

1 Timothy

Listed Scriptures

1 Timothy; Ephesians

Lesson Aim

- 1) To teach students how to be young leaders in the church, handling challenges that they may encounter with other members.
- 2) To encourage students to understand what and why they believe, so their faith withstands non-biblical ideas.
- 3) To remind students that godly conduct is expected in the church, God's household.

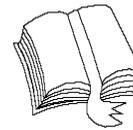
Memory Verse

"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Tim 4:12)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

1 Tim 1-6

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



Through glimpses in the book of Acts (17:14-15, 18:5, 20:4) and a number of Paul's epistles (1 Cor 4:17; Phil 1:1, 2:19-23; Col 1:1; 1 Thess 1:1, 3:2; 2 Thess 1:1; Phm 1), his close connection with Timothy is evident. Referring to Timothy as a "son in the faith," their initial mentor-student relationship evolved into a father-son bond. Born to a Greek father and a Jewish mother, Eunice, Timothy was converted during Paul's first missionary trip when Paul and Barnabas fled Iconium and preached in Timothy's hometown of Lystra, in the Roman province of Galatia.

When Paul returned to Lystra on his second missionary journey, he took Timothy under his wings to labor with him in the ministry (Acts 16:1-3). Timothy accompa-

nied Paul to Berea, Athens, Corinth and Jerusalem, and he went to Corinth, Philippi and Thessalonica at Paul's behest as his representative, often to address issues.

Timothy was with Paul during his first Roman imprisonment, and after his release was sent to Philippi to preach the good news (AD 62-64). Timothy later joined Paul in Ephesus, where he remained while Paul continued to Macedonia. At this time Paul wrote 1 Timothy, his first of three pastoral letters, containing useful principles of leadership in the house of God as well as instructions on righteous living.

W A R M U P



Do you still come to church because it is your parents' habit? Is your faith truly your own? Do you have unanswered questions that prevent you from believing deep within? It's okay to have questions. They should lead to personal reflection, enlightening fellowship, biblical meditation and prayer. Knowing and understanding God is a wonderful, evolving process (in the big picture); admittedly, this isn't always easy. J2 students are on the cusp of greater responsibility for work in the church. In order to be an effective worker, let alone a leader for God, we need to know whom we are serving and believe in how He wants things to be.

B I B L E S T U D Y



The Teachings of 1 Timothy

Although Timothy was about forty years old at this time, he was considered young to lead and instruct a church on his own. Despite being more spiritually knowledgeable than the other members of the church, Timothy faced problems because of how others perceived him. In his case, age was the issue. Although J2 students are not in the same spiritually (and physically) advanced shoes as Timothy, they can probably relate to the hindrance that perception plays.

Paul wrote this epistle in order to advise Timothy on how to safeguard God's truth, how the church should function and how to develop godly leadership. As a more practical, versus theological letter, these points do not build upon themselves but

are interspersed. This is less a brilliant essay like the book of Romans and more like a genuine letter meant for one person, where ideas are written down as they are thought of.

Note: Please refer to Lesson 5 (Ephesians) for background on the city and church.

A. False Doctrines and Myths

The purpose of Timothy's stay in Ephesus was to correct the men teaching false doctrines and devoting themselves to myths and genealogies (1:3-4). The goal of the commandments, for Timothy himself and for the Ephesians, was to learn love through a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith (1:5).

a. False Doctrines (1:3-11, 6:3-10)

Although the church members in Ephesus were mostly gentiles who converted to Christianity, false doctrines related to Judaic law occurred because some men found financial profit in them. Combined with pride and a lack of understanding, these false teachers had no problem creating confusion and controversy.

*Pride, little knowledge of God and a quarrelsome nature are still ingredients for arguments in the church today. How would you diffuse such a situation?

b. Myths (4:1-8)

Apparently the Ephesians adopted unnecessary restrictions based on cultural reasons. These myths may have been ones they grew up with or ones they recently heard of, like a fad. This could correlate to ethnocentric issues we have today (mixing of Asian culture, American culture, biblical teachings, church expectations).

*The church's "old guard" today tends to be more Asian culturally. This becomes an issue for the youth with more Western cultural thoughts. There's a gap between the two groups when culture plays a part in church's spiritual definition of "good." Is this something that can be addressed? If so, what would be the godly way? If not, why?

