

Scripture makes us wise for salvation

Lesson overview

Follow Paul's reasons for continuing in Scripture. Learners match ordinary learning situations to its four uses, explain an overlap and keep salvation through Christ connected to faithful living.



Passage

2 Timothy 3:10–17.



Focus statement

God gives Scripture to make us wise for salvation through Christ and equip us for faithful living, so we should learn and continue in its teaching.



Age-focused objective

Give reasons from verses 15–17 for receiving Scripture, distinguish trusting Christ from knowing information and explain how Scripture teaches, rebukes, corrects and trains. Learners may point or explain aloud.



Memory verse

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:16, CSB

Before the class

Read Teacher preparation, then rehearse this guide with your selected resources.

Choose, then print. Select one illustration and either activity A or its replacement B. Print single-sided A4 portrait at actual size. Print Printable Resources, pages 1–3 and 5, once for the teacher. Add page 4 if choosing illustration A.

Student copies. For activity A, print Student Pages, pages 2–3 once per pair. Page 1 is optional lined notes: print one per learner who wants it, kept separately from shared activity work. Activity B needs no activity copies; the optional notes page remains available.

Have ready. Cut the four situation cards on page 3 for each pair. Keep page 2 whole. For illustration B, have a Bible. Keep a spare blank sheet for any covered words or later reveal, and a Bible or the supplied readings available. Learners may speak, point or dictate; personal notes need not be handed in.

How the lesson unfolds

Recall that God makes Himself known, then read Paul's counsel to Timothy within its setting of pressure. Follow why Timothy should continue in Scripture, what salvation it points to and how it equips a life of faithful service.



Faithfulness continues amid pressure

In 2 Timothy 3:10–14, Paul's suffering makes clear that faithfulness does not guarantee ease. His counsel to continue raises the question of what Timothy has learned and why it can be trusted.



The Scriptures point to salvation through Christ

Verse 15 names their saving purpose: wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Explain Christ's death and resurrection before considering good works, so service cannot become a price for acceptance.



God's word equips His servant

Verses 16–17 ground Scripture's usefulness in its divine source. Teaching, rebuking, correcting and training equip God's servant for good work; this is the faithful living that follows salvation.



Explain and apply the passage

Choose the main reinforcement or its replacement: classification with reasons or cumulative oral explanation. Bring the explanation back to the passage and its fitting response.



Remember, receive correction and pray

Practise 2 Timothy 3:16 and check how Scripture's authority and purpose belong together. Invite teachability and trust in Christ, then pray for help to receive and live by God's word.

Transition

Ask, "What did Psalm 19 say God's instruction does for someone still learning?" Listen for making them wise. Supply the connection if this is someone's first meeting: "We have begun by asking how God makes Himself known. Today Paul explains what the Scriptures are for." Pray briefly for understanding and teachable hearts.

Lesson

Ask, “Suppose a message simply says, ‘Keep going.’ What would you need to know before deciding whether that was good advice?” Hear the activity, the reason or the person giving it. Say, “Paul tells Timothy to continue. His reasons matter, especially because Timothy faces pressure. We will read the paragraph to see what he should continue in and why.”

Introduce Paul as a servant of Jesus writing from prison, and Timothy as his fellow worker and teacher. Explain *persecution* as being mistreated because of faithfulness to Christ. Read the first section, keeping Timothy’s situation in view.

1. Faithfulness continues amid pressure

Show Printable Resources, page 1, *Continue in what you have learned*. Trace learning, hardship and the call to continue. Paul promises no easy life.

 READ ALOUD

- ¹⁰ But you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance,
¹¹ along with the persecutions and sufferings that came to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured—and yet the Lord rescued me from them all.
¹² In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
¹³ Evil people and impostors will become worse, deceiving and being deceived.
¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you,

2 Timothy 3:10–14, CSB



Ask

What has Timothy seen in Paul, and what must he continue in?



Listen for

Paul’s teaching and life, including patience, love and endurance under suffering. Timothy is to continue in what he has learned and firmly believed.



