

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

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*.

MORE TIME Read “Apologetics Helps” on the back page in preparation for the “Live” section.

IN DEPTH Read 2 Timothy 2 with study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible* for additional context.

SUPPLIES

FOR THIS LESSON

- Whiteboard or large sheet of paper
- Dry-erase marker or marker
- Stationery paper or large note cards

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Student copies of *Defend Journal*
- Bibles
- Pens
- Shareable images from digital resource center
- Supplies for bonus activities
- cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

The Bible is sometimes called the “Good Book.” Ask youth why they think Christians through the ages have referred to the Bible in this way.



DEFEND JOURNAL

Hand out journals and turn to Lesson 13.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Timothy heard the Word from his mother and grandmother. See how others shared the faith with “Godly Women.”

LAUNCH

WALK-IN QUESTION

What’s the best book you’ve ever read?

THE GOOD BOOK

Ask youth to describe what makes a book good. (Action? suspense? the characters?) Write their thoughts on a whiteboard or a sheet of paper.

SAY We have the greatest book ever written—the Bible. In God’s Word, we learn how He wants us to live, but even more important, how He saved us.

PRAY Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your Word, which gives us life. Help us study, learn, and share it with others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

LEARN

READ “THE BIG PICTURE” AND TALK IT OUT

► Imagine you are Paul, sitting in a prison cell in Rome. What are your thoughts? What gave Paul hope when he was in prison?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Let youth share their thoughts. Paul knew that God loved him, and he trusted in God’s promise of salvation and eternal life for all who believe in Jesus.

LEARN ABOUT “TO A NEW GENERATION”

Read **2 Timothy 1:1–7** or ask volunteers to read as others follow along.

► Paul did a lot of remembering in this section. What did he remember? What did he remind Timothy to do?

- Paul remembered Timothy at all times in his prayers.
- Paul was reminded of Timothy’s faith.
- Paul reminded Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God”—Timothy should continue preaching the Gospel, as he was called to do.

Ask volunteers to take turns reading **2 Timothy 1:8–18**.

► How did Paul encourage Timothy in these verses? How do these verses encourage you?

- Paul told Timothy not to be ashamed of suffering for the Gospel, for the Gospel saves. Timothy was called to preach that Gospel: that Jesus Christ has conquered death and gives eternal life. Timothy was to guard that truth through the power of the Holy Spirit living in him.
- Allow youth to share how these verses encourage them as well.

Read **2 Timothy 3:14–17**.

► What’s so special about the Scriptures?

- The Scriptures are “breathed out by God”—they are truly God’s Word.
- We come to saving faith in Jesus Christ through God’s Word.
- God’s Word teaches, corrects, and trains people to live according to God’s will.

LIVE

DISCUSS “THE WORD OF GOD”

Bring in stationery paper or large note cards. Give paper or note cards to pairs of youth. Discuss the question below, using the discussion points and “Apologetics Helps” on the back page as you talk. Then ask each pair of youth to work together to write a letter or note to someone encouraging that person to read the Bible. Give assistance as needed.

► **Why should I read the Bible?**

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Look back at the text (2 Timothy 3:14–17) to see what Paul wrote about God’s Word.
- God’s Word tells us how we are saved through faith in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15).
- “All Scripture is breathed out by God” (2 Timothy 3:16). The words of the Bible are directly from the mouth of God—which means they are the truth!
- God’s Word teaches, rebukes, corrects, and trains us to live according to God’s will (2 Timothy 3:16).
- **Romans 10:17:** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
- **Isaiah 40:8:** The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.
- **John 8:31–32:** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

CONSIDER “TRAIN UP A CHILD . . .”

In 2 Timothy, we learn that Timothy’s mother and grandmother taught him God’s Word and shared their faith with him.

► **Who has taught God’s Word and shared the faith with you? Say a prayer of thanks to God for them.**

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Check for understanding by asking youth to share one thing that they have learned about God’s Word in this lesson.

LEAVE

Read the Bible Verse, written in the *Defend Journal*:

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

Ask for prayer requests. Offer to pray, or invite a student to pray for everyone.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus gives the gifts He won for us on the cross by His Word through the power of the Holy Spirit.



LEADER NOTE

Encourage youth to think of a specific person as they write their letter or note. Ask youth to deliver the notes sometime in the upcoming week.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Plan a time to share God’s Word with “You Visited Me.”



SHAREABLE DOWNLOAD

Connect with youth before and after the lesson by using the shareable images from the digital resource center.

APOLOGETICS HELPS

DEFEND THE FAITH

Timothy was a believer who lived in the city of Lystra. His mother, Eunice, was a Jewish woman who had become a believer, and his father was Greek. Eunice and Timothy's grandmother, Lois, had taught Timothy the Scriptures from the time he was a boy. Timothy accompanied Paul on missionary journeys. Later, Timothy served as a pastor in Ephesus. Paul called Timothy his "spiritual child" and wrote two letters to encourage him in the faith and in his calling as a pastor. Paul asked Timothy to come visit him when Paul was in prison in Rome.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

► Does it really matter what I believe?

There are people who say it doesn't matter what you believe—just believe in something. Others say there is nothing after this life, so it doesn't matter what you believe in. Still others say that there are "many paths to heaven." None of this is true. What is true? Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Jesus is the only way to salvation. How do we come to know who Jesus is? God has given us His Holy Word.

► What is the Bible?

The Bible is a collection of the writings of God's chosen prophets and apostles. These writings span a period of some 1,500 years. God Himself gave these writers the words to write and record. Therefore, God's Word is without error or mistake. The Israelites kept and preserved the words that were recorded by God's prophets, recognizing them as the Word of God. The Early Church kept and preserved the books and letters of the New Testament writers, recognizing these too as the Word of God. The Bible we have today is the same collection of writings that the Church has confessed for thousands of years to be God's true and Holy Word.



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.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

GODLY WOMEN

5–10 minutes

Eunice and Lois taught Timothy about God's Word. There are many other godly women recorded in the Bible. Look up a few of them using a digital device or a Bible concordance: Hannah, Ruth, Mary, Priscilla, Lydia, Phoebe.

LAST LETTER

10–15 minutes

Ask youth to imagine that they will be going away from their friends and family for a long time. Ask them to write a letter that shares their faith and encourages their friends and family to keep looking to Jesus and His Word for all they need in this life and the next.

YOU VISITED ME

15–20 minutes

Make plans with your group to visit members of your church who are in a retirement home. Share God's Word in a devotion or song while you are there. Alternatively, encourage youth to visit family friends or relatives who are homebound.