

Timothy Learns About Jesus From His Family

Overview



Materials You'll Need

- popsicle sticks
- glue gun and hot glue sticks
- construction paper
- scissors
- markers or crayons
- white glue



Scriptures

Acts 16:1-5; 2 Tim 1:1-6, 3:14, 15

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to draw closer to Him by learning about Him

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify the ways we can learn about Jesus

Memory Verse

"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words." (Rev 1:3)



Bible Knowledge

Timothy

Timothy's father was a Greek, and his mother was a Jewess. As Timothy grew up in the Asian city of Lystra, he was taught from "the Holy Scriptures" (2 Tim 3:15). Eunice, his mother, and Lois, his grandmother, were his teachers. Through the scriptures, Timothy learned about God's promised Messiah. The groundwork for Timothy's acceptance of the gospel was the religious education he received as a child.

On Paul's first missionary journey, he and Barnabas passed through Lystra (Acts 14:8-23). Timothy may have been converted around this time. He may have seen the power of Christ at work in his hometown as Paul healed a man who had been crippled since birth. Timothy may also have seen the angry crowd that stoned Paul and therefore had been impressed with Paul's willingness to suffer for his faith.

Traveling with Silas on his second journey as a missionary, Paul met Timothy and invited him to

join the journey. Paul chose Timothy because he had a reputation for faithfulness and service to God (Acts 16:2). However, because Timothy's father was a Greek, he had not been circumcised. Paul knew they would be ministering to many Jews on their trip, so Paul had Timothy circumcised (Acts 16:3).

Paul sent Timothy on many important missions. When Paul was unable to travel to Corinth, he sent Timothy there (1 Cor 4:17). Later on, when Paul was in prison, he sent Timothy to Philippi. Even though he was young and lacked experience, we know from the Bible that he was committed and faithful (Php 2:19-22).

After Paul was released from prison, Timothy traveled with him to Ephesus. Timothy stayed there to confront the false teachers, and Paul went to Macedonia. This is where Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy. He wrote the second letter while he was imprisoned again. In that letter, he asked Timothy to come quickly to him. This was probably Paul's last letter, as he was about to die.



Understanding Your Students

Timothy is an excellent example of how young members can be an important part of the church. Although he was much older than the students when he began to work for God, he was still considered young to be preaching and entrusted with so much responsibility.

Relate how Timothy was able to do the holy work at such a young age. His success was due to his early religious education. Although his mother and grandmother are only mentioned in passing, they were vital to his emerging faith. Talk about how the students' parents (or guardians) bring them to church today. It is just like how Eunice and Lois taught Timothy. If Timothy hadn't learned from his mother and grandmother, he would not have been able to do work for God. Similarly, encourage your students to worship

God consistently so that they may know more about Him and His kingdom. Share how important Sabbath worship is. Sometimes, they may want to skip service for a party or because they are too tired to come. But God takes the Sabbath very seriously. God wants everyone to come to church because they love Him and want to be close to Him, just like Timothy.

Also take time out to talk about the things they can do now. Even though they can't travel like Timothy and share the news about Jesus, they can always pray for others who are doing this kind of work. They can also do their part by coming to service, listening to the teachers, following God's commands, and helping out in the class. It may not seem like a big deal to them to pick up the trash or tidy up the room. But let the students know that God sees what they are doing. Even if they just get up and let someone else sit down first, God remembers that action. He will bless them and give them more power to do His work later on.



Vocabulary

Scriptures

God's words in the Bible

Missionary

someone who travels to different places and tells other about Jesus



Before You Teach

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he wrote, "for I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus" (Php 2:20, 21). Paul is talking about Timothy in this passage. He was about to send Timothy to Philippi to pastor the church there, which had been established during his second missionary journey (Acts 16:6-12). Why did Paul want to send Timothy? First, he wrote that Timothy was "like-minded." This referred to Timothy's compassion and commitment to caring for God's people, just like Paul. Second, Paul knew that Timothy's faith was genuine and not self-seeking. He wrote that many were not interested in the things concerning Jesus and the church. Even though they called themselves

Christians, they only had time for themselves and their own interests. Timothy, on the other hand, did not let his own needs crowd out his faith.

