

Scripture makes us wise for salvation

Lesson Overview

Open Paul's letter with the children, follow his reasons for continuing in Scripture, and help them explain how God's Word directs us to Christ and equips faithful living.



Passage

2 Timothy 3:10–17



Focus statement

God gave us Scripture to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ and equip us for good works, so we should keep learning it and live by it.



Age-focused objective

Follow Paul's reasons for continuing in Scripture. Explain from verses 15–17 why knowing Bible answers cannot replace trusting Christ, and why good works follow His grace.



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 learners arrive

Work through Teacher preparation and its practical checklist. Have pages 1 and 5 ready for shared display, and a board, six pre-cut cards, passage sheet and pencil for each pair. Keep one teacher set. Choose one illustration below; bring a ruler and a closed book if using the measuring demonstration. Arrange the room so everyone can see.

Plan **40 minutes: welcome 2; interactive Bible teaching 18; memory 3; reinforcement activity 15; closing prayer and tidy 2**. Use “If needed” when a connection is missing. Rehearse and keep only one or two class reports per discussion point.

How the lesson unfolds

Follow one argument from the need to continue, through the message of salvation, to a life equipped by God's Word.



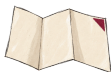
Continue when following Christ is costly

Paul's example and warning explain why Timothy needs good reasons to keep listening.



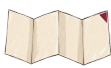
Receive the message about salvation through Christ

Scripture directs us to the Saviour; knowing answers cannot take the place of trusting Him.



Let God-given Scripture equip you for good works

Its divine source and useful instruction give us reasons to receive its teaching and correction.



Explain why we keep learning

Arrange the reasons, test misleading claims and use the fictional pictures to explain grace and obedience.

Welcome and a question • 2 minutes

Welcome the children. Show page 1, pictures 1 and 2. Explain that this is an invented situation: a boy listens to Bible teaching, then spills some water and blames someone else. Keep the discussion about these characters; do not ask for personal confessions.



Ask

"The boy knows that telling the truth is right. Why might he still want to blame the girl?"



Listen for

He may want to avoid trouble or protect what others think of him. Knowing the right answer does not make it easy to do what is right. These are possible explanations for a fictional character, not things the picture proves.



If needed

Point to the spill and the girl. Ask what telling the truth might cost him. Hear one or two suggestions.



SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING):

Knowing what God says can be different from living by it, can't it? Today we'll meet someone who had learned the Scriptures—the writings God has given us—from childhood. Now following Jesus was hard. Why should he keep going? Let's open Paul's letter and find out.

Open the Bible together • 18 minutes

Help children find 2 Timothy in the New Testament, using a contents page where helpful. Give pairs the passage sheet, page 4, now; they will use it again during the activity.



SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING):

The New Testament tells us about Jesus and the teaching He gave through His apostles—the messengers He chose. Paul was one of those apostles, and Timothy was his younger co-worker. Paul had helped train him to teach others about Jesus, and had asked him to stay in the city of Ephesus to challenge false teaching in the church. Now Paul was in prison. He knew that his life was nearly over, but Timothy still had work to do. This is part of Paul’s letter to him. What would help Timothy carry on?

1. Continue when following Christ is costly

Invite the children to follow the reading on page 4. Listen for the different directions people are taking.



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

“Look at verses 13 and 14. Some people are going further into lies. What does Paul want Timothy to do instead—and why might that be hard?”



Listen for

Timothy is to continue in what he has learned and firmly believed. Verses 11–12 show that following Christ can bring suffering and persecution; continuing may be costly.



If needed

Find “deceiving” and “continue”, then look back at verses 11–12. Persecution means being mistreated because of following Christ; it does not mean being fairly corrected for wrongdoing.



SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING):

Timothy had seen more than Paul giving a lesson. He knew his faith, love and patience, and had seen him endure suffering—keep going when it hurt. Antioch, Iconium and Lystra were places where Paul suffered for telling people about Jesus. The trouble was real. So was the truth he taught. Trouble did not make the gospel false.



SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING):

Paul says the Lord rescued him from those earlier troubles. Yet now he expects to die. Has God failed him? No. Paul's hope reaches beyond death to life with Christ. Following Jesus does not mean that no one will hurt us, or that we should hide harm. If someone harms you, tell a safe adult and seek help.

Keep trust anchored in Scripture: Paul's life supported the truth he taught; knowing a teacher well does not make everything that teacher says true. God's Word is the standard for teachers too.

Transition: "Timothy needs more than the advice, 'Try harder!' Paul reminds him of a gift he has had since he was little. What can that gift give him?"

2. Receive the message about salvation through Christ

Explain that verse 15 completes the sentence begun in verse 14.



