

This Fall with Hope Fellowship, we've had 6 baptisms: 5 by profession of faith and 1 infant. It's been a great blessing to walk with people as they draw closer to Jesus and learn some of their stories. I met with a grandma before baptizing her and she told me, "I'm 75 years old and I realized the only thing that matters is Jesus!" This past Sunday, we broke into small groups and were discussing what it looks like to trust God when things are hard in our lives and my group had 2 different grandmothers in their 70s. I was blown away as they shared heart breaking stories from their lives. They shared things that are horrific and terrifying and would crush the faith of many. And yet, they both said they keep following Jesus and trust Him with the future. It moved me to see their faith, knowing they still struggle with life and both are raising children and great grandchildren with meager means in overcrowded homes.

Several years ago, after Kids Club, we were dropping off the granddaughter of one of the grandmas and she started asking us about the Bible and the story of the paralyzed man who was brought to Jesus by his friends. We showed her where the story is in the Bible and answered her many questions. Before we got home, I told her, "Alisson, your grandma is like the friends in the story. She loves you and your brothers and brings you to Church every Sunday because she wants you to know Jesus, just like she does." Faith is a wonderful and mysterious thing and it strengthens mine to pastor people with beautiful and inspiring faith. My prayer for these grandchildren is that they see and believe, and that they'll wind up like Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:5 "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."