

Timothy's Parenting Adaptation as a Christian Education Approach for the Digital Generation

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Abstract:

This study explores the adaptation of Timothy's parenting model as a Christian education approach to address the challenges faced by the digital generation. Using a qualitative literature review methodology, it examines biblical principles from Timothy's upbringing, as highlighted in the Pauline epistles, and their relevance to modern educational contexts. The digital generation, characterized by technological dependence, rapid information exchange, and shifting moral values, requires an education model that integrates faith, mentorship, and critical thinking. Timothy's parenting model emphasizes intergenerational mentorship, spiritual grounding, and resilience, offering valuable insights for fostering holistic growth in the digital era. The findings highlight practical strategies for Christian parents and educators, including faith-based digital literacy, relational discipleship, and the cultivation of character through biblically grounded mentorship. These strategies align with the goal of preparing a generation equipped to navigate technological complexities while upholding Christian values. This study contributes to the ongoing discourse on faith-integrated education by providing a framework for bridging biblical principles and contemporary pedagogical practices, paving the way for future empirical research.

Keywords: Timothy's parenting model; Christian education; digital generation.

Abstrak:

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi adaptasi model pengasuhan Timotius sebagai pendekatan pendidikan Kristen untuk menghadapi tantangan generasi digital. Menggunakan metodologi studi literatur kualitatif, penelitian ini menganalisis prinsip-prinsip alkitabiah dari pengasuhan Timotius, seperti yang diuraikan dalam surat-surat Paulus, serta relevansinya dengan konteks pendidikan modern. Generasi digital, yang ditandai dengan ketergantungan pada teknologi, pertukaran informasi yang cepat, dan pergeseran nilai moral, membutuhkan model pendidikan yang mengintegrasikan iman, pendampingan, dan pemikiran kritis. Model pengasuhan Timotius menekankan pada pendampingan lintas generasi, landasan spiritual, dan ketahanan, yang menawarkan wawasan berharga untuk mendukung pertumbuhan holistik di era digital. Hasil penelitian ini menyoroti strategi praktis bagi orang tua dan pendidik Kristen, termasuk literasi digital berbasis iman, pendampingan relasional, dan pembentukan karakter melalui pengasuhan yang berlandaskan Alkitab. Strategi-strategi ini sejalan dengan tujuan mempersiapkan generasi yang mampu menghadapi kompleksitas teknologi sambil mempertahankan nilai-nilai Kristen. Penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi pada wacana pendidikan yang mengintegrasikan iman dengan menyediakan kerangka kerja untuk menjembatani prinsip-prinsip alkitabiah dan praktik pedagogis kontemporer, sekaligus membuka peluang penelitian empiris di masa mendatang.

Kata Kunci: Model pengasuhan Timotius; pendidikan Kristen; generasi digital.

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Introduction

The digital generation, often referred to as "Generation Z" or "Digital Natives," is growing up in a world shaped by unprecedented technological advancements. With constant access to smartphones, social media, and digital tools, their learning, communication, and decision-making processes differ significantly from previous generations (Hamutoglu et al., 2021). While technology offers remarkable opportunities for access to knowledge, collaboration, and innovation, it also presents challenges such as shortened attention spans, information overload, and an increasing sense of isolation despite being hyperconnected (Morand et al., 2023). These factors complicate traditional educational and parenting methods, as digital natives require tailored approaches to cultivate resilience, critical thinking, and moral grounding.

In this context, the role of education and parenting must evolve to address these challenges effectively. Christian education, grounded in biblical principles, offers a holistic framework that not only imparts knowledge but also nurtures spiritual and moral development. As Proverbs 22:6 states, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." The emphasis on mentorship, character-building, and relational discipleship is crucial in equipping the digital generation to navigate a technologically complex world while maintaining a strong ethical foundation (Darmawan et al., 2024; Zalukhu, 2025).

A biblically grounded approach to parenting and education can bridge the gap between ancient wisdom and contemporary challenges. Timothy's upbringing, as detailed in 2 Timothy 1:5 and 3:14–15, highlights the role of familial faith, mentorship, and scripture in shaping a resilient, purpose-driven individual. This model can be adapted to meet the needs of digital natives by integrating principles of relational teaching, spiritual formation, and intentional engagement with technology. By focusing on these aspects, Christian parents and educators can create a nurturing environment that empowers the digital generation to thrive both spiritually and intellectually (Purba, & Nome, 2024; Hutaauruk, & Irawati, 2024).

