

Objective: Family members further the faith by pursuing godliness, generosity, and contentment rather than riches.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Written by Paul around AD 62-64, this part of his letter to Timothy instructed him to strive to further the faith by teaching the believers to flee false teaching and greed, and to pursue godliness, generosity, and contentment.

Bible Basics: Review the names and order of the first 22 books of the New Testament and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: 1 Timothy 6:3-21

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that we are to pursue godliness and contentment rather than riches and be generous with what God gives us.



Key Truth: Believers Are Content With Godliness and Guard Against Greed (1 Timothy 6:3-16)

Paul returned to the subject of false teachers. They were guilty of teaching a different and false gospel that did not agree with the sound teachings of Jesus. We can evaluate all teachings by that standard. They also refused to submit to teaching that would lead to godliness (verse 3). They displayed arrogance and a lack of understanding. They and their teachings led to quarrels, dissension, and friction for those who followed them. They pretended to be godly hoping it would bring personal gain (verses 4-5). Paul, however, wanted learners to understand that godliness does not guarantee financial gain, but brings a greater spiritual gain when accompanied by contentment with the basic needs of life (verses 6-8). On the other hand, those who seek riches fall into all kinds of temptation and harmful desires. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, even causing some to wander from the faith (verses 9-10). Those who desire to be godly, however, are to flee from such desires and behaviors. Instead, they pursue the things and ways of God. They fight to advance the gospel (verses 11-12). Believers strive to keep God's commands and instructions as Christ did, seeking to be above reproach until Christ returns in all His glory (verses 13-16).



Key Truth: Believers Are Generous, Trusting in God Rather Than Riches (1 Timothy 6:17-21)

Christians who are rich by the world's standards must be careful to maintain an attitude of humility. They were not to be arrogant as if their wealth was deserved, and they were not to set their hopes on money as if this were the source of security and true satisfaction. Instead, they were to set their hope on God, the one who provided all that was needed for true contentment and enjoyment (verse 17). Instead of seeking and hoarding riches, believers are to be generous. They are to use their wealth for the benefit of those in need and for the advancement of God's kingdom, knowing their ultimate reward in Heaven is much better than material comforts on this earth (verses 18-19). In all of this Timothy (and all believers) was to continue to guard against false teachers and their false doctrines (verses 20-21).

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 do you think it means to fight the good fight of faith?**
- What are some characteristics of false teachers in verses 3-5?
- What does it mean to be content?
- How can we learn to be content with little or with much?
- What does it look like to pursue what is good and right?
- Why do people tend to want to trust in money for their security?
- How does trusting God help us to be generous and willing to meet others' needs?
- What are some ways we can practice generosity in our culture?
- **How can you fight against the doubts and false truths Satan wants you to believe?**
- **In whom should we find our contentment? How do we do that?**

Everyday Extras

Have a family marshmallow fight. Make marshmallow shooters with a balloon and a cardboard tube. Tie a knot in the bottom of a small balloon and snip it open at the top. Stretch the top over the end of a sturdy, empty toilet paper roll (use a rubber band or tape to secure it tightly if needed). Pull back on the knot to shoot miniature marshmallows. You can aim at one another or at targets for a competition. (You can also shoot marshmallow into the air to try to catch them in your mouth!) When we are fighting for the faith, we are not fighting with marshmallows! We are rejecting any teaching that disagrees with what Jesus said. We are fighting temptation to be greedy. We are not getting sidetracked with controversies and arguments. We are holding on to right living and godliness. We are defending what is true and good. When we fight for the faith, we are assured of victory!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Paul sent Timothy to check on some believers. Timothy learned the believers were doing what Paul had taught them. They were serving God by making good choices, telling others about Jesus, and staying strong in their faith. **I Can Serve God** by loving Him, obeying His Word, and helping others just like Paul and Timothy did.