Timothy is an excellent example for all believers today, young and old. When we serve God, are we like him, full of zeal and compassion? Or are we too preoccupied to really devote any time to God's work?

Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 4:6, "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." He wrote these words to encourage Timothy because he was still relatively inexperienced in his work. These words are also a good encouragement for us. Let us strive towards these godly characters, as Timothy did. Then our faith can be a living faith because our actions and words will be a testament to what we believe in.



Bible Story

Timothy Learns From His Mother and Grandmother

If time and resources permit, prepare a small afternoon tea for your class. Bring juice, small finger sandwiches, and cookies to share. Let the students help you set up a small area with plates, napkins, and cups before class. Explain that today's lesson will be a relaxing afternoon tea with you, the teacher, and a guest.

Before we start today's lesson, can you tell me something that your mom, dad or grandparents have taught you? (They may say how to dress, feed themselves or brush their teeth.) We can learn a lot of things from our families. Our Bible story today comes from the Book of Acts (open up the Bible to the Book of Acts). It is about a young man who learned some very important things from his family. His name is Timothy (use a puppet or doll as Timothy).

Teacher: Everybody, meet Timothy (hold up puppet or doll).

Timothy: Hi everybody

Teacher: Can everyone say hello to Timothy? (Allow students to respond.) When Timothy was young, just like you, his mother and his grandmother told him about God and about Jesus.

Timothy: That's right. My mother and grandmother taught me a lot about God. I learned how God made the world and all the things in it, like the animals and trees. They also taught me that God loves me very much.

Teacher: What else did you learn from them?

Timothy: I learned that it is very important to pray to God every day. That is the best way to talk to Him. I can talk to Him when I am happy, and I can talk to Him when I am sad.

Teacher: So when you grew up to be a young man, you knew a lot about God already.

Timothy: Yes, because we always read the Scriptures. The words of God taught me many stories.

Timothy Meets Paul

Teacher: So when did you learn about Jesus?

Timothy: I didn't learn about Jesus until I met Paul. Paul traveled to many places and visited a lot of towns. He went everywhere to tell people about how Jesus died for us, and how He wants to save us. One

day he came to my hometown in Lystra. I heard him speak and he said many things that made me want to learn more about Jesus.

Teacher: What happened after you learned more about Jesus?

Timothy: I decided to be baptized. I knew a lot about God already but when I realized that Jesus Christ is God Himself, I knew what Paul was preaching was true. I wanted to be saved.

Teacher: What happened after you were baptized?

Timothy: Well, at first I just continued to learn more about Jesus. I went to worship Him during the Sabbath. I also tried my best to help the believers.

Timothy Travels With Paul

Teacher: I heard that because you were such a very good worker in the church, everybody in your town knew that you loved God and all the other brothers and sisters. Everybody said good things about you.

Timothy: After I believed in Jesus, I wanted to work for Him. I wanted other people to be saved too.

Teacher: So when Paul saw that you were such a good worker and helper, he asked you to go with him on a special trip.

Timothy: That's right. I went with Paul on a long journey to tell others about Jesus. We visited places like Philippi and Thessalonica (ask students to repeat after you, or write the words on the board for them to see). It was hard work, but it was great because many people came to believe in Jesus.

Teacher: Was it hard to leave your home and travel so far away?

Timothy: Yes. I had to say goodbye to my mother, father, and my grandmother. I was sad to leave them, but I was full of joy to go and work for God. I think all missionaries feel that way.

Teacher: What is a missionary?

Timothy: A missionary is someone who travels to different places and tells others about Jesus so that they can be saved. That is what Paul and I did. So you could call us missionaries. That was our job.

Teacher: What else did you and Paul do together?