The rapid advancement of technology and its profound impact on contemporary learners have highlighted a substantial disparity between the integration of biblical principles and the demands of modern education. While biblical teachings emphasize holistic character development, spiritual formation, and the cultivation of moral discernment, many current educational paradigms prioritize cognitive achievement, digital competence, and utilitarian outcomes. According to Smith and Smith (2011), contemporary education often neglects the moral and spiritual dimensions of student growth, leading to an erosion of values that biblical principles seek to uphold. Furthermore, Barna Group (2021) reports that only a minority of Christian educators actively integrate faith-based perspectives into their curricula, underscoring a disconnect

between spiritual convictions and pedagogical practice. This gap suggests an urgent need for a more intentional and systematic application of biblical principles within the framework of educational innovation, ensuring that spiritual integrity is not compromised amid technological progress.

Traditional Christian education methods often struggle to address the complexities of digital dependence, shifting cultural norms, and the need for critical engagement with technology (Luke, 2018). Many Christian parents and educators find it challenging to balance spiritual growth with the demands of preparing children for a technologically driven world. This gap underscores the urgency of integrating timeless biblical principles into adaptive frameworks that resonate with the realities of the digital age. Timothy's parenting model, as derived from the mentorship and spiritual guidance he received from his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois (2 Timothy 1:5), offers a potentially effective approach. It emphasizes intergenerational faith transmission, relational mentorship, and the transformative power of scripture, which are highly relevant to contemporary educational needs (Smith, 2017). The purpose of this study is to explore how this model can be adapted to serve as a robust framework for Christian education, equipping the digital generation with the tools needed to thrive spiritually, intellectually, and morally in an increasingly complex world.

Method

This study employs a qualitative research approach, utilizing a literature review to investigate the adaptation of Timothy's parenting model as a framework for Christian education in the digital era. A literature review is particularly suitable for examining theoretical constructs and identifying key themes across diverse sources, enabling a comprehensive understanding of how biblical principles intersect with contemporary educational needs (Creswell, 2018). By synthesizing insights from scripture and academic research, the study aims to bridge the gap between theological perspectives and practical applications in modern contexts. The qualitative nature of the research allows for a nuanced exploration of Timothy's upbringing and its relevance to addressing the challenges faced by digital natives.

The study draws on three primary data sources: biblical texts, scholarly literature, and educational theories. Biblical texts, particularly the Pauline epistles (e.g., 2 Timothy 1:5 and 3:14–15), provide the foundational framework for understanding Timothy's upbringing and the principles of faith-based mentorship. Scholarly articles, books, and commentaries on Christian education and the digital generation offer critical insights into the intersection of theology and pedagogy. A thematic analysis is employed to extract core principles from Timothy's parenting model, focusing on faith transmission, relational discipleship, and resilience-building. To enhance methodological validity, the

process incorporates hermeneutical interpretation to uncover theological intent, close and distant contextual analysis to situate the text within its historical and literary framework, and lexical analysis to examine key words in their original language and usage within broader scriptural patterns. These principles are then integrated with contemporary educational theories, such as constructivist approaches and digital literacy frameworks, to ensure practical relevance for the digital generation (Barak, 2017). This methodological approach ensures a holistic examination of the topic, providing actionable insights for parents and educators navigating the complexities of the digital age.

Results and Discussion

Key Principles from Timothy's Parenting Model

Timothy's parenting model emphasizes the centrality of faith in nurturing a child's spiritual and moral development. His upbringing by his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, illustrates how faith can be passed down through generations and serve as the cornerstone of a child's identity (Amadi-Nche, 2022). This foundation of faith is not simply about knowledge of biblical texts but is a living, active relationship with God that shapes every aspect of life. In the digital generation, where secular ideologies and distractions abound, the role of faith as the anchor becomes even more vital. Timothy's model reminds parents and educators that a deep, personal faith in Christ must be cultivated from an early age to equip children to face the challenges of the world. This is not just a matter of teaching the Bible but of modeling faith through actions, decisions, and the way one interacts with the world around them.

