

RI.C1. What do you believe?

2 Timothy 1:1-18, 2:1-13, 4:6-8

Learning Objectives

1. The children will identify their faith as the most important part of their life.
2. The children will be able to explain that being a Christian means one takes responsibility for learning more about their faith, making decisions according to their faith, and living their faith each day including praying for opportunities to share that faith with others.

Memory Verse: *“God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ...it is God's gift.”*
--Ephesians 2:8 (NIRV)

Getting Started

(Choose One Activity)

“Do You Believe?” Activity:

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → activities → “Do You Believe”

You will need to print or make copies of the handout for each child before class.

Please see the above website for detailed instructions. This activity may be done orally (out loud) together, or you may give the children an opportunity to think quietly and write down their answers before discussing together.

Once the children understand or make the connection that they believe in things that they cannot see, read the paragraph at the bottom of the handout to them.

“Flying Fruit” Game:

See: www.teensundayschool.com → Lessons → “Galatians – Faith and the Fruit of the Spirit” → scroll down to the “Flying Fruit” activity.

You will need to bring some real fruit to class—apples, oranges, bananas, grapes, etc., and give everyone one piece of fruit. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. Note: You will likely need to recruit some extra volunteers for this activity. Also, you may need to differentiate between “toss” and “throw” depending on your students.

When you are finished with the nine fruit of the spirit characteristics, have the children sit down. Tell them that today we are going to talk more about one specific characteristic. Give them some clues and see if they can guess. Then proceed with the lesson.

“Famous Last Words” Activity:

See: www.teensundayschool.com → games → “Famous Last Words”

Read the “Famous Last Words” out loud, and see if the students can name the person who said it. Let everyone know the correct answer before reading the next quote. Have the students keep track on their own how many they get right. You will need an award some sort of small prize to the person or persons who get the most right. Please see the above website for more detailed instructions.

After reading through the quotes above, be sure to cover the discussion questions. Then tell the children that in today’s lesson we will explore what it means to be faithful, and hopefully become inspired and more equipped to live a more faithful life each day.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *Learn, love and live your faith.*

Note: In today's lesson we learn about the faith of Paul as we read from reading his letters to Timothy.

2 Timothy 1:1-11

I, Paul, am writing this letter. I am an apostle of Christ Jesus just as God planned. He sent me to tell about the promise of life that is found in Christ Jesus.

Timothy, I am sending you this letter. You are my dear son. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy and peace.

Paul Tells Timothy to Be Faithful

I serve God, knowing that what I know is right. That is how our people served him long ago. Night and day I thank God for you. Night and day I always remember you in my prayers.

I remember your tears. I long to see you so that I can be filled with joy. I remember your honest and true faith. It was alive first in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice. And I know that you now have that same faith.

That is why I remind you to use the gift God gave you. God put his gift in you when I placed my hands on you. Now let it grow, just as a small spark grows into a fire. God didn't give us a spirit that makes us afraid. He gave us a spirit that gives us power and love and self-control. So don't be ashamed to tell people about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me. I am in prison for the lord. Instead, join with me as I suffer for the good news. God gives us the strength to do that.

God has saved us and made us His holy people. That wasn't because of anything we have done ourselves. It was because of what He wanted and because of His grace. Through Christ Jesus, God gave us that grace even before time began. It was not shown to us until our Savior Christ Jesus came. He has destroyed death. Because of the good news, He has showed us the way to have life that cannot be destroyed.

I was chosen to tell the good news and to be an apostle and a teacher.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where did Timothy's faith come from (1 Timothy 1:5)? *(His mother and grandmother.)*
2. How did Paul first contribute to Timothy's faith (1 Timothy 1:6)? *(Paul gave Timothy the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of his hands.)*
3. Paul invites Timothy to join in suffering for the "good news" with him. What did this mean for them at that time? *(Paul at the time was in prison. Many times people were persecuted or punished for sharing the good news of Jesus.)*
4. What do think it would mean for you to suffer for the Lord today? *(Discuss together. This depends on what part of the world one lives in. Explain.)*

Continue with the lesson. Tell the children to keep listening for faithfulness words.