Timothy: Mostly, we told others that Jesus

loves and cares for them. Sometimes, we would help set up a new church because that place did not have one. Other times, we would visit old churches and help the brothers and sisters there.

Teacher: That's great, Timothy. But it sounds like a lot of work.

Timothy: It was a lot of work. Sometimes, when Paul had to go to another place, I would have to stay by myself and take care of the church. Sometimes, I was scared but Paul always told me to trust God and pray to Him.

Teacher: I'm sure God was very pleased. Thanks for telling us all about your life, Timothy.

Timothy: Thanks for inviting me to the tea party. Bye.

Teacher: Let's all say goodbye to Timothy (put puppet or doll away).



Check For Understanding

1. **Who taught Timothy about God when he was young?** (His grandmother and his mother.)
2. **When Timothy grew up, who came to his hometown one day and told them about Jesus?** (Paul.)
3. **Was Timothy a good helper or a bad helper at the church there?** (He was a good helper.)
4. **What did Paul ask Timothy to do when he returned to Timothy's hometown?** (He asked Timothy to go on a special trip with

We Can Be Like Timothy

We learned a lot from Timothy today. We learned that he was a great worker for Jesus and the church. Do you know why he was such a great worker? He spent a lot of time when he was young learning about God from his mother and grandmother. When he grew up and believed in Jesus, he was ready to do God's work. Do you know what? We are just like Timothy. Our family tells us many things about the Bible. We also learn about God from our teachers at church. That is why it is important to come to church on the Sabbath and worship God. We need to learn a lot about Him so that one day, we can share the good news about Jesus with others.

him.)

5. **What did they do on this trip?** (Paul and Timothy went to many places to tell others about Jesus.)
6. **How do we learn about God today?** (We learn from our families during family service or family altars, from our teachers in church, from our friends, and other brothers and sisters.)
7. **How can we be like Timothy?** (We can study the words of God every day so that we can learn more about Jesus. Then one day, we will be ready to tell others about Jesus, too. We can also pray for the workers who are already doing this important work.)



Life Application Story

Learning About God's Words

"What are you doing, Mom?" asked John as he and his sister Michelle came home from school.

"I'm in the guest room. Where's your dad?"

"He's in the garage, talking on the phone," Michelle answered.

"What are you doing in the guest room, Mom?" asked John as he and his sister poked their heads in.

"It's winter and Grandma needs some new scarves. I know I put some new felt pieces here. I thought maybe you and Michelle could each make one for her birthday," replied Mrs. Marsh with a smile.

She showed the children the colorful felt pieces

she had bought.

"Grandma's favorite color is red," Michelle said as she grabbed the top piece. "I think I know how to do it. Can I take it to the kitchen and work on it now?"

"Are you sure you don't need any help?" asked Mrs. Marsh. "It can get a little tricky to cut."

"I'm sure, Mom," replied Michelle as she skipped to the kitchen.

"Well, I guess it's just you and me," said Mrs. Marsh to John. "Let's go to the family room and get the supplies we will need."

"I can help you get them. What do we need?" asked John.

"We will need scissors, a pencil, a ruler, and some pom-poms. I have the pom-poms, ruler, and felt, so maybe you could get a pair of scissors and a pencil," suggested Mrs. Marsh.

"Okay, I can get them and meet you in the family room," said John as he skipped away.

Mrs. Marsh took the things to the family room and laid them on the coffee table.

As soon as John returned with the scissors and pencil, the two of them got started on their scarf. Mrs. Marsh showed John what to do, step by step. First, she showed him how to measure the right length of felt so that it would fit around the neck snugly. Then she showed him how to cut fringes at the ends of the scarf. John checked with Mrs. Marsh every now and then to make sure he was getting it right.

"You are doing a great job, John. The only thing we need to do after you cut the other end of the scarf is to tie on some pom-poms. I think Grandma would like that a lot. You keep working on the cutting. I am going to check on Michelle and see how she is doing," said Mrs. Marsh.

