

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Open your group with a prayer. Use this sheet as a guide; select the points you want to discuss.

### GETTING STARTED

1. What features of being a part of a family are most important to you?

### DIGGING DEEPER

2. Read 1 Tim 5:1-2. Differentiate between the 4 family member roles by which Timothy was to model his church interaction. How is this counter-cultural?
3. Do a quick search of “widow” in the Old Testament. What stands out to you?
4. Read John 19:26-27. What stands out from Jesus’ example?
5. Read 5:3-8. The church offered support to widows of all ages. What criteria were required to receive church support?
6. Read 5:9-10. What differentiated the widows who were on “the list?”

7. What 3 criteria were necessary to qualify for “the list?”
8. Why did Paul refuse to place younger widows on “the list?” (vv.11-15)

### LIVING IT OUT

9. How might the example of the women on “the list” challenge views Christians have of retirement?
10. How can believers care for their aging parents?
11. The Greek word “widow” doesn’t speak of how a woman was left alone. What other situations might leave women alone or vulnerable? What is the church’s responsibility to them? What is yours?
12. Why did Paul require widows receiving support to pursue godliness? Should that limit church support today? How?

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

“...Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need.”

-1 Timothy 5:3 NIV

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