Another crucial component of Timothy's parenting model is mentorship. The relationship between Timothy and Paul is the epitome of godly mentorship, where Timothy receives guidance, encouragement, and accountability from an older, more mature believer (Lafosse, 2022). Paul's influence on Timothy goes beyond simple instruction—it is a model of relational discipleship, where mentorship becomes a two-way exchange that shapes both mentor and mentee. For the digital generation, mentorship is an essential tool for helping young people navigate their faith in a fast-paced, ever-changing world. As technology and culture shift, young people need trusted adults who not only provide biblical teaching but also guide them through practical life challenges, offering wisdom and perspective from a faith-based worldview. By fostering mentorship relationships within the church and family, educators and parents can provide the spiritual guidance that helps young people grow into resilient and discerning leaders.

Mentorship, as demonstrated in Timothy's relationship with Paul, also plays a vital role in developing resilience. Young people today face unprecedented challenges, from mental health struggles to the pressures of social media and the digital world. Mentors

provide not just instruction but also emotional support, helping mentees build the resilience necessary to persevere through difficulties. Paul's letters to Timothy contain numerous exhortations to stand firm in faith, endure hardship, and remain steadfast despite opposition (2 Timothy 2:3-5). This model can be applied today by mentoring young people through their struggles and helping them view adversity as an opportunity for growth and spiritual maturation (Francis, 2019). Resilience built on faith is not just about coping with life's challenges but about learning to trust in God's providence and sovereignty, a key message that mentors can impart to the digital generation.

Intergenerational teaching is another cornerstone of Timothy's parenting model. The influence of Eunice and Lois on Timothy's faith highlights the power of passing down values and wisdom through generations. This approach stands in stark contrast to the often fragmented, individualized learning methods that dominate contemporary culture. Intergenerational teaching involves not only instruction but also a lived example, where older generations actively engage with younger ones, imparting wisdom, experiences, and faith-based values (Di Bona et al., 2019; Santosa et al., 2023). For the digital generation, where family structures are often stretched or disconnected, intergenerational teaching can provide a much-needed sense of continuity and stability. Older generations can offer perspective on navigating life's challenges, teaching younger ones not only about biblical truths but also how to apply them in the modern world.

The family is the first and most influential learning community in a child's life, and it plays a significant role in the intergenerational transfer of faith and values. As evidenced in Timothy's upbringing, both his mother and grandmother were instrumental in teaching him the scriptures from a young age (2 Timothy 3:14-15). Families that prioritize spiritual formation create an environment where biblical values are naturally integrated into daily life. In the context of the digital generation, families can foster faith by encouraging meaningful conversations about life and technology, reading Scripture together, and modeling biblical responses to current issues. Families can also work together to establish practices that help shield children from the negative effects of digital culture while still embracing the positive aspects of technology for educational and spiritual growth.

One of the greatest challenges for Christian educators and parents today is bridging the generational gap that technology has created. The digital generation is often immersed in a world that older generations did not experience firsthand, making it difficult for parents and grandparents to relate to their struggles (Hänninen et al., 2021). However, by embracing the intergenerational teaching model seen in Timothy's life, older generations can become intentional about learning from younger generations, even as they impart wisdom. Intergenerational learning can occur through shared experiences, such as joint activities between grandparents and grandchildren, or through more structured educational settings where older and younger generations collaborate. This mutual

exchange fosters respect and understanding, helping young people appreciate the wisdom of their elders while giving them the tools to engage with their own generation effectively.

The church plays a vital role in fostering intergenerational teaching. Unlike secular institutions, the church offers a unique space where different generations can come together and share their faith experiences. Timothy's spiritual formation was heavily influenced by the church community, and this model can be applied today by fostering environments where children, teens, and adults engage in shared worship, teaching, and fellowship. Multi-generational Sunday school classes, youth mentoring programs, and family-oriented church services can create opportunities for older believers to pour into the lives of younger ones, ensuring that the values of faith, love, and wisdom are passed down and preserved for future generations.

Wisdom is a critical element in intergenerational teaching, serving as a bridge between experience-based knowledge and the formation of moral and spiritual maturity. Recent empirical studies, such as those by Allen and Ross (2020), demonstrate that intergenerational learning environments enriched with digital tools foster deeper engagement, relational trust, and value transmission, particularly when older generations intentionally model reflective wisdom within digitally mediated contexts. As Paul writes to Timothy, the wisdom of the Scriptures is invaluable for shaping a person's life (2 Timothy 3:15-17). In the context of today's rapidly changing world, wisdom can guide young people to discern truth in the midst of misinformation, to make sound decisions in the face of uncertainty, and to live lives that reflect biblical values in a digital age. Parents and mentors who have lived through different stages of life can offer practical insights and counsel that equip the younger generation to handle challenges with faith and maturity (Dadang, 2022). The passing down of wisdom through stories, teachings, and experiences is not only a means of preserving truth but also of empowering young people to carry that wisdom forward in their own lives.