"Okay, I can finish this part by myself," said John confidently.

Mrs. Marsh walked over to the kitchen

"How are you doing?" she asked Michelle. Michelle sighed.

"I thought I could do this. I've seen you do it before," she said, "but it just isn't turning out right. I think I've ruined it."

Michelle showed her mom what she had done so far.

"It's not that bad. I think we can fix it," Mrs. Marsh said. "Let's start by cutting this part off."

Michelle and her mom worked on the scarf until it looked right. Just as they were about to put the pom-poms on, John walked in with his scarf.

"Mom, I think I am ready to put on the pom-poms now."

"You've got great timing. We were about to do the same thing," Mrs. Marsh said.

"Wow, your scarf looks really good," John said to his sister.

"Well, it didn't look this good in the beginning. Mom had to help me fix it," Michelle admitted.

"And that is why I am here. I am here to help you learn. I am here to help you learn about the world, good manners, cool things, and God," Mrs. Marsh said as she took out the pom-poms.

"It's good to have grown-ups teach you everything," John said.

"Yes. Do you remember the story you learned about Timothy? He learned a lot about God from his mother and grandmother. If it weren't for them, he would not know who God is," explained Mrs. Marsh.

"Do grown-ups know everything?" asked John.

"No, grown-ups don't have all the answers. But we do know more than young children, so if you have any questions, you should ask for help," said Mrs. Marsh.

"Besides knowing a lot about the Bible, I know there is something else Mom knows a lot about," said Michelle.

"What's that?" asked John.

"Making great felt scarves," Michelle said.

Mrs. Marsh smiled and picked up some pom-poms.

"Let's put these on and finish the scarves. Then we can make dinner and learn more about God. Tonight is family Bible study night, remember?"

"Yes, we remember," said Michelle and John together.

Questions to Think About

1. **How can grown-ups help us?** (Allow students to answer. Accept all possibilities.)
2. **How can grown-ups help us learn about God?** (Allow students to answer. Accept all possibilities.)



Activity 1

Timothy and His Family

Here is Timothy, his mother, and his grandmother. They loved God very much. Can you draw your family?



Activity 2

How Can We Learn About Jesus?

Fill in the blanks by using words in the word bank.

1. We can read the Bible on our own.
2. We can go to service.
3. We can have family service.
4. We can listen to hymns.



Activity 3

I Am Learning About Jesus Photo Frame

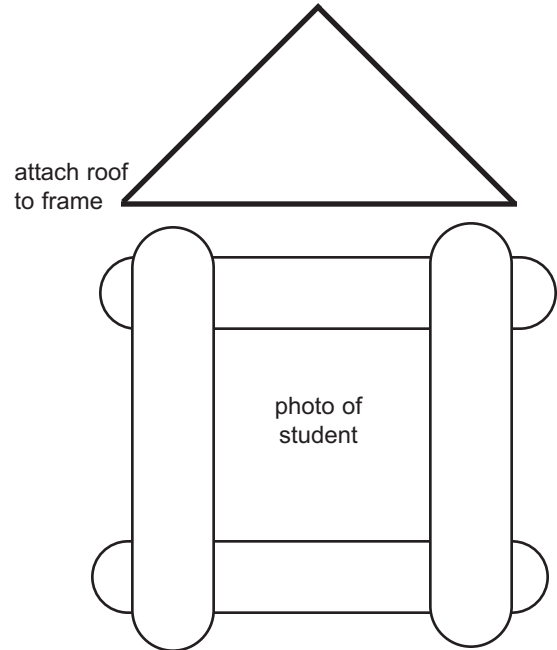
Materials:

1. popsicle sticks
2. glue gun and hot glue sticks
3. construction paper
4. scissors
5. markers or crayons
6. white glue

Directions:

1. Provide each student with four popsicle sticks.
2. Help them arrange the sticks so that they form a square (see diagram).
3. Use the glue gun to glue the sticks together to form a frame. Set it aside.
4. Give each student a piece of construction paper.
5. Help them cut it into a triangle that will fit above the frame (to form a roof).
6. Guide the students to write "I am learning about Jesus" on the triangle.
7. Using white glue, stick the roof on the top of the frame.
8. Ask the students to bring their frame home and attach a picture of themselves onto the frame to remind them that they are learning all about Jesus at church and at home.
9. Teachers can take pictures of the students a

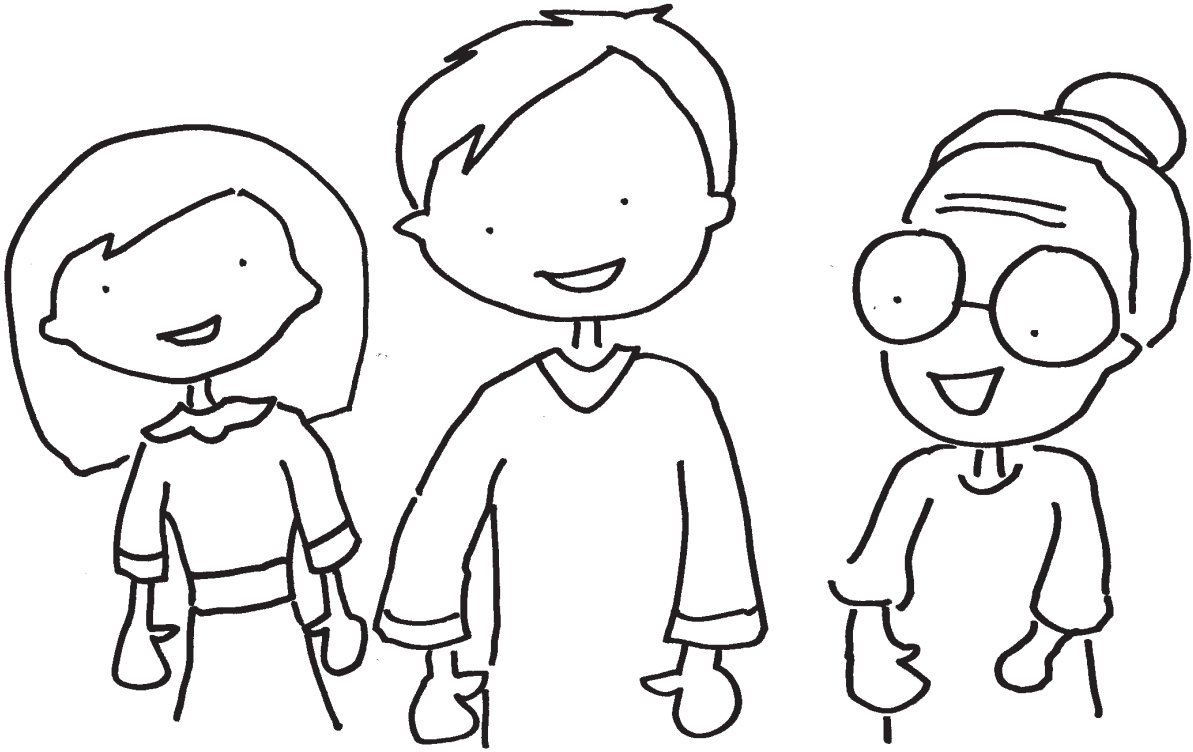
week prior so that pictures will be ready to be glued to the frame at the end of the activity. If time permits, the students can also paint the sticks or decorate them to personalize it even more.



Activity 10:1

Timothy and His Family

Here is Timothy, his mother, and his grandmother.
They loved God very much. Can you draw your family?



My Family Loves God

A large empty rectangular box for drawing.

Activity 10:2

How Can We Learn About Jesus?

Fill in the blanks by using the words in the word bank.

Bible
service
family
hymns



1. We can read the B_____ on our own.

2. We can go to s_____.



3. We can have f_____ service.



4. We can listen to h_____.