B. Expectations for Believers (Ch 2 3, 5, 6:1-2)

To show love to God and love to the members of His household, the brothers and sisters are responsible for behaving a certain way. The church is the pillar and ground for truth and the church members should reflect this fundamental reality of Jesus Christ. And for those who want the honor of serving the Lord in a greater

capacity as an elder or deacon, there are greater expectations placed on role models and those in authoritative, high profile positions. The following are key points for J2 students.

a. Prayer (2:1-7)

Prayer requests extend beyond those we know to those already saved and those we pray will be saved. God wants to save everyone, and He only asks us to pray and care about this thing that means so much to Him.

*What can you include in your prayer requests now? How do you make it heartfelt?

b. Brothers (2:8; 3:1-13; 5:1, 17-20; 6:1-2)

The qualifications of an elder or deacon may seem a far-off thought, but all the qualities that make an older man a God-approved man are applicable to younger men too: temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, gentle, peaceful, humble, not greedy, genuine, steadfast in faith, honors women. Also, they do not pray in anger and do not rebuke older men. We need to be role models to younger brothers.

*What have you noticed is a specific example of good brotherly behavior? What is one thing you could do to be a better example to younger brothers?

c. Sisters (2:9-15; 5:2-16)

Women should dress modestly with decency and propriety, i.e. dress for God, not for man. To grab God's attention, they adorn themselves with godly deeds. Learning in quietness and full submission means to be "settled down, undisturbed and not unruly." This seems contrary to the idea of independent women in modern society. But Paul's suggestion pertains to learning and is meant to create an orderly environment to do so. Also, for men, treat older women as mothers and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

*What are the challenges to such godly sisterly behavior?

*Even brothers can give negative reinforcements (like encouraging sisters to dress in a more worldly style). What can you personally do to help sisters (younger/older/yourself) be godlier?



C. A Good Leader Regardless

Some members of the Ephesian church may not have thought much of Timothy because of his age, but a good church leader is not measured by the approval of the members. A good church leader is measured by God's approval.

a. Study and Continually Learn (1:18-19; 4:6-16)

Timothy was brought up in the truth through his grandmother, Lois, and mother, but he learned even more with Paul on the second missionary trip. And he continued to learn as Paul gave him more instructions and bits of wisdom through his two letters. Just as we encourage members to read the Bible daily, Paul told Timothy to devote himself to the public reading of Scripture. And in order not to corrupt his beliefs, Timothy should meditate and examine doctrines closely.

b. Qualities of a Good Leader in Church (4:6-16; 6:11-21)

A good leader understands that he is not simply a worker but also an example to others who see him/her do that work. Therefore, any good leader remembers that he/she is a role model and his actions can affect others both positively and negatively. A person who is right with God is one who can lead because He will make use of him. Paul encouraged Timothy to pursue the following in order to be a good leader:

- i. Like Jesus, a leader in the church serves. Use those spiritual muscles! Timothy was commanded to order, teach and preach.
- ii. Like Jesus, an effective leader in the church is close to God and spiritually cultivated. Paul told Timothy to continually study the Scriptures and pursue godly qualities: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.
- iii. Like Jesus, focus! Timothy was warned to shun the things that could corrupt his faith: pride, love of money, worldly pursuits, godless chatter and opposing ideas. He should keep the hope and tenacity to fight the good fight of faith.
- iv. Like Jesus, love. In this pastoral letter, Paul gave Timothy the big-picture tip on how to minister to the different members of the church: treat them with the forgiveness and tolerance accorded to members of his own family.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING



1 What was the purpose of Timothy's stay in Ephesus and what was the goal of that purpose?

2 What false teachings was Paul warning Timothy against?

3 What can we learn to fight against false teachings and teachers?

4 What behavior is expected of us as young men and women in church?

5 What are the qualities of a good leader?

LIFE APPLICATION



Part A: Brushing Up on the Five Basic Beliefs

True Jesus Church's five basic beliefs set it apart from mainstream Christianity. Our Christian friends may wonder why we believe the things we do, and as they share why they don't, we may wonder if we really have it right. Let's review what it is we believe and why we believe it.

Step 1:

Break into groups of two. The teacher can randomly select or assign which belief each person has. A set of partners should not have the same belief.

Step 2:

In the first round, the first partner will explain to his partner the belief and why it is a TJC basic belief. Feel free to refer to the Bible. The other partner should ask questions with an inquisitive purpose.

Step 3:

In the second round, the second partner will do the same thing with his assigned belief.