Timothy's parenting model, with its emphasis on faith, mentorship, and intergenerational teaching, offers a profound framework for addressing the needs of the digital generation. As technology continues to reshape society, it is essential for parents, educators, and church leaders to adapt these principles to help young people thrive spiritually, morally, and intellectually. By fostering faith-based mentorship relationships, encouraging intergenerational dialogue, and equipping the digital generation with biblical wisdom, we can empower them to navigate the complexities of the digital age with confidence and grace (Holmes, 2022).

Challenges in Educating the Digital Generation

One of the most significant challenges in educating the digital generation is the overwhelming presence of technological distractions. Young people today are immersed

in a constant stream of notifications, social media updates, and entertainment options, which can make focusing on educational tasks difficult. These distractions, while often harmless in moderation, can lead to decreased attention spans and hinder the development of deep, reflective thinking. In the classroom, this manifests in students frequently checking their devices or becoming easily sidetracked by online content unrelated to the lesson. For parents and educators, this means creating an environment that promotes focused, purposeful engagement with technology, ensuring it serves as a tool for learning rather than a source of distraction. Just as Timothy was taught to focus on the word of God and to live according to it (2 Timothy 3:14-15), young people today need guidance on using technology responsibly and purposefully.

Another major challenge in educating the digital generation is the overwhelming amount of information available at their fingertips. With the rise of the internet and digital media, students have access to a vast array of information on virtually any topic. While this can be a powerful tool for learning, it also leads to information overload. The constant influx of data can make it difficult for students to discern what is credible, relevant, and true (Barzilai & Chinn, 2020). Without proper guidance, students may struggle to filter out misinformation or make sense of conflicting perspectives. In the context of Christian education, this overload can also include the challenge of maintaining a consistent biblical worldview amidst the myriad of secular ideas and values that permeate the digital world. To address this, educators need to help students develop critical thinking skills and a biblical lens through which they can process the vast amounts of information they encounter daily.

In addition to distractions and information overload, the digital generation faces the challenge of value relativism, where there is a growing acceptance that truth and morality are subjective and can vary from person to person. This cultural shift is amplified by the digital world, where social media platforms often present competing values and ideologies without a clear standard of right or wrong. Young people may be exposed to conflicting messages about gender, relationships, morality, and purpose, leading to confusion and a lack of moral clarity. The absence of a solid, objective moral foundation in many aspects of digital culture poses a significant challenge for educators and parents who seek to instill biblical values in their children. To counter this, Timothy's upbringing provides a model of rooted faith that emphasizes the objective truth of Scripture as a guide for living (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Educators must help students navigate these competing values by teaching them to evaluate ideas and behaviors in light of biblical truth.

In light of these challenges, the digital generation requires resilience—an ability to adapt, persevere, and maintain faith in the face of adversity. The constant pressures and distractions of the digital world can lead to feelings of inadequacy, anxiety, or burnout. In this context, resilience rooted in faith becomes essential. Just as Paul encouraged

Timothy to endure hardship and stay strong in his faith (2 Timothy 2:3), young people today must learn to rely on God's strength and trust in His plan, even when faced with overwhelming circumstances. Resilience does not mean the absence of struggle but rather the ability to endure and grow through challenges. Christian education must teach students to lean on God during difficult times, trusting that He will use their struggles to strengthen their faith and character (McKaughan, 2018).

Critical thinking is another vital skill for navigating the complexities of the digital world. The sheer volume of information, opinions, and messages that students encounter daily requires them to develop the ability to discern what is true, valuable, and aligned with their faith. This goes beyond simply absorbing information; it involves evaluating, questioning, and analyzing ideas critically. In Timothy's time, Paul emphasized the importance of sound doctrine and the ability to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). In a similar way, educators must help the digital generation develop the tools to critically assess the information they encounter and align it with biblical principles. Critical thinking, grounded in Scripture, enables students to distinguish between truth and falsehood, making it a cornerstone of effective Christian education in today's world.

