Preschool–Grade 6

Timothy

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Know God's Word from a child. Timothy learned the holy scriptures young, and they made him wise unto salvation.
Bible passage: 2 Timothy 1:1–7 and 3:14–15, with Acts 16:1–2. Read them before class.
Memory verse: "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." *2 Timothy 3:15 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board. On the other side, draw three boxes in a row, labeled "Lois," "Eunice" and "Timothy."

1. Opening game: Who Taught You? (5–10 minutes)

Ask kids to stand up if someone taught them how to: 1) tie their shoes, 2) ride a bike, 3) read, 4) pray, 5) find a verse in the Bible. After each, ask a few kids: *Who taught you?* Say: "Most things we know, someone taught us. Today we read a letter to a young man named Timothy, and we find out about the faith in his family and the scriptures he knew from a child."

2. Bible story: A Letter to Timothy (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Who was Timothy? Look up Acts 16:1–2. In the town of Lystra lived a disciple named **Timotheus** (Timothy). His mother "believed," and the brethren "well reported of" him (they said good things about him). Paul wanted Timothy to "go forth with him" (16:3).

Paul's letter. Later, Paul wrote two letters to Timothy. **Look up 2 Timothy 1:2.** Paul called him "my dearly beloved son." Timothy wasn't Paul's son by birth (his father was a Greek, Acts 16:1), but Paul loved him like a son. **Look up 2 Timothy 1:3–4.** Paul prayed for him "night and day," remembered his **tears**, and greatly wanted to see him.

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A faith passed down. Look up 2 Timothy 1:5. Paul remembered "the **unfeigned** faith" (real, not pretend) in Timothy, which "dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice." Write "faith" in all three boxes on the board. Say: "Faith lived first in his grandmother, then in his mother, and now in Timothy."

Not a spirit of fear. Look up 2 Timothy 1:6–7. Paul told him to "stir up the gift of God, which is in thee" (wake it up and use it). "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a **sound mind**" (a mind that thinks clearly and right).

From a child. Look up 2 Timothy 3:14–15. "Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned," Paul wrote, "knowing of whom thou hast learned them." And "from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee **wise unto salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Say: "God's Word is able to make us wise about how to be saved."

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Why do you think Paul prayed for Timothy "night and day" (1:3)?
2. Look at the three boxes. How did faith get from Lois to Timothy?
3. Paul said, "knowing of whom thou hast learned them" (3:14). Why does it matter who teaches us?
4. When are kids tempted to be afraid? How does 2 Timothy 1:7 help?
5. What is one way you can learn God's Word this week?

Recall questions

1. Who were Timothy's grandmother and mother? *(Lois and Eunice, 2 Timothy 1:5)*
2. What hath God not given us? *(The spirit of fear, 1:7)*
3. Since when had Timothy known the holy scriptures? *(From a child, 3:15)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **thou hast known** means you have known, **the holy scriptures** means God's Word, **able to make thee** means can make you, and **wise unto salvation** means wise enough to know how to be saved. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The holy scriptures are able to make us wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus. Here is what they say. 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. But God loves you. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: read your Bible for a few minutes each day, and thank someone who taught you about God.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Acts 16:1: What was the disciple's name? *(Timotheus, which is Timothy)*
2. 2 Timothy 1:1: Who wrote the letter? *(Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ)*
3. 2 Timothy 1:2: What did Paul call Timothy? *(My dearly beloved son)*
4. 2 Timothy 1:3: When did Paul pray for him? *(Night and day)*
5. 2 Timothy 1:5: Who was Timothy's grandmother? *(Lois)*
6. 2 Timothy 1:5: Who was Timothy's mother? *(Eunice)*
7. 2 Timothy 1:7: Name one thing God hath given us. *(Power, love or a sound mind)*
8. 2 Timothy 3:15: What are the holy scriptures able to make us? *(Wise unto salvation)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. Thank You for Your Word and for the people who taught it to us. Help us know it from the time we are children, and give us power, love and a sound mind instead of fear. In Jesus' name, amen."

Teacher note: this lesson leaves out that Paul circumcised Timothy (Acts 16:3). Some children have no one at home who teaches them the Bible. Say plainly that a teacher, a pastor or a friend at church can be their "Lois and Eunice", and never shame a child's family.

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