

Objective: Family members find ways to serve Christ and seek to pass the faith along to others.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul's second letter to encourage the young pastor Timothy was likely written around AD 64-65 during Paul's second Roman imprisonment.

Bible Basics: Review Isaiah 9:6 this week with family members.

Read the Word: 2 Timothy 2:1-26

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about doing our best to please the Lord and to pass the faith along to others.



Key Truth: Believers Serve Like Good Soldiers (2 Timothy 2:1-13)

- After encouraging Timothy to follow and guard the gospel message he had been taught (1:13-14), Paul instructed Timothy to pass the gospel truth on to others with the help of God's grace. God's plan is for the gospel truth to be passed from person to person and generation to generation (verses 1-2).
- Like good soldiers, Christians are to bear up under the hardship that comes with following Christ. They do not let the affairs of daily life distract them from following and serving Christ. Their desire is to please Him. Like an athlete, they discipline themselves and live according to God's Word. Like a farmer, they are diligent in their efforts to do what Christ calls them to do. They do this with their risen Savior in mind (verses 3-8).
- Paul was modeling what he was teaching Timothy. He endured hardship and brought the message of salvation to those who needed to hear. If we die to sin and keep following Christ, we will reign with Him forever. God, however, denies those who deny Him and is always faithful to who He is (verses 9-13).



Key Truth: Believers Serve to Please the Savior (2 Timothy 2:14-26)

- Believers are not to get caught up in meaningless arguments about things that don't really matter. Instead, we are to make every effort to be worthy of God's approval, including working hard to accurately understand, apply, and explain God's Word (verses 14-15).
- We are to shun false teachers and reject erroneous doctrines. False teaching spreads rapidly and damages people's faith. God knows who is His and who is not because He knows the heart. True believers avoid evil by diligent obedience to God's Word and careful separation from false teachers (verses 16-19).
- Believers can be compared to the utensils used in a home. Some are for special purposes and others are for menial tasks. Believers can be used for special purposes by separating themselves from sin and living to serve God. We are to constantly flee from sinful things and pursue what is good and right with the help of other sincere believers (verses 20-22).
- Believers should seek to display the character of Christ in their dealings with others, especially those who are off track or don't know Christ. People will be more likely to listen and turn to the Lord as we display kindness, patience, and gentleness while sharing the truth of the gospel with them (verses 23-26).

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.

- **How can we serve God like a good soldier serves his or her commander?**
- **How can we stay focused on serving God and not be distracted by the daily routines of life?**
- How can we pass the faith along to others?
- What kinds of things make believers worthy of God's approval?
- What does it mean to handle God's Word correctly?
- How do we flee from sinful desires and pursue what is good and right?
- **What are some ways you can keep fighting the good fight of faith?**

Everyday Extras

Examine the different occupations Paul uses as word pictures (or metaphors) in 2 Timothy 2. Can you find teachers, soldiers, athletes, farmers, workmen, and servants in the chapter? Have each child secretly choose one of those jobs and act it out for the others to guess. Or allow them to draw them from a hat and carry on the conversation at dinner as if that were their occupation. At the end of dinner, everyone must guess which job was whose. Talk together about the lessons believers can learn from those occupations. Which one is easiest for your child? Which is more challenging? Remind your children that God will help them to do what His Word instructs them to do.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned **God's Word Is True**. The Bible is the only book given to us from God. It is His letter to us and is very special. God chose certain men to write the things He wanted us to know. God gave us the stories in the Old Testament and New Testament to help us learn from them and know the right way to live.