1 Timothy 1:12-18

¹² That's why I'm suffering the way I am. But I'm not ashamed. I know the One I have believed in. I am sure He is able to take care of what I have given Him. I can trust Him with it until the day He returns as judge. ¹³ Follow what you heard from me as the pattern of true teaching. Follow it with faith and love because you belong to Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the truth of the good news that you were trusted with. Guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. ¹⁵ You know that all the believers in Asia Minor have deserted me. They include Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶ May the Lord show mercy to all who live in the house of Onesiphorus. He often cheered me up. He was not ashamed that I was being held by

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

chains.¹⁷ In fact, it was just the opposite. When he was in Rome, he looked everywhere for me. At last he found me.
¹⁸ May Onesiphorus find mercy from the Lord on the day Jesus returns as judge. You know very well how many ways Onesiphorus helped me in Ephesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. In verse 12 Paul says, “I know in whom I have believed.” What do you think he means by that? How does that demonstrate his faith? (*Discuss together.*)
2. Paul tells Timothy to “keep (verse 13)” and “guard (verse 14)” certain things. How do these words relate to faithfulness? (*Faithfulness is not a one-time thing. It means that over a very long time you remain true to the Lord and our Heavenly Father. You keep your faith, you guard your life, and you persevere in spite of your circumstances. Paul’s advice to Timothy continues in chapter 2.*)

2 Timothy 2:1-13

¹ My son, be strong in the grace that is found in Christ Jesus. ² You have heard me teach in front of many witnesses. Pass on to men you can trust the things you've heard me say. Then they will be able to teach others also. ³ Like a good soldier of Christ Jesus, share in the hard times with us. ⁴ A soldier does not take part in things that don't have anything to do with the army. He wants to please his commanding officer. ⁵ In the same way, anyone who takes part in a sport doesn't receive the winner's crown unless he plays by the rules. ⁶ The farmer who works hard should be the first to receive a share of the crops.

⁷ Think about what I'm saying. The Lord will help you understand what all of it means. ⁸ Remember Jesus Christ. He came from David's family line. He was raised from the dead. That is my good news. ⁹ I am suffering for it. I have even been put in chains like someone who has committed a crime. But God's word is not held back by chains. ¹⁰ So I put up with everything for the good of God's chosen people. Then they also can be saved. Christ Jesus saves them. He gives them glory that will last forever. ¹¹ Here is a saying you can trust. “If we died with Him, we will also live with Him. ¹² If we don't give up, we will also rule with Him. If we say we don't know Him, he will also say He doesn't know us. ¹³ Even if we are not faithful, He will remain faithful. He must be true to Himself.”

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the things that Paul tells Timothy to do in the verses above? (*“Be strong,” “trust,” “endure hardship.”*)
2. What do these statements say about the type of faith Paul is saying Timothy should have? (*We need to have a solid faith, one that does not waiver depending on our circumstances.*)
3. Verse 8 and those that follow reveal where the faith Paul is inviting Timothy to have should come from. Where should it come from? (*Jesus Christ, and the fact that He lives.*)
4. Verse 13 reveals that God always has faith in us. Have you ever thought about that before? What does that mean to you?