If needed

Point to “teaching” in verse 10 and “continue” in verse 14. Ask, “Does Paul describe an easy life or a faithful life?”

 SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING)

Paul does not promise that following Jesus makes life easy. He has suffered for the message he teaches. Timothy must keep receiving God's truth when other voices deceive. Continue means keep learning, trusting and living by what God teaches. It does not mean refusing questions. We sometimes need to look again because we misunderstood. But what is all this learning meant to lead us to? Paul tells us next.

2. The Scriptures point to salvation through Christ

Show Printable Resources, page 2, *Scripture points us to the Saviour*. Keep the Scriptures' saving purpose joined to faith in Christ, rather than earned acceptance.

Explain *Scriptures* as the sacred writings God has given. Read the next verse.

 READ ALOUD

¹⁵ and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:15, CSB



Ask

What are these writings able to give, and through whom is salvation received?



Listen for

Wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Knowing information is not the same as trusting Him.



If needed

Point to "salvation" and then "faith in Christ Jesus". Supply: "The writings point us to a Saviour. Who is He?"

 SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING)

Salvation is God's rescue from sin and its judgement, bringing us into life with Him. We need more than information because we have done wrong before God. Jesus is God's Son, fully God and truly human. He gave His life for sinners and rose bodily from the dead. We turn from sin and rely on Him for forgiveness. Reading is not a payment that buys His welcome. The Scriptures make this Saviour known to us, so that we may trust Him.

Give space for a question about that connection, then recall the purpose of salvation through faith in Christ. Say, "God's word leads us to Christ and also teaches those who serve Him how to live."

3. God's word equips His servant

Show Printable Resources, page 3, *Four uses; an equipped servant*. Point to each use, then to their purpose in faithful service.

 READ ALOUD

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness,

¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16–17, CSB

Point to each use on the third teaching display as you explain: “Teaching tells us what is true. Rebuking exposes what is wrong. Correcting shows the way back towards what is right. Training in righteousness forms a life that agrees with God.” Explain *inspired by God* as Scripture’s coming from God and *equipped* as made ready to serve.



Ask

Why can Scripture guide us, and what is its equipping for?



Listen for

It comes from God. It equips His servant for every good work. Good work follows the salvation through faith described in verse 15.



If needed

Return to “inspired by God” in verse 16 and “for every good work” in verse 17. Ask which verse named salvation through faith.

 SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING)

God’s word has authority over us because it comes from Him. Our explanation of it can still be mistaken, so we read carefully and welcome correction. Paul has already named suffering; equipped does not mean everything will be easy. It means God gives the truth and direction His servant needs. Good works are the life for which He prepares His people, not the price of forgiveness. We trust Christ and learn to live by His word.

Cover the explanations on the third teaching display and point to “Correcting”. Invite a partner pair to explain that word in ordinary language before uncovering it. Use their explanation to introduce the situation matching.

Choose one illustration. Use this in place of an additional example while drawing the teaching together. Let the passage govern what the comparison can establish.

Illustration A: Correction can be a gift

Show Printable Resources, page 4. Read the fictional first draft and feedback on the page. Ask what the feedback helps the writer notice. Then uncover the revision and compare its claim. Is correction necessarily an insult, and why is the revised statement more careful?

Connect and limit: Connect the useful correction to 2 Timothy 3:16–17, then return to verse 15. Schoolwork illustrates one use of instruction; correct work cannot save, and human feedback can be mistaken.

Illustration B: A closed book and an open book

Hold a closed Bible, then open it to the passage. Say, “Owning a book and receiving its message are different things.” Ask what Paul says the Scriptures lead us to and what they equip us for.

Connect and limit: The book is the actual text being taught, not a magic object. Reading or owning it earns no acceptance; saving wisdom leads to faith in Christ, and its instruction forms service.

Application

Choose one of the following approaches. The replacement uses the same passage and conclusion; do not run both.

