



LESSON SNAPSHOT

ALMOST THERE

Paul's Letters to Individuals (1 Timothy through Philemon)

BOTTOM LINE:

We should encourage others with words and actions.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that we should encourage others, just like Paul encouraged his friends through his letters.

BOOKS TO MEMORIZE:

1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Timothy 4:1-8 - Instructions to Timothy- Paul helped the early churches, even when he wasn't there in person.

MEMORY VERSE:

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Paul was always working to spread Christianity everywhere he went. He knew that life would be hard for the early Christians, so he wanted to encourage them to keep them from quitting. If Paul hadn't been so involved with the early churches, life would be much different for us today.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,
Thank you for Paul and the leaders of the early churches!
In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

“God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right.” 2 Timothy 3:16 (NirV)

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.” 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Separate the class into teams. Have one member of each team compete against the other to see who can quote the verse first.

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids compete against each other to see who can quote it first.



SKIT

ENCOURAGING YOUR FRIENDS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Backpack
Lunchbox,
Items that show Taylor had just made it home from school
Cell phone

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1 Female and 1 child (either male or female)

CHARACTERS:

Mom
Taylor (child)

Mom and Taylor walk in from school. Taylor is carrying his backpack and school items. He's obviously upset.

Mom: Taylor, what is wrong with you? You haven't said a word on the way home from school.

Taylor: It's nothing.

Mom: Well, nothing sure seems to have you upset.

Taylor: It's just that I was looking forward to the roller car derby this weekend.

Mom: Ok. Then, why do you look upset?

Taylor: Because I haven't finished painting my roller derby car and I don't see it happening before Saturday.

Mom: I thought Kris was going to help you.

Taylor: So did I.

Mom: Uh-oh. What's wrong with Kris?

Taylor: I don't know.



SKIT (Continued from page 3)

Mom: I need a little more information, please.

Taylor: About what?

Mom: Why isn't Kris going to help you with the roller derby car?

Taylor: Well, I don't know that he's not going to help me. I just don't think he will.

Mom: What makes you think that?

Taylor: He keeps making excuses when we're supposed to work on it.

Mom: What kind of excuses?

Taylor: Like, I can't come over because his grandpa is sick. Or, he can't come over because his Mom is taking care of his grandpa, so Kris has to watch his little brother. And he always looks like he's mad or about to cry. I try to talk to him, but he says he's too busy.

Mom: Taylor, those aren't excuses.

Taylor: Sounds like excuses to me.

Mom: His grandpa really is sick.

Taylor: Really?

Mom: Yes. He had surgery last week. They're waiting on the results. It could be nothing, but it could be something very serious. The whole family is really struggling.

Taylor: I didn't know.

Mom: Did you ever ask him what was wrong?

Taylor: No. I just thought he was trying to get out of working on the car. Or that he was mad at me for some reason.

Mom: Taylor, never make assumptions. Ask. Try to find out what's going on, especially when it comes to your friends.

Taylor: I feel so bad. He probably thinks I'm a terrible friend. How can I fix it?

Mom: Talk to him. Try to cheer him up! Encourage him!

Taylor: Encourage?



SKIT (Continued from page 4)

Mom: Yes, it means to support someone, find ways to make them smile.

Taylor: I can do that! Can I call him?

Mom: Sure! You can use my phone.

Taylor: *(Pretends to dial a number.)* Kris? Hey! I'm sorry I haven't been a very good friend lately. *(Pause)* Thanks, but I should've asked you what was wrong. I'm sorry about your grandpa. Do you want to hang out or is there anything I can do to help? *(Pause)* REALLY? THAT'S AMAZING!!!! I'm so glad! *(Pause)* Sure! I'd love to celebrate with you! *(Pause)* Ice cream? You don't have to ask me twice! I'll see you in a little while!

Mom: That sounded like a good conversation.

Taylor: His grandpa just heard from the doctor! Everything's ok. His grandpa should make a full recovery!

Mom: That's wonderful!

Taylor: He invited me to have ice cream with his family to celebrate! Can I go? Please?

Mom: Well, considering you already told him you were coming, I guess so.

Taylor: I'm sorry. I was just excited!

Mom: *(Laughing)* I understand. Of course you can go. I'll take you there now.

Taylor: Thanks, Mom! And thanks for the "encouragement"!

Mom: Of course! Did you learn anything about this?

Taylor: Yes Ma'am! Don't make assumptions. Encourage. Communicate!

Mom: Absolutely! Now, jump in the car! You've got some celebrating to do!



HAND MOTION LESSON

During this series, there will not be a traditional object lesson. Instead, use this time to teach and reinforce the hand motions that go with each book.

We have four books to read this week.

1 & 2 Timothy were written to Timothy, a student of Paul's who became a pastor. These books are full of great advice for young believers. Count 1 and 2 fingers, then make a T with your hands, right hand on top to remember 1 and 2 Timothy.

Titus was also a pastor and a friend of Paul's. Pretend to "tie" a knot in the air with your fingers to help you remember Titus.

Philemon is so short, it's not broken into chapters! This is a letter about a runaway slave. Put your wrists together and pull them apart as if breaking chains free from your wrists to remember Philemon.



LARGE GROUP GAME

A Story of Encouragement

ITEMS NEEDED:

Pictures of various topics, possibly cut from magazines.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Have the kids sit in a circle. If there are a lot of kids, separate them into teams. Hand each team member a picture. Have the first person start an encouraging story by saying a sentence about the picture they're holding. Then go around the circle with each person adding to the story with a sentence about the picture they're holding. When they're finished, they should have created a happy, encouraging story.