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 can the Scriptures give Timothy? Follow the sentence right to the end: how does that salvation come?"



Listen for

Wisdom for salvation, through faith in Christ Jesus. Keep the whole connection: Scripture makes the saving message known; Christ is the Saviour we trust.



If needed

Find "wisdom for salvation", then "through faith in Christ Jesus". Explain that Scripture means the sacred writings God has given.



SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING):

The Scriptures Timothy knew as a small child were the Old Testament. How could those writings help him understand Jesus? Long before Jesus came, God had promised rescue. Isaiah, for example, wrote about a servant who would bear the punishment for others' sins. When Jesus came, His death was no unexpected change of plan. God was keeping His promise.

This brief connection draws on Isaiah 53:4–6; Acts 8:30–35 shows Philip explaining Jesus from the same servant passage. No extra passage-finding task is needed here.



SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING):

Salvation means rescue from sin and its judgement, and life with God. We need that rescue: all of us have sinned against the good God who made us. So God sent His Son. Jesus is truly God and became truly human, yet without sin. Listen to what He did for sinners like us.



READ ALOUD

³ For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:3–4, CSB



SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING):

Notice those words: “for our sins”. Jesus bore the judgement we deserve. He really died and was buried; then He rose bodily from the dead. Our Saviour is alive! Faith means relying on Him for forgiveness and life with God. We turn from sin and trust Him. The Bible tells us whom to trust and why He can save us.



Ask

“Suppose a child says, ‘I know lots of Bible answers, so I don’t need Jesus to save me.’ How would you use verse 15 to help that child?”



Listen for

Knowing the Bible is valuable because it makes the saving message known. But the verse says salvation is through faith in Christ Jesus. Knowing answers cannot pay for sin or replace trusting Him.



If needed

Ask the children to point to the person in whom we are to have faith. Keep the situation fictional; do not ask them to judge another learner’s faith.

Transition: “God’s Word brings us the good news of Jesus. But do we stop needing it once we trust Him? Listen to what else God gives us through Scripture.”

3. Let God-given Scripture equip you for good works

 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

 SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING):

Why should we let this book teach and correct us? Look at where it comes from: “inspired by God”. God gave Scripture through human writers. This means far more than a writer having an exciting idea. We listen because these are God’s words. And the God who gives His Word knows what we need.

Choose one teaching illustration

Use either option in this part of the teaching, allowing about 90 seconds. Both help explain teaching, rebuking, correcting and training; continue with the question about verse 17 afterwards.

Option A • The boy and the spill – recommended

Use the pictures already introduced: show page 1 again, pictures 2–4. The instruction to speak truth comes from Ephesians 4:25; this fictional situation illustrates applying it.

 SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING):

Think again about the boy and the spill. God’s Word teaches us to speak truth. That teaching exposes his lie: this is rebuking. It also shows him the right way again: he should admit what happened, apologise to the girl and help put matters right. This is correcting. Then comes another day and another chance to hide the truth. He needs to keep learning and practising honesty. That is training in righteousness—learning to live rightly before God.

Option B • Learning to measure – an object demonstration

Hold a closed book and ruler where everyone can see. Explain that to measure the book's width, the ruler's zero mark must line up with its edge. Deliberately place zero partway across the book. Ask, "Have I followed the instruction? What needs to change?" Let a child explain; move zero to the edge. Lift the ruler and place it correctly once more. You make the mistake; no child needs to be put on the spot.



SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING):

I needed instruction, someone to show me what was wrong, help to put it right, and practice doing it properly. Those actions help us understand the words Paul uses. But a measuring mistake is not a sin. Scripture reaches further: God teaches us what is right, exposes our sin, corrects us and trains us to live rightly. And, as verse 15 has shown us, it directs us to the Saviour we need. Look again at verses 16 and 17.

After either illustration: return everyone's attention to the passage.



Ask

"Look at verse 17. What is all this teaching and correcting preparing God's servant to do? Would simply knowing what is right be enough?"



Listen for

Scripture equips him for every good work. The teaching is meant to shape how he lives, including telling the truth when it is hard. Repeating a rule is not the same as receiving correction and practising it.



If needed

Explain "equipped" as being given what is needed for a task. Timothy needs Scripture to serve God faithfully, and so do the people he teaches. This does not promise instant perfection or expertise in every skill.

Return to the boy in the opening pictures to connect the response with salvation.



SAY (SUGGESTED WORDING):

But does admitting the lie and cleaning up buy the boy forgiveness? No. We have just heard that salvation comes through faith in Jesus. Christ saves by grace—His undeserved kindness. Good works follow His rescue; they cannot pay for it. Because God's people belong to Him, His Word trains them to live in ways that please Him.