Christian education plays a crucial role in building resilience among students. By embedding biblical principles in the curriculum, educators can teach students to approach life's challenges with a mindset rooted in faith. Lessons that focus on biblical figures who faced adversity—such as Job, Daniel, or Esther—provide powerful examples of resilience in the face of trials. These stories not only illustrate the importance of perseverance but also highlight the ways in which God strengthens His people during difficult times. As the digital generation faces its own set of challenges, these biblical examples serve as a source of hope and inspiration (Bergler, 2020). Additionally, schools and churches can offer resources and support systems, such as counseling services or peer mentoring programs, to help students build emotional resilience and cope with the stresses of modern life.

While technology often presents distractions and challenges, it can also be leveraged as a tool for building resilience. Digital platforms can be used to connect students with faith-based resources, online Bible studies, and virtual support groups where they can find encouragement and strength (Papakostas, 2024). Moreover, students can use technology to engage in projects that promote social good or to create content that reflects their Christian values, thus turning the digital world into a platform for positive change. In this sense, technology can help build resilience by providing opportunities for growth, connection, and service. The key is to guide students in using technology intentionally and in alignment with biblical principles.

Both resilience and critical thinking must be rooted in faith. In the face of distractions, information overload, and value relativism, it is the Christian worldview that

provides the foundation for both. Faith in God's sovereignty enables students to face challenges with the assurance that God is in control, and that their struggles are not in vain. Likewise, critical thinking that is rooted in faith allows students to evaluate the world around them through the lens of Scripture, understanding that God's truth is absolute and unchanging, even in a world that is constantly shifting. By grounding resilience and critical thinking in faith, Christian education equips students to face the challenges of the digital generation with wisdom, clarity, and strength.

As educators and parents, it is imperative to recognize the unique challenges the digital generation faces and to respond with faith-based solutions that foster resilience and critical thinking. By integrating biblical principles into education and helping students navigate technological distractions, information overload, and value relativism, we can prepare them to thrive in the digital world. Through mentorship, intergenerational teaching, and a commitment to building resilience, Christian education can empower the digital generation to be leaders who are grounded in their faith and capable of making discerning decisions in an increasingly complex world.

Adapting Timothy's Model

Adapting Timothy's parenting model to address the unique challenges faced by the digital generation requires practical strategies that can be implemented by both parents and educators. Timothy's upbringing, which was rooted in the faith and guidance of his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois, offers a timeless framework that can be modified to fit contemporary challenges (Montague, 2017). One key aspect of adapting this model is the intentional development of mentorship programs, where older generations invest in the spiritual and moral growth of younger individuals. Just as Paul mentored Timothy, today's parents and educators can provide relational discipleship through one-on-one or small group settings, fostering deeper connections and providing individualized guidance. These mentorship programs should emphasize the importance of relational trust, active listening, and modeling Christian behavior, helping young people navigate the complexities of the modern world while remaining grounded in their faith.

A practical strategy for adapting Timothy's model is the establishment of mentorship programs that focus on digital discipleship. The digital generation faces unique challenges, including the temptation to engage in unhealthy online behaviors, the difficulty of establishing boundaries with technology, and the influence of secular values that permeate the digital space (Neriya-Ben Shahar, 2024). By creating mentorship programs that provide guidance in using technology wisely and aligning digital engagement with Christian values, parents and educators can empower the next generation to navigate the online world with discernment and integrity. These mentorship programs should incorporate discussions on faith-based digital literacy, teaching young

people how to evaluate the content they consume and engage with online through a biblical worldview. Mentors can also help students address issues such as cyberbullying, social media pressure, and digital addiction, providing practical tools and support for managing these challenges in a faith-centered way.

Faith-based digital literacy is an essential strategy for adapting Timothy's model to the digital age. In today's technology-driven society, young people must learn not only how to use digital tools effectively but also how to engage with technology in a manner that aligns with their Christian beliefs (Samson et al., 2024). Faith-based digital literacy goes beyond technical skills; it encourages students to critically assess the digital content they encounter and understand how it aligns or conflicts with biblical principles. For example, young people can be taught to recognize the moral implications of the media they consume, whether it's a video game, a movie, or social media content. Faith-based digital literacy programs can be incorporated into school curriculums or church youth programs, where students learn to discern the ethical considerations of online interactions and understand the importance of maintaining a Christ-centered approach to their digital presence. This kind of education equips students with the tools to use technology for good, empowering them to share their faith, engage in positive online communities, and resist harmful influences.

