

Objective: Family members be constantly growing in their understanding and practice of God's Word.

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: Go over the following question and answer this week. **What are the Scriptures? Answer:** The Scriptures are God's inspired and inerrant message to mankind (2 Timothy 3:16). Whatever the Bible says is true is true. Whatever it says is false is false (John 17:17). There are 66 different books of Scripture, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

Read the Word: 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we value and put into practice the Bible because it is God's Word to us.



Key Truth: The Days Leading Up to Christ's Return Will Be Difficult Because of People's Sin (2 Timothy 3:1-9)

- Paul warned that the *last days* would be times of great difficulty because of people's sins. Many scholars believe the *last days* began with the events of the first century and will continue until Christ's return. In verses 2-5, Paul described what people would be like because of their sinfulness. Timothy was to avoid being influenced by those who lived such lifestyles (verses 1-5).
- False teachers manipulate and convince those who are not strong in their faith. These people's immaturity and worldliness make them especially vulnerable to the false teachers. Since false doctrine never leads to truth, the deceived are always learning but never understanding the truth (verses 6-7).
- False teachers actually oppose truth. They have *corrupt minds* and are no longer capable of recognizing truth. God, however, has limited what they can do. Their folly will be exposed to all (verses 8-9).



Key Truth: Believers Live by God's Inspired Word and Follow Godly Examples (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

- In contrast to the false teachers, Timothy followed the faithful example and teaching of Paul, including how Paul endured against opposition. All who are serious about following Jesus should expect such opposition because there will always be evil people (verses 10-13).
- Paul instructed Timothy to continue in the gospel truths he had learned and believed from the Scriptures. Those Scriptures were *inspired* or *breathed out* by God, coming into existence by His very breath or Spirit. By the Holy Spirit, God supernaturally inspired the writers so that what they wrote is without error. They are beneficial for teaching God's truth, confronting people's sin, correcting people's errors, and showing people how to live righteously. They make people mature and complete, fully equipped to meet the demands of every situation in life (verses 14-17).

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.

- According to 2 Timothy 3:1-9, what can we expect as we get closer and closer to Christ's return?
- Why are times difficult and perilous when sin runs rampant?
- Who do you know who sets a good example of following Christ? In what way could you follow that person's example this week?
- Why should Christians who live according to God's Word expect some opposition from the unsaved world?
- **What does it mean that the Scriptures were inspired by God?**
- **How does learning the Scriptures equip us to follow and serve God?**
- **Are Paul's warnings to Timothy still applicable in today's world?**
- **How does God's Word help us stand firm in our faith, keep our trust in Him, and continue to serve Him?**

Everyday Extras

Did you know the Bible tells us to stay away from some people? Yes, we are supposed to be kind and polite and love one another, but the passage in 2 Timothy 3:2-5 lists some people to turn away or avoid. These are people who have soaked up the culture of the last days before Jesus comes. They reflect choices that do not honor God, so we are better off to stay away from them. Play a game of Freeze Tag with your children. Remind them that avoiding "It" will allow them to have a lot more fun instead of being frozen in place. Maybe your kids can teach you what to avoid in a video game. Watch out for banana peels and oil puddles!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Paul wrote letters to people when he couldn't be with them. People would gather to read what Paul had to say and then talk about his letters. God told Paul to tell Timothy that all Scripture (the words in the Bible) is given to us from God. We know **God's Word Is True** and we can talk about it with our family and friends.