



THE ADVENTURES OF PAUL

Timothy Joins Paul

Supplies Needed: Paper and pencils or pens



TEACHING INSTRUCTIONS

Read Acts 16:1-5 together. Read it to the children or have them take turns reading. (See student handout)

Say, “Paul and Silas were on their second missionary journey when they came to Lystra. There, they found a young man named Timothy who was well spoken of by believers in the area. Paul realized Timothy would make a good church leader, so he brought him along to teach and train him. Timothy’s mother was Jewish, which meant Jewish believers might have a problem if Timothy didn’t follow Jewish customs from the Law of Moses, like circumcision, so Paul had him circumcised. Then, everyone got to work spreading God’s Word, and Timothy joined in. We are called to join in God’s work, just like Timothy. Let’s discuss some more interesting points about this story.”

Read the “Did You Know?” points together. Read it to the children or have them take turns. Help the children look up the Scriptures mentioned. For added fun, have them say “amen!” when they find it. (See student handout)

Say, “Saul is first called ‘Paul’ (his name in Greek) in Acts 13 as he and Barnabas began their first missionary journey. It was during that time that Paul decided to preach the Gospel mainly to Gentiles or non-Jewish people (Acts 13:46). In Acts 16, we see him start training Timothy, a future Church leader, who is not fully Jewish. The word of God and the kingdom of God was now spread beyond the Jewish people, just as God said it would. Faith in Jesus is what makes you one of His people, and you are called to follow just like Timothy did.”

OBJECT LESSON

Your Reputation Goes Before You

Items: Paper and pencils or pens

Call up two volunteers and give each one a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask one to write a list of good things on their paper, like honesty, generosity. Ask the other to make a list of bad things, like lying, complaining, gossiping, being rude. Once the lists are ready, have the volunteers hold the lists in front of themselves for everyone to see. **Ask**, “Do you know what the word reputation means? The dictionary defines ‘reputation’ as widespread beliefs (good or bad) about a person or thing, based upon past actions. In other words, it’s what people think about you based on things you’ve done.

Timothy was “well-spoken of by everyone” (Acts 16:2), which means he had a good reputation with the believers. There’s an old saying that “your reputation precedes you,” which is a fancy way of saying people will hear about your reputation before they ever meet you. It’s like these two lists our volunteers are holding in front of them. If you had to pick between our two volunteers, which one would you say is ready to serve God?” Give time for answers and discussion. **Say**, “Right, the person with a good reputation. A good reputation doesn’t make you ready, but it shows that you are ready. Let’s pray for God to make us ready to serve him, like Timothy, and for His grace to cover our mistakes.”



GAMES



Never Too Young to Follow

Just like Timothy, you're never too young to follow Jesus! Divide players into two teams and have them line up on one side of the room. This is a simple relay race, but with a twist. The first player can run to the checkpoint and run back normally, but all following players have to crawl back and forth on their hands and knees like a baby!

**** Optional Memory Verse Game ****

Bible Verse Catch: Romans 15:7

All you need for this game is a ball, which can be a paper ball. Have children stand in a circle. Say the first word of the verse and toss the ball to a random child in the circle. The child who catches the ball says the next word and tosses to a different kid, who says the next word and tosses it. This continues around the circle until the whole verse is said and everyone has said a word, which means you may need to say the verse twice for a big group. Once they get good at the verse, you can speed up to make it more challenging.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Why did Paul want Timothy to join their missionary work?

2

What happened to the churches because of their work? (Acts 16:5)

3

Do you feel you're ready to join in God's work? Why or why not?