed Jesus together, but shared a legacy with both my parents that was also shared with me. In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul writes, **"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well."** I feel blessed to have had not only my grandmothers, Anna and Georgia, and my mother, Sue, but also my grandfathers, William and HD, and my father, Otto, all sharing their faith with me. My Grandpa Brandon taught an adult Sunday School class from as far back as I can remember and was very active in his Disciples of Christ church programs. For many years my Dad led the high school Sunday School class and the Walther League at Grace, Modesto.

So while we find ways to share the faith with our own families and others, let's remember to give thanks to those who came before us to share the Good News with our generation, Grandmas and Grandpas alike!