Relational discipleship, another key strategy derived from Timothy's model, is essential in adapting his parenting approach to modern challenges. In relational discipleship, mentors and educators form deep, personal connections with young people, guiding them not just in intellectual knowledge but in their day-to-day lives (Kern & Kern, 2023). This involves spending time with students, listening to their concerns, and modeling Christ-like behavior in all situations. In the digital age, relational discipleship becomes even more important because young people often face isolation despite being constantly connected online. Mentors and parents can counteract this isolation by investing in meaningful, face-to-face relationships, where the focus is on building trust, offering encouragement, and holding one another accountable. These relationships provide a safe space for students to share their struggles, ask tough questions about their faith, and seek guidance on how to live out Christian values in a rapidly changing world.

While relational discipleship traditionally occurs in face-to-face settings, it is crucial to incorporate technology in a way that supports and enhances discipleship efforts. Just as Timothy's spiritual growth was nurtured through personal interaction and teaching, today's digital generation can benefit from online platforms, virtual Bible studies, and interactive faith-based resources (Gultom, 2023). For example, online devotionals, Christian podcasts, and virtual small groups can be used to supplement traditional discipleship methods, reaching young people where they are. These tools allow for flexibility in engaging with young people, providing them with the opportunity to learn

and grow spiritually even when physical gatherings are not possible. However, it is important to ensure that technology does not become a substitute for genuine relationships but rather a tool to facilitate deeper connection and spiritual growth. Parents and educators can create guidelines for the appropriate use of technology in discipleship, ensuring that online engagement fosters true Christian community and growth.

One of the most powerful ways parents and educators can adapt Timothy's model is by modeling faith through their own actions, particularly in relation to technology. Just as Eunice and Lois modeled a life of faith for Timothy, parents and educators today must demonstrate how to live out Christian values in the context of the digital world (Lövheim, 2017). This means being intentional about how they use technology, setting an example for young people on how to engage with digital media in a way that honors God. For instance, parents can model healthy boundaries with screen time, using digital devices to further their faith by listening to sermons, reading Scripture, or participating in virtual prayer groups. Educators can model the importance of using technology for good by incorporating faith-based tools in the classroom and discussing the ethical implications of digital media. Modeling faith in the digital age involves being intentional in every area of life, showing that faith is not confined to church services or Bible study but is integrated into all aspects of daily living.

A practical adaptation of Timothy's model is the creation of safe digital spaces where young people can engage in faith-centered activities. In today's world, where the internet can be a place of both positive and negative influence, it is essential to provide young people with platforms that are safe, encouraging, and aligned with their Christian values. This might include faith-based social media platforms, online youth groups, or digital content that promotes biblical teachings and wholesome entertainment. These spaces offer young people the opportunity to connect with like-minded peers, share their faith, and receive encouragement in a digital context. Parents and educators can support this initiative by setting boundaries on digital engagement and actively monitoring online interactions. By providing a safe digital environment, young people can grow in their faith and develop the resilience necessary to face the challenges of the digital age.

In adapting Timothy's model, it is essential to equip parents with the tools they need to engage in digital discipleship effectively. Many parents today feel overwhelmed by the constant changes in technology and the complexities of managing their children's digital lives. To help bridge this gap, Christian organizations and schools can offer training sessions or workshops on digital literacy, online safety, and faith-based parenting in the digital age. These resources can empower parents to take an active role in their children's digital education, offering them strategies for setting healthy boundaries, monitoring digital activity, and engaging in meaningful conversations about faith and technology. By partnering with parents, churches, and schools, the faith community can ensure that young

people are supported in their digital lives and encouraged to grow in their faith through practical discipleship strategies.

Adapting Timothy's model to the digital generation involves building a strong sense of community. In the early church, the faith community played a critical role in nurturing and supporting young believers, as seen in Timothy's relationship with Paul and his spiritual formation within the church. Today, Christian communities can replicate this support system by creating environments that foster intergenerational relationships, where older members of the church can mentor younger ones. These relationships offer young people guidance and encouragement as they navigate the challenges of the digital world. In addition, these communities can provide opportunities for service, where young people can use their digital skills to engage in outreach and mission work, further solidifying their identity as followers of Christ in the digital age.

Through these practical strategies—mentorship programs, faith-based digital literacy, relational discipleship, and community engagement—parents and educators can adapt Timothy's parenting model to address the unique needs of the digital generation. These efforts will help equip young people with the tools and support they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world, grounded in their faith and committed to living out Christian values.