Step 4:

If there are enough groups, pick pairs to act out a basic belief explanation in front of everyone. Otherwise, each student will explain and field questions from the class. Discuss as a class whether the main and subtle points were hit upon. Refer to TJC's *Essential Biblical Doctrines* for more in-depth information on each belief.

Basic Beliefs—What and Why

Holy Sabbath

The day God set aside as holy (Gen 2:3); a day of rest dedicated to Him (Ex 16:23). The Sabbath is the last day of the week—Saturday, according to the Roman calendar. Today, we know orthodox Jews follow tradition and observe the Sabbath beginning Friday night. God commanded that the Israelites observe the Sabbath in the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:8-11). The early church continued to observe the Sabbath (Acts 13:14) not because of legalistic tradition, but because of the spiritual substance of the Sabbath.

Water Baptism

Based on John the Baptist's baptism: immersion in living water. Jesus set an example when He was baptized by John the Baptist. While John's baptism was one of repentance, after Jesus' death, His baptism was for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38, 22:16). His disciples baptized others when He was alive (Jn 4:2). After Jesus resurrected and returned to heaven, they continued to baptize new believers (Acts 8:38).

Footwashing

Washing the feet of believers. Occurs after the sacrament of water baptism. Jesus washed His disciples feet at the last supper. When Peter first objected, Jesus said, "Unless I wash you, you have no part of me" (Jn 13:8). And after He washed all their feet, He told His disciples, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (Jn 13:15).

Holy Communion

Remember Jesus' sacrifice and death (1 Cor 11:24-26), and partake in His body and blood (1 Cor 10:16). Established at the last supper during the Passover Feast. The bread is the body and the cup of juice is the blood, spiritually transfigured after consecration (Mt 26:26-28). One bread is broken into pieces because there is only one body of God (1 Cor 10:16-17). Because yeast is a negative symbol in the Bible, the bread is unleavened and the "fruit of the vine" is juice since wine ferments through yeast.

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is Jesus (Jn 14:16-17), who is God (Acts 5:3-4). Although there were movements of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, it wasn't until Jesus resurrected and returned to heaven that the Holy Spirit dwelled in men (Acts 1:1-5). The Holy Spirit first came down during the Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). It came upon gentiles as a sign that God's salvation was not limited to the Jews (Acts 10:44-48). Evident

through the speaking of tongues (Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:6). Necessary for salvation (Jn 3:5, Rom 8:9, 2 Cor 1:22).

Part B: Change Begins With You—Being a Better Worker for God

What are some weaknesses in the church work we do? What can we do to improve?

Step 1:

Ask the students to write their current church duties on a sheet of paper, and in what ways they would like to improve in their work. They can also write down work they hope to be part of in the future.

Step 2:

Have the students pass their sheets to the person next to them. Looking at their classmate's sheet, have the students write down advice or encouragements on how he can meet his goals. Give students 30 seconds and continue to pass along the paper until each student has his sheet back.

Step 3:

Ask the students to share the advice and encouragements they find useful.

REFLECTION & PRAYER



Some J2 students face a growing responsibility in church work and they can relate to the burden Timothy may have felt. It takes a patient and humble person to be wise enough to pastor everyone in a loving and godly manner. Paul encouraged Timothy to remain grounded through daily study and meditation of the Scriptures. Knowledge of God draws us closer to Him, and the closer we are, the easier it is for Him to use us as vessels, It is not Timothy's will or our wills that allow us to gently and wisely pastor members of the church and do church work, but God's.

Lesson 11

2 Timothy

Listed Scriptures

2 Timothy

Lesson Aim

1) To be a model servant of Christ.

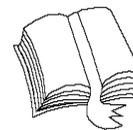
Memory Verse

"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Tim 2:22)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

2 Tim 1-4

BIBLE BACKGROUND



Paul wrote 2 Timothy (his last letter) around 67 AD, during his second Roman imprisonment and prior to his execution. Unlike his first Roman imprisonment, which was more like a house arrest, Paul was locked up in jail and there was little hope of his release. Only Luke kept Paul company.

Unlike his first letter to Timothy, which consists mostly of practical and pastoral advice, the second letter is full of spiritual and evangelical encouragement: be steadfast and preach the good news. The two themes come from Paul's love of Jesus Christ and his love for Timothy. Paul and Timothy's close relationship is evident in his greeting, calling Timothy his "dear son," and in his wish for Timothy to come to Rome before he dies. Their relationship has progressed from teacher-student and leader-helper to father-son in the faith.