Preschool–Grade 6

Timothy

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: You are never too young to know God's Word. Timothy knew the holy scriptures from a child.
Bible passage: 2 Timothy 1:1–7 and 3:14–15 (and Acts 16:1–3, where Timothy first meets Paul). 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, a rolled-up sheet of paper tied with yarn (a "scroll"), 5 paper strips, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: make the paper scroll. Write the memory verse on the 5 paper strips (see part 4). Put bookmarks in your Bible at Acts 16:1, 2 Timothy 1:5 and 2 Timothy 3:15.

1. Opening game: Pass the Scroll (5 minutes)

Kids sit in a circle. Say: "This is a scroll. In Bible times, God's Word was written on scrolls." Pass the scroll around the circle while everyone says, "God's Word, God's Word, pass it on!" When you say "Stop!", the child holding the scroll says one thing they know from the Bible (a name, a story, or "God loves me"). Help if they get stuck. Say: "Today we meet a boy named Timothy. His grandmother and his mother passed God's Word on to him, and he knew it from the time he was a child!"

2. Bible story: Timothy (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Timothy, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Timothy lived in a town called **Lystra**. His mother believed in God (Acts 16:1). The Bible calls him **Timotheus** there, another way to say Timothy. The believers there said good things about him (16:2). When **Paul** came to town, he wanted Timothy to go with him (16:3). Say: "Paul was an apostle. That means Jesus sent him to preach the good news."

Later, Paul wrote Timothy a **letter**. It is in our Bible! It is called 2 Timothy. Paul began: "To Timothy, my dearly beloved son" (2 Timothy 1:2). Say: "Timothy was not really Paul's son. Paul loved him like a son." Paul said he prayed for Timothy night and day (1:3). He remembered Timothy's tears, and he wanted to see him so he would be filled with joy (1:4).

The story continues: Paul remembered Timothy's **faith**. **Read 2 Timothy 1:5 from your Bible:** "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." Say: "**Unfeigned** means real, not pretend. **Lois** was Timothy's grandmother. **Eunice** was his mother. They believed God first, and now Timothy believed too!"

Paul told Timothy, "Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee" (1:6). Say: "**Stir up** means wake it up and use it." Then Paul wrote, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (1:7). Say: "God does not want us to be afraid. He gives us power, love, and a mind that thinks right."

Paul also wrote: keep on in the things you learned, because you know who taught you (3:14). **Read 2 Timothy 3:15:** "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." Say: "The **holy scriptures** are God's Word. Timothy knew God's Word when he was a child, just like you! God's Word makes us **wise unto salvation**. That means it shows us how to be saved, by faith in Jesus."

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who wrote a letter to Timothy? *(Paul, 2 Timothy 1:1)*
2. What did Paul call Timothy? *("My dearly beloved son," 1:2)*
3. Who was Timothy's grandmother? *(Lois, 1:5)*
4. Who was Timothy's mother? *(Eunice, 1:5)*
5. How long had Timothy known the holy scriptures? *(From a child, 3:15)*

4. Memory verse: Pass It On (5 minutes)

Write the verse on the 5 strips: *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.* Tape them in order on the wall. Explain the old words: **thou hast known** means you have known, **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 together. Then pass the scroll: whoever holds it reads the next strip with you. Take one strip away and read again. Keep taking one strip away until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God's Word makes us wise unto salvation. Here is what it tells us. We have all done wrong things. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. But God loves you very much. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: read a Bible story with someone in your family, and learn the memory verse. You are never too young to know God's Word!

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Timothy word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/timothy-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/timothy-craft), or **Who Taught Me?** Each child names one person who taught them about God or the Bible (a parent, a grandparent, a teacher, a pastor). Then everyone draws that person and writes "Thank you!" (or the teacher writes it for them). Say: "Faith lived first in Lois and Eunice, and then in Timothy. Who can you pass God's Word on to?"

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 teach it to us. Help us know Your Word from the time we are children, and help us not to be afraid. In Jesus' name, amen."

Teacher note: this lesson leaves out that Paul circumcised Timothy (Acts 16:3) and the Greek father's part (16:1). Some children don't have a parent or grandparent 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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