

TO A NEW GENERATION

Paul Writes
to Timothy
2 Timothy 1;
3:14–17
AD 68

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit teaches us through God's Word.

BIBLE VERSE

All Scripture is breathed out by God. 2 Timothy 3:16

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God raises up special leaders for His Church.

LAW & GOSPEL

In my sin, I am ashamed of God and His Word.

God forgives me of my sins and equips me to share His Word with others.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Paul writes this instructive letter to his spiritual son, Timothy. As the pastor of the Church in Ephesus, young Timothy relies on Paul's experience and advice. Paul's words to Timothy encourage all believers in Christ: "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost" (1 Timothy 1:15).

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read 2 Timothy 1; 3:14–17; and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)*.

MORE TIME Read 2 Timothy 2 and study notes in *TLSB*.

IN DEPTH Read 2 Timothy 3:1–13; 4; and study notes in *TLSB*.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Encouraging letters for students
- Letter you received in the mail

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Device with downloaded music
- Pens or pencils
- Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- Bible
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Supplies for bonus activities
- cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

Prepare short letters with words of encouragement for your students and put them in envelopes addressed to them. Have the letters waiting for your students upon their arrival. Make sure you have an extra one prepared for a guest.



GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 13.



DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning and review this section of Scripture by printing the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.

LAUNCH

PRAY Dear heavenly Father, You give us Your Word so that we may know You. Thank You for bringing us here to study that Word and to grow in our faith together as Christian friends. In Your name we pray. Amen.

SING “Oh, How I Love Jesus”
“For God So Loved the World”
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

SAY Has anyone ever gotten a letter in the mail? (Show a letter.) What did your letter say? Who was it from? How did you feel when you saw it? (Tell about your own letter and why it was special enough for you to save.) We don't seem to get letters as much anymore. There are many faster ways to send people a message. But what is a really great thing about a letter? (It's on a piece of paper and you can go back and read it over and over. It can last a long time; even after the person who wrote it has gone on to heaven, you might still have the words of their letter to read.) In Bible times, they didn't have all the ways to send messages that we do today, so writing letters was really important. Some of these letters are part of the Bible. We call them “epistles.”

LEARN

READ “TO A NEW GENERATION”

Use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* to read the Bible narrative aloud to your students.

DO SOMETHING

FOR ALL AGE LEARNERS Briefly point out that letters in Bible times were written on a scroll instead of having an envelope with a return address. This is why Paul's name is at the beginning of the letter. His name would have been what Timothy saw first.

This is a letter of encouragement. Talk about what the word *encouragement* means. Talk about how people encourage your students and how that makes

them feel. Ask them how it feels to be the one giving encouragement. As you read through this letter, ask students to listen for words or phrases that give encouragement. Then make a list of words that we use today to encourage one another.

FOR OLDER LEARNERS Have students “translate” this letter into language that modern readers would understand, as if they were writing this letter to a friend.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- This letter from Paul to Timothy was written about ten years after Paul's shipwreck. Sadly, as he writes, Paul is in prison, waiting to be executed by Nero. There is no need to share that with young students; the point is, this is Paul's last letter of encouragement to Timothy and to God's people throughout time.
- This letter to Timothy is such a beautiful letter of encouragement to him, as well as to us.
- It would have been easy for Paul to despair, and yet, as usual, he is filled with the Holy Spirit to share Christian encouragement for his “son in the faith,” Timothy.
- The Word of God has been breathed out, like the wind in the sail of a ship.
- This is a great opportunity to talk about how God worked through the authors of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, to inspire our Sacred Scriptures. Sometimes we know the name of the person who did the writing, but other times we don't.

LIVE

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further details about Timothy, Eunice, and Lois, found on the second page of Lesson 13.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose from the following questions. For a few helps, encourage students to look in the *Explore Bible Guidebook*.