Option A: Scripture’s uses in practice

Give each pair the matching page on Student Pages, page 2 and the four pre-cut situation cards from Student Pages, page 3. Read the headings and cards aloud while keeping 2 Timothy 3:15–17 open. Explain that Scripture’s uses can overlap: the aim is a reason from the passage, rather than four perfect one-to-one answers.

Place a situation and give a reason

Model the operation with *Situation B*, the card about earning God’s acceptance through Bible lessons. Place it provisionally under *Rebuking*: “This use fits because Scripture exposes an error. Verse 15 says salvation comes through faith in Christ. We will need to ask whether another use also helps this group.” Point to the words in the passage, then leave the remaining cards for the pairs. Partners take turns placing or directing a card and explaining the reason. The other partner checks it against the paragraph. A willing reader may read while a partner points.

Find a worthwhile overlap

Once the four situations are placed, each pair chooses one that could fit another heading. For example, exposing a mistaken belief may belong with teaching the truth and correcting the explanation. Ask learners to show the connection themselves; do not require every pair to make the same second choice. Hear one match and one overlap from different pairs.



Ask

“Why does the paragraph speak about salvation through faith before it speaks about being equipped for good work?”



Listen for

Christ saves those who trust Him. Scripture makes Him known and equips His servants; good work does not buy acceptance.



If needed

Point to “through faith in Christ Jesus” in verse 15 and “for every good work” in verse 17. Ask which names the way salvation is received.

Return to the four uses: God’s word addresses what we believe and how we live. Its authority comes from God, while our interpretations can need correction. Collect the cards and move to the complete memory verse.

Option B: One situation, four kinds of help

Read this fictional case: “Someone keeps repeating an accusation because everyone else says it.” Ask the whole group to build one spoken explanation of how Scripture can teach, expose wrong, correct and train. Invite one contribution at a time; a learner may pass or point to a printed use.

Draw it together: The uses can overlap. Ask which part concerns truthful conduct and why improved conduct cannot purchase salvation. Check verse 15 before concluding with verses 16–17. If an answer only names a category, ask what help it would actually give.

Close

Remember the verse and check understanding

Show Printable Resources, page 5. Read the complete verse below once and say the reference. Learners may listen, point or join. Scripture comes from God and equips His servant; verse 15 keeps that instruction connected to salvation through faith in Christ.

SCRIPTURE

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:16, CSB

Rebuild the sense of the verse. With the poster visible, ask partners to find its opening thought and what follows. Invite them to explain why the order matters. The teacher then gives the opening words of each printed sense group; together complete that group, looking back whenever needed. Finish by saying the complete verse and reference together. No cards or solo recitation are required.



Ask

Give one reason to receive Scripture, and explain why repeating it differs from trusting Christ.



Listen for

It comes from God, gives wisdom for salvation through Christ or equips for faithful work. Repeating words can help us learn, but Christ Himself saves those who trust Him.



If needed

Return to verse 15 and ask, “Who is the Saviour?” Then ask what verse 16 says about Scripture’s source.

Respond and pray

Student page 1 offers optional lined notes and private reflection. Learners may listen, think, sketch or write; nothing personal needs to be handed in.

Invite quiet reflection: “What have we heard today that calls for trust or a willingness to be corrected?” No answer needs to be shared. Say, “You may bring your questions to Jesus and ask for help understanding His word. If you want to talk further, we can arrange that within the church’s supervised care.”

Close by inviting learners to revisit 2 Timothy 3:15–17 during the week and consider how Christ’s salvation and good work belong together. Nothing needs to be submitted.

Pray in your own words, thanking God for His word and the Saviour it announces. Ask for faith in Christ, patience in learning and willingness to receive correction. Learners may listen or pray silently; do not require a repeated prayer as a sign of faith.

Teacher reflection after the lesson

Record the actual class time and which explanations helped. Could learners distinguish salvation through faith from good work as its fruit? Which phrase needed another explanation? Plan one connection to revisit without recording children’s personal information or inferring conversion from the answers.

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