

Tim Talks to Mom and Dad

Remember that yesterday we heard what Pastor and Tim talked about on the way to and from Pastor's visit with Mrs. Birch. Let's see how Tim feels about all this as he talks to his parents at home that night.

When Tim got home from the hospital, his parents were sitting down to supper. He looked at the spaghetti with big eyes. He felt like he hadn't eaten for days. He threw himself into his chair, and they prayed their dinner prayer.

Then his dad said, "Well, how did it go?" He had a funny look on his face, the same look he'd had when Tim hit that triple in his baseball game last week. Sort of proud and sort of surprised.

"It was good!" Tim said. "We went to the hospital to visit Mrs. Birch. I didn't go into her room or anything. Mostly I sat in the waiting room. But in the car on the way there and back, Pastor told me about some of the stuff he does. You know, as a pastor."

"I didn't know you were still thinking about being a pastor," his mom said. "When you were little, that's all you talked about! You even made the neighbors play church. Do you remember? Everyone sat on chairs, and you told them when to stand up and when to sit down and what hymns to sing."

Tim laughed while trying to swallow a big meatball. "Did I make them listen to a sermon?" he asked.

"Ye-es," his parents said together.

"We're glad you're still thinking about it," his dad said quietly.

"I'm not positive that's what I want to do," Tim said. "Mostly I just wanted to ask some questions. Like what Pastor Paulsen does all day. He does a lot! I couldn't believe it!" Tim paused. Then he added. "And I guess what I really wanted to know was whether he thought I could do it."

"What did he say to that?" his mom asked.

"He said I could. I mean, I still have lots of time left, and I've got lots to learn about the Bible and everything, but he thinks I could do it."

"Did he say there was anything you should do right now?" his dad asked.

"Yeah." Tim smiled. "He said I should just do what I'm doing. Go to school, go to church, read my Bible, pray, and . . . just be a kid. You know, have fun with my friends and play baseball and stuff."

"I think Pastor's a pretty wise man," his dad said.

"Yeah," Tim said. "Could I ever be that wise? I don't know! Mom, can I just have some more spaghetti, please?"

Mark 1:17 "Come, _____ me," Jesus said,
"and I will send you out to _____ for people."

Discussion

1. How had Tim “played church” when he was little? *He had made the neighbors sit on chairs and sing hymns and listen to him “preach.”*
2. Did you ever play church or school or Sunday school when you were little? *Listen as the students tell their stories.*
3. Do you think Tim’s parents would be happy if Tim decided to become a pastor? *Yes. Why do you think so? His dad said they were glad he was thinking about it again. And they seemed to be interested in everything Pastor said.*
4. Do you think his parents would be mad if he decided not to be a pastor? *Probably not. Why not? They didn’t push it on him or say, “That’s what we’ve always wanted you to do!” or anything like that.*
5. What have your parents ever said about you going into the public ministry? *Answers will vary.*
6. What two words are missing from the passage? *Follow, fish.* Remember that Jesus said this when he called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be his disciples. What did Jesus mean when he said they would “fish for people”? *He meant they would preach the gospel—the good news that Jesus is the Savior—and the Holy Spirit would “catch” people—give people faith in Jesus as their Savior.*
7. Were you surprised that Pastor told Tim to just be a kid? Why or why not? *Answers will vary. Some students may think that if you want to be a pastor or teacher you should read your Bible 24 hours a day.*
8. What do you think? Will Tim become a pastor? *Answers will vary.* If Tim decides not to be a pastor, what will he still do with the Word of God? *He’ll still read and study it, and he’ll still look for opportunities to share it. That’s work that all of us do, whether we enter the public ministry or not.*

Activity – Time to Talk to the Parents: Have the students fold their paper in half the long way and then answer the questions in the left column: “Questions for Me.” They can share their answers with the class, if they’d like, or they can keep them private. Then encourage them to take the paper home and ask one or both of their parents (or a special adult in their life) to answer the questions in the right column—without looking at the answers in the left column. When their parent is done, the student and parent can unfold the paper and compare their answers. What did they learn about each other? If you have time on a subsequent day, ask the students if any of them would like to share how the conversation went with their parents.

Prayer: Thank you for your Word, dear Jesus. Please help us to listen to it closely and eagerly share it with others whenever we can—whether you lead us to become pastors and teachers or not. Amen.

Optional Hymn: 746 I Love to Tell the Story