- ▶ **Paul is writing this letter from prison. He has many reasons to complain, but instead he praises God. How does thanking God for His blessings, even in difficult times, change our attitude?** (Answers may vary; while it can be difficult to thank God in tough times, it helps us keep our focus on God's will, not our own.)
- ▶ **In this section, Paul does a lot of remembering. Old Testament people often remembered or told of how God helped them in the past. What's the point of all that remembering? How does it help you to remember the people who have shared Jesus with you? Why would it be a bad thing to forget?** (Remembering God's faithfulness and those who share it with us assures us of His continuing care.)
- ▶ **Notice that Paul talks about Timothy having been taught in the faith since childhood, just like you. Why is it so important for us to learn about Jesus from very early in our lives, even as children?** (Knowing God's love and care for us can be reassuring when we are concerned or fearful. We can share with others.)
- ▶ **Note that Paul starts his letter with the greeting "Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord." Many pastors also use this as they open their sermons. Why include such a greeting?** (It reminds us that God's Word is more than just the opinion of one man.)

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

All Scripture is breathed out by God. 2 Timothy 3:16

KEY DISCUSSION POINT

- This is a key verse for understanding that all Scripture comes from God, which means all Scripture is true. It is not made up by mere humans but is inspired by God.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ask students to write or say a prayer thanking God for and remembering specific people who have shared the Good News of Jesus with them.

LEAVE

SAY God's Word is so precious to us! This is where we hear God speak to us. The Holy Spirit teaches us through God's Word.

SING The Doxology, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
"The Lord's Prayer"
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

PRAY Dear Jesus, thank You for all the people who have encouraged us in our faith. Thank You for Your Word that shows us the way to heaven. Help us to share the Good News of Your love for us. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Check the back page for the "Write a Letter" activity to extend the learning and apply it to daily life.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus gives us His gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation through His powerful Word.

DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

Make copies of the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. Use the helps below as a guide.

Do this page together. Lead the students in reading out loud with you **2 Timothy 3:14–17**. After they underline verse 14, encourage students to specifically name at least two people who have taught them about God. The circled words for verse 15 are “make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” In verse 16, the words to highlight are “breathed out by God.” This reinforces that all of the writings in the Bible come directly from God. The benefits we receive from the study of God’s Word (v. 17) are that we are made “competent” to share His Word with others and that we are “equipped” by God to serve Him and to live according to His Word.

It is important to know and trust God’s Word so that we know and are able to share with others that the only way to eternal life and heaven is through faith in Jesus.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God gives me His Word to prepare me to serve Him.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can serve the Lord as I encourage and support those in the Lord’s ministry.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can consider and appreciate the importance of God’s work through His Word in the life of the Church.

YOUTH

I can give examples from the text that show how the Holy Spirit teaches us through God’s Word.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God raises up special leaders for His Church.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God works through His Word to help my faith in Jesus grow.

TO A NEW GENERATION—PAUL WRITES TO TIMOTHY
Unit 9, Lesson 13

Continue in God’s Word

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it—and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, “that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:14–17)

Underline verse 14. Name at least two people who have taught you about God.

In verse 15, **circle** the words that tell what the Holy Spirit does for those who read the Bible and hear its words.

In verse 16, use a yellow or other light-colored crayon to **highlight** the words that tell from where all Scripture comes.

Carefully read verse 17. What benefits do we receive from the study of God’s Word?

Why is it important to know and trust in God’s Word?

BONUS ACTIVITIES

EPISTLES IN THE BIBLE

10 minutes

Explain that the word *epistle* means a letter with Christian doctrine and instruction. Give every student a Bible to look at, and have them turn to the New Testament and find the twenty-two epistles contained there. If you have strong readers, assign pairs to research different epistles and share information concerning their authorship and recipients.

WRITE A LETTER

10–15 minutes

Write and illustrate letters to your pastor or other church workers and teachers in your congregation who have shared their faith with your students. Have students thank these people for the encouragement in faith they are to them. Have students write about how they will help encourage others in their faith. Make sure to send the letters.

GODLY WOMEN

Times may vary

Eunice and Lois were role models for Timothy. The Holy Spirit used them to build a firm foundation for Timothy’s faith. Make a poster of godly women in the Bible—as many as you can draw—who role-model their faith, such as Hannah, Sarah, Mary and Martha, Ruth, Esther, Priscilla, Deborah, Miriam, Anna, Lydia, Rebecca, Phoebe, and more.