Draw the teaching together: "Now we can see Paul's answer. Keep learning Scripture because it comes from God. It shows us salvation through faith in Jesus and equips us to do good. Whether you have heard the Bible for years or are only beginning, you can listen, ask questions, trust Christ and receive His correction."

Memory with understanding • 3 minutes

Show page 5. Read the complete verse, then practise the phrases together with the reference.

 READ ALOUD

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

Point in turn to the phrases “All Scripture is inspired by God”, “and is profitable for teaching”, “for rebuking, for correcting”, and “for training in righteousness”. Explain that profitable means useful. Say each phrase and let the group echo it, then join the whole verse and reference. Children may listen, point or join a phrase. The comma continues into verse 17, whose purpose is summarised separately on the poster.



Ask

“Why is God’s Word useful when we discover that we are wrong?”



Listen for

It exposes the wrong and helps us understand and practise what is right. Its correction comes from the God who gives His Word.



If needed

Point to the rebuking and correcting phrases; connect them to the lie and truthful admission in pictures 2 and 3.

Build a reply from Paul's reasons • 15 minutes

Give each pair its reason board, page 2, and the six pre-cut cards from page 3. Keep page 4 open beside it. They will sort claims, use the text to justify their choices, then join three sound reasons in a reply to a fictional new learner. No glue is needed: the cards can move when a reason is reconsidered.

1. Model and distribute • 2 minutes

Show your board. Read the fictional question printed at the top: “Why keep learning the Bible when it can be hard to follow Jesus?” Explain that the card sentences are claims to test, not Bible quotations. Take card D, “If following Jesus is hard, His message must be false.” Put it beside the board. Point to Paul’s suffering in verses 10–12 and his call to continue in verse 14. Say: “This claim does not fit Paul’s letter. Trouble does not make the truth false.” Leave D outside the board. Let the pairs investigate the other five cards.

2. Investigate and place • 6 minutes

Ask pairs to place one sound claim on each of the three labelled spaces and leave misleading claims beside the board. Each choice needs a reason from page 4. One partner may read while the other places a card; then swap. A learner can point while you or a partner reads. Visit pairs and ask which words support a placement.

Answer guide: B belongs with “Continue in the truth” and verses 10–14. C belongs with “Trust the Saviour” and verse 15. A belongs with “Learn to do good” and verses 16–17. E wrongly makes knowing answers the basis of forgiveness. F wrongly uses forgiveness to excuse dishonesty. D has already been modelled. Ask learners to explain the mistake, not merely name a letter.

3. Join the reasons in a reply • 4 minutes

Use the three placed cards to explain Paul’s answer to the fictional newcomer. Invite each partner to take a turn; the listener points to the matching part of the passage. Use the writing space for a short note only if it helps the explanation. Invite one pair to give the class its reply.

A possible reply: “Paul suffered, but he still told Timothy to continue in the truth. Scripture shows us salvation through faith in Jesus. It comes from God and teaches and corrects us so that we can do good. We keep learning because we need His saving message and instruction.” Accept different words that preserve these connections. If a pair mentions only behaviour, return to verse 15.

4. **Apply and check • 3 minutes**

Show page 1. Ask pairs to use their cards to answer: “The boy now admits the lie and helps clean up. Has that earned him salvation? Why does telling the truth still matter?” Hear one or two explanations. Listen for reliance on Christ in verse 15 and God’s purpose for good works in verses 16–17. Pictures of a changed action cannot tell us whether someone has trusted Him.

Finish with one fresh check: “A newcomer knows only a little about the Bible. What can we invite that child to do?” Listen for learning God’s Word, asking questions and trusting Christ, without needing to earn a place through knowledge. Note a missing connection to revisit next time.

Closing prayer and tidy • 2 minutes

Invite quiet thought about the truth heard today; no one needs to announce a private response. Pray in words such as these.

Father, thank You for giving Your Word and for the salvation You make known in Jesus. Help us listen, understand and trust Him. Correct what is wrong in us and teach us to live in ways that honour You. Give courage to those who find following Jesus hard. Amen.

Collect each six-card set with its board and passage sheet. Next time, recall why Scripture directs us to Christ before turning to Psalm 19 and what creation shows us about God. If this meeting needed to stop early, resume with the last completed movement and keep the remaining teaching, activity explanation and response together.

After the lesson • teacher reflection

Outside the class time, note which explanations showed understanding: could learners connect Scripture with faith in Christ and good works that follow grace? Where did they need help to find a reason in the passage? Did the readings and discussion leave the full activity time? Record one connection to revisit and one adjustment for next time, without recording private disclosures or making judgements about a child’s conversion.

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