Tell the children that God is faithful. It is part of who He is. But He also asks us to be faithful to Him. Paul knows this. He has lived this. And now he passes it on to Timothy in the verses we have read together. But the things he says are relevant to us, too, and we should listen to Paul. Paul knew all about faithfulness. He lived a long and difficult life. But he remained faithful to Jesus Christ the whole time. We know this because his last recorded words come in this letter, just a couple of pages beyond what we've read so far. Turn to 2 Timothy 4. Here Paul puts his money where his mouth is, so to speak. After urging Timothy to be faithful, he gives some insight as to what he is feeling as he writes these last words to his young protégé:

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

2 Timothy 4:6-8

⁶ I am already being poured out like a drink offering. The time has come for me to leave. ⁷ I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is a crown waiting for me. It is given to those who are right with God. The Lord, who judges fairly, will give it to me on the day He returns. He will not give it only to me. He will also give it to all those who are longing for Him to return.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think “the time of my departure is at hand” means? (*The end of his life is near.*)
2. Paul describes his faithfulness as “fighting the fight,” “finishing the course,” “keeping the faith.” Which of those is most profound to you? Why? (*Discuss together.*)
3. What do you think it meant to Paul to say those words at the end of his life?
4. What do you think it meant for Timothy to read those words, knowing what he knew about his mentor, Paul?

Tell the children that faithfulness is a very important part of our lives. To be able to live your life knowing that you are growing each day in your Faith is a wonderful thing. To approach each day of our lives knowing that you have done all you could to bring honor to God and draw others to Him shows that you will have a life full of faith, one that is well-lived.

Application to Real Life

Ask the children if they think their faith would save them? Remind them of the story of Daniel. Daniel was one of the many great men of faith. Although he knew that disobeying a decree from the king meant death, he would not give up his faith, even if it meant giving up his own life. We will never know if Daniel went into the lion's den believing he would survive. We do know that he prayed to God for help, but that could have been a prayer to help to withstand the pain or even to die quickly. In any case, we can know for sure because of his faith that he believed he was in God's care. Having faith in God means to allow Him to be in control of our lives. If we faithfully obey Him and give Him our honor and our praise, He will give us the courage to do whatever He wants us to do. That is why it is so important that we spend some time **learning about our faith, learning to love our faith, and living our faith** each and every day. (See message statement.)

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Play a game to review an article of faith (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
4. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Activity Ideas

“By Faith” Game

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → lessons → “The Prophet Daniel – A Reputation of Faith” (look under “alternate class exercise”)

Write each clue that is provided on one index card. This game is similar to charades. Tell the children that all of the answers are about events in the Bible that took great faith. (All of the examples can be found in Hebrews 11.) Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

At the end of the game, remind the children of the faith that occurred in each of the stories above. Ask the children if they would have been able to be as strong with their own faith if they lived through those experiences. Talk about it together.

“Unseen Faith” Activity

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → object talks → “Unseen Faith”

You will need 2 plastic water bottles and an old glove for this activity. Before class, take an old glove and draw or glue the following letters on the knuckles: F - E - A - R. (You could also use washable markers to write on your own knuckles.) Take the two empty plastic water bottles, and tightly cap one of them. Do not cap the other bottle. You will compare the uncapped bottle to a person without faith, and the capped bottle to a person who has faith. Although faith itself is not visible, what faith produces is easy to see. Please see the above website for more detailed instructions and a guide to the discussion.

Journal Reflection Questions

- Do you ever think about what it might be like to be laying on your death bed? True, the end of our life may come suddenly. But what if you had the opportunity to tell others what you believed in the moments before you died? What do you want to be able to say in those moments? For the next couple of minutes, take time to write a letter. Imagine that, like Paul, death is imminent for you. What do you want to say about your relationship with God? What has your relationship with Him meant to your life? Approach this thoughtfully and honestly. Write about it in your journal.
- What is something you can do this week to live more faithfully? What is something you can STOP doing to be a more faithful follower of our Heavenly Father? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read the lesson titled: **World Religions – Part 1** as well as Ephesians 4:32, 1 John 4:7-11, John 13:34-35, and 1 Peter 3:8-9.
- Learn the memory verse: *“In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you.”*
--Matthew 7:12 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing Article of Faith # ____.
- Make a list of as many names of Christian churches you can think of. On the back of your paper, answer the following question: “What would it look like if you were a totally respectful person? What would you say, do, etc.?” Bring it with you to class next week.