VARIATION:

You can go around the circle more than once if time allows.

WHAT'S THE POINT:

Paul encouraged leaders of the early churches by writing letters. This will remind the kids how easy it is to encourage others.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

We should encourage others with words and actions.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that we should encourage others, just like Paul encouraged his friends through his letters.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Timothy 4:1-8, Instructions to Timothy - Paul helped the early churches, even when he wasn't there in person.

INTRO:

Have you ever been sad or upset about something someone said or did and then someone did something to lighten your mood? Sometimes just a kind word or action can turn a bad day into a great day. It may not have fixed the situation that made you sad or upset but knowing someone cared enough to cheer you up can completely change your mood.

Have you ever seen someone having a hard day, but didn't know how to help? Sometimes, just knowing someone cares is the best help we can offer. Asking how they are, listening, and taking their mind off their situation for a moment can mean more to them than we'll ever know.

READ 1 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

MAIN POINT:

As Paul was building and starting churches, he was also teaching others to carry on the churches after he left. His letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon were written to teach and encourage them and we have the privilege of learning from them as well. Christianity was new and some areas had never heard of it. It was important for leaders of the early churches to be educated so they could educate others. As Paul traveled, he kept a connection to the churches by writing to the leaders.

The early churches were ridiculed and even attacked for their beliefs. It's hard to imagine just how hard it was to continue with so many working against them. Paul



LARGE GROUP LESSON

realized this because he was personally experiencing the same treatment. He didn't want the Christians, especially the ones leading them, to get discouraged. He wanted them to continue, even when it would be easier to quit. For these reasons, he kept teaching and encouraging them, even when he wasn't with them.

Communication wasn't easy back then. Letters had to be written and hand delivered by a messenger. These messengers would have to travel hundreds of miles without transportation. It wasn't a fast process, but Paul didn't let that stop him. Even when he was in prison, he kept writing. He loved God and he loved people.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Paul set an example for us to follow. We get so busy with our own lives that we can't focus on anyone else. What if Paul had done that? What if he sat in prison and felt sorry for himself? What if he decided that it was too much trouble to write letters and have them delivered? I'm sure life would be much different today.

Our interactions with the people in our lives are powerful. They can show people the love of Jesus in action. They can also make people question Christianity if our actions are hurtful or mean. What are your actions telling others? Are you an encourager like Paul? Do you care for people and actively find ways to show them? If not, look for ways to brighten someone's life. Paul was a life changer and we can be as well.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,
Thank you for encouraging us!
In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Has anyone cheered you up when you were sad?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Have the kids compete against each other to see who can quote it first.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids play a game of “Duck, Duck, Goose”, but instead of those words, have them say encouraging words. It could be “Admire, Enjoy, Comfort”! The kids can choose their own words, or you can choose them beforehand and have everyone say the same three words.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-8

How did Paul communicate with the leaders of the early churches?

Why did Paul write letters to the leaders of the early churches?

Were the early Christians treated well by non-Christians?

Why is it important to encourage others?

Was Paul a good leader?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,
Thank you for teachers who encourage us!
In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3RD-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Has anyone cheered you up when you were sad?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Have the kids compete against each other to see who can quote it first.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids play a game of “Duck, Duck, Goose”, but instead of those words, have them say encouraging words. It could be “Admire, Enjoy, Comfort”! The kids can choose their own words, or you can choose them beforehand and have everyone say the same three words.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-8

Why do you think it was important for Paul to continue teaching the early church leaders?

What do you think kept Paul teaching, even when he was in prison?

Do you have a teacher that encourages you like Paul did the leaders of the early church?

How can you be an encourager to others?

How do you feel Paul’s actions affect us today?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,
Thank you for teachers who encourage us!
In Jesus’ name,
Amen*



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

1. Who is not one of the early church leaders that received a letter from Paul?
 - A. Titus
 - B. Jeremiah*
 - C. Timothy
2. Paul stopped writing the churches after he moved on to another town.
 - A. True
 - B. False*
3. To encourage someone, it can be as simple as saying a kind word.
 - A. True*
 - B. False
4. Who is one of the early church leaders that received a letter from Paul?
 - A. Philemon*
 - B. Micah
 - C. Matthew
5. Which is not a way to encourage someone?
 - A. Ask them if you can help.
 - B. Tell them you're there if they want to talk.
 - C. Ignore them and hope they don't notice.*

MAKE IT STICK

5 SIMPLE WAYS
YOU CAN MAKE
THIS LESSON STICK
WITH YOUR KIDS

Route 66 Lesson 10



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

This week we talked about Paul's instructions to Timothy. Paul was always working to spread Christianity everywhere he went. He knew that life would be hard for the early Christians, so he wanted to encourage them to keep them from quitting. If Paul hadn't been so involved with the early churches, life would be much different for us today.

1 Timothy 4:1-8, Instructions to Timothy - Paul helped the early churches, even when he wasn't there in person.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids to think of ways to encourage others like Paul encouraged the leaders of the early churches.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

Why do you think it was important to Paul for the early churches to succeed?

How can you help encourage those around you?

How does Paul's ministry affect us today?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Paul encouraged the leaders of the early churches, which helped spread Christianity around the world. Ask God to help your kids encourage others.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

ITEMS NEEDED:

Paper

Pen/pencil/crayons

Have the children write an encouraging note or draw a picture for someone in their life who needs to be encouraged.



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It is useful for correcting our mistakes.
It is useful for making our lives whole again.
It is useful for training us to do what is right.”**

2 Timothy 3:16 (NirV)



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