

**Objective:** All in your household reject all false teaching and hold to genuine faith, love, and prayer.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** Likely written around AD 62-64, the apostle Paul wrote to the young leader Timothy to instruct him on how to lead the church at Ephesus. This section of the letter gave instruction on how to deal with false teachers and what to pray for.

**Bible Basics:** Go over the following question and answer this week with family members. **What is the role of the Son? Answer:** The Son offers forgiveness and saves people from their sins (Matthew 9:6; 1 Timothy 1:15). He serves as judge over mankind (John 5:22).

## Read the Word: 1 Timothy 1:1–2:6

### Disciple Your Kids

Help your children understand there are people who teach things that are not true. We go to the Bible to know what is true.



#### **Key Truth: Believers Reject False Teachers and False Doctrine and Grow in Godly Love (1 Timothy 1:1-11)**

Paul, writing with God-given authority, opened with the customary greeting (verses 1-2). He had left his young disciple Timothy at Ephesus to deal with false doctrine and false teachers in the church. They focused on myths, fables, and genealogies that led to speculation and argument instead of growth in Christ. Instead, they should focus on sound doctrine that produced pure hearts, good consciences, and sincere faith, leading to love for God and others (verses 3-5). Leaving sound doctrine had led the false teachers into empty discussion even as they thought of themselves as authorities in the Law. They misused the Law, attempting to make it a means of salvation rather than a means of convicting the lost as it was intended (verses 6-11).



#### **Key Truth: God Saves Undeserving Sinners and Calls Them to Stand for the True Faith (1 Timothy 1:12-20)**

Paul thanked God for saving him and calling him to be an apostle. He acknowledged that he had once opposed Christ and His followers, persecuting them (verses 12-14). Humbled by God's grace and mercy, Paul considered himself the worst of sinners. Christ, however, had come into the world to save sinners just like him. He was an example of how God will redeem anyone who believes in Christ, and he proclaimed glory to God (verses 15-17). Paul concluded chapter 1 by reminding Timothy to fight for the true faith, holding to sound doctrine and disciplining those who stray from truth (verses 18-20).



#### **Key Truth: Believers Pray for All People, Including Those in Positions of Authority (1 Timothy 2:1-6)**

Paul mentioned various types of prayers that should be prayed for *all men*, including various kinds of political rulers, even ones who are evil. These prayers are to be offered so that believers can lead *peaceful and quiet lives of godliness* (verses 1-2). Such praying is good and pleasing to God who desires that everyone be saved through faith in Christ, the mediator between God and humans. He gave Himself as a ransom for all who believe (verses 3-6).

# Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What is faith?**
- **Why is knowing God's truth so important to our faith?**
- Why is false teaching dangerous?
- **What are some false teachings we hear in our culture?**
- **What can we do to help us recognize false teaching?**
- What does it mean to reject false teachers and false doctrine?
- What is involved in standing for our faith?
- What are some things we can pray for government officials, for lost people we know, for family and friends, and for our spiritual leaders and missionaries?
- What false teaching do you need to compare with the Bible's teaching?
- Who will you pray for this week and what will you pray about for them?

## Everyday Extras

Pay your children their allowance with Monopoly money this week, or offer a rice cake instead of a cookie. Chances are the substitutes will not be acceptable. The same is true with the good news about Jesus. False messengers would like for people to accept another version of the gospel, but we must know the truth about Jesus and make sure no one teaches something that is not true. Review 1 Timothy 1:15 with your children to remind them of the most important part of the gospel message.

Encourage your children to find the names of their state and federal elected officials and make a list of them. You can include everyone from the President of the United States to the sheriff, aldermen, and school board members in your community. Then ask them to practice 1 Timothy 2:1-3. You can pray for one official each day. Whether you agree with their politics or not, lead your children in respectfully asking God's direction for those in office. As society turns increasingly further from God, the opportunity and responsibility to pray becomes even more important.

## Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned about a young man named Timothy whose grandmother and mother taught him to serve God. Paul wanted Timothy to travel with him and they taught others about God. Paul and Timothy served God through their words and actions. **I Can Serve God** through my words and actions like they did.