Preschool–Grade 6

Timothy

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I can know God's Word, even when I'm little.
Bible passage: 2 Timothy 1:1–7 and 3:14–15. Read them yourself 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)*. For preschool, teach the first part: "from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures." The old words mean: **thou hast known** means you have known, and **holy scriptures** means God's Word.
You need: a Bible, a rolled-up sheet of paper tied with yarn (a "scroll"), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 2 Timothy 3:15. Make the paper scroll.

1. Opening game: Big and Little (5 minutes)

Say: "Stand up tall like a grandma! Stand up tall like a mommy! Now crouch down little like a child!" Do it a few times. Then show the scroll. Say: "In Bible times, God's Word was written on a scroll like this. Today we meet a little boy named Timothy. His grandma and his mommy believed God, and Timothy knew God's Word from when he was little."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Timothy. Say: "This story is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Paul wrote a letter to his friend Timothy (2 Timothy 1:1–2). *(Pretend to write.)*
Paul loved Timothy like a son (1:2). *(Hug yourself.)*
Paul prayed for Timothy night and day (1:3). *(Fold your hands.)*
Timothy's grandma Lois believed God (1:5). *(Stand up tall.)*
Timothy's mommy Eunice believed God (1:5). *(Stand up a little shorter.)*
Timothy believed God too (1:5)! *(Crouch down little, then jump up!)*
God does not want us to be afraid (1:7). *(Shake your head.)*
Timothy knew God's Word when he was little (3:15). *(Open your hands like a book.)*
Say it with me: "I can know God's Word!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who wrote a letter to Timothy? *(Paul, 2 Timothy 1:1)*
2. Who was Timothy's grandma? *(Lois, 1:5)*
3. When did Timothy know God's Word? *(When he was a child, 3:15)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Paul told Timothy, 'from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures.' That means you knew God's Word when you were little!" Teach the motion: crouch down little on "from a child," then open your hands like a book on "the holy scriptures." Say it with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "2 Timothy 3:15" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
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.

6. Activity: Who Teaches Me? (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a Bible and someone who teaches them about God. While they color, ask: "Who taught Timothy God's Word? Who teaches you?" Kids who finish early can take turns holding the scroll and saying, "I can know God's Word!"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for loving me.
Thank You for Your Word. Help me learn it. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and simple. Some children don't have a grandma or mom who teaches them the Bible; say, "Teachers at church teach you God's Word too!" Send the take-home sheet home so parents can read the story again this week.

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