Implications for Christian Education

The integration of biblical principles with modern pedagogical practices is crucial for Christian education in addressing the unique challenges of the digital generation. Biblical principles, such as the pursuit of wisdom (Proverbs 4:7), the cultivation of virtue (2 Peter 1:5-7), and the centrality of faith in all aspects of life (Colossians 3:17), provide a framework for fostering holistic development. These principles can be integrated into pedagogy by emphasizing character education, spiritual formation, and critical thinking as essential components of the learning process. For instance, incorporating reflective journaling based on scripture or using case studies rooted in biblical narratives allows students to connect their learning with their faith in meaningful ways.

Modern pedagogical practices, such as collaborative learning and digital engagement, align well with biblical principles when guided by intentionality and discernment. For example, digital tools can be used to foster collaboration on faith-based projects, such as creating multimedia presentations about biblical themes or engaging in online debates about ethical issues from a Christian perspective. By blending biblical teachings with innovative educational techniques, Christian educators can create a dynamic learning environment that is both spiritually enriching and intellectually stimulating.

Curriculum development in Christian education should reflect the dual objectives of academic excellence and spiritual growth. A biblically integrated curriculum can include subjects such as biblical studies, ethics, and worldview analysis alongside traditional disciplines like science, mathematics, and literature. Each subject should be taught from a perspective that acknowledges God's sovereignty and design, encouraging students to see the interconnectedness of all knowledge under His authority. For example, science lessons can explore the wonder of God's creation, while literature classes can analyze themes of redemption and morality in classic works.

The curriculum must also address the realities of the digital age by incorporating technology in ways that are both constructive and aligned with Christian values. Courses on digital literacy, cyber ethics, and responsible technology use can help students navigate the digital world while upholding their faith (Udoudom et al., 2023). Furthermore, students can be encouraged to use digital tools for kingdom work, such as creating blogs, podcasts, or videos that share the gospel or promote social justice from a biblical perspective.

Teacher training is another critical area for advancing Christian education. Educators must be equipped not only with subject-matter expertise but also with a deep understanding of biblical principles and how to integrate them into their teaching. Professional development programs can provide training in biblical worldview integration, classroom discipleship strategies, and effective communication of faith-based values (Wiesman, 2023). Workshops and seminars can help teachers develop lesson plans that seamlessly incorporate scripture into various subjects while encouraging critical and creative thinking.

Teachers must also adopt a mentorship role, emulating the relational dynamics seen in Timothy's upbringing. Beyond delivering content, educators should focus on forming personal connections with students, guiding them through spiritual and academic challenges. This mentorship approach fosters trust, accountability, and mutual respect, creating an environment where students feel valued and inspired to grow in their faith. Practical applications include one-on-one mentoring sessions, small group discussions, and regular prayer meetings within the classroom setting.

The integration of biblical principles into education requires strong partnerships between schools and families. Parents and educators must work collaboratively to ensure that children receive consistent spiritual guidance at home and in the classroom. Schools can facilitate this partnership by organizing workshops for parents on topics such as faith-based parenting, digital challenges, and character development. Similarly, communication between teachers and parents about the spiritual and academic progress of students fosters a cohesive approach to their overall development.

The implications of integrating biblical principles with modern pedagogical practices extend far beyond individual classrooms. By equipping students with a strong spiritual foundation and the skills to thrive in a digital world, Christian education can produce leaders who embody Christ's values in every sphere of society. As Timothy's story illustrates, faith-based mentorship and teaching have a transformative impact not only on individuals but also on communities and generations to come. Through intentional curriculum design and teacher training, Christian education can remain relevant and impactful, shaping the digital generation to fulfill their God-given purpose.

Conclusion

Timothy's parenting model offers a timeless and adaptable framework for addressing the unique challenges faced by the digital generation. Rooted in faith, mentorship, and intergenerational teaching, this model emphasizes the importance of nurturing spiritual growth through relational discipleship and intentional guidance. As the digital age brings about technological distractions, information overload, and value relativism, Timothy's model provides a biblically grounded approach to help young individuals navigate these complexities. By integrating faith into everyday life, fostering resilience, and teaching critical thinking through a Christian lens, parents and educators can empower the digital generation to thrive spiritually and morally. Ultimately, Timothy's model not only addresses the immediate needs of today's youth but also equips them to become strong, wise, and faithful leaders for tomorrow's world. However, further empirical research is needed to critically examine how this model can be contextually adapted and effectively implemented within diverse cultural and technological settings to maximize its long-term impact.

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