

Timothy - Kingdom Seekers Lesson for the week of March 15, 2020

REVIEW:

Kids, review with your parents! What have we been learning together?

We have spent 2020 learning about the life, ministry, and writings of PAUL.

Paul went on THREE missionary journeys.

-How many countries can you remember that he visited? (see map of 3rd journey. Do you remember where he went on journeys 1 and 2?) → →

-Did Paul travel alone? (NO)

-Who were some of the people who traveled with him?

(Barnabas, John Mark, Silas, Timothy, Luke, Priscilla and Aquila)

What two groups of people did Paul preach to?

-First the Jews, then the Gentiles

(the inclusion of the Gentiles often made Jewish leaders mad!)

Why did Paul go BACK to all the cities he had already visited?

to ENCOURAGE the believers there

After Paul's third missionary journey ended, what happened to him?

-He was accused by the Jewish leaders and put on trial. When he appealed to Caesar, he was sent to Rome and kept under guard.

Did he stop telling people about Jesus and encouraging believers?

NO!

How did he encourage the churches in the cities he had visited?

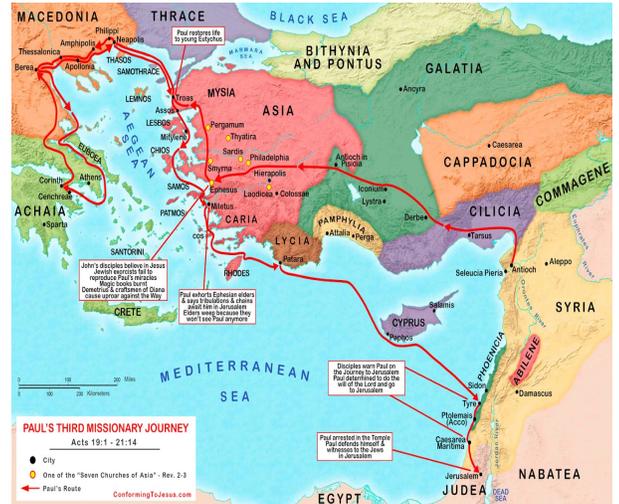
He wrote letters

The last 3 weeks we learned about the Fruit of the Spirit, which Paul wrote about in his letter to the Galatians.

Can you remember all the fruit of the Spirit in our verse?

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience(forbearance), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Galatians 5:22

This week, take some time and explore God's Word to learn more about one of Paul's traveling companions, and the letter Paul wrote to him.



TIMOTHY:

(Parents, feel free to read aloud to your kids, or adapt in whatever way best suits your family. Have Bibles handy as there will be verses to look up together. There is also a worksheet option that your children can fill in as they listen)

WHAT ARE EPISTLES?

An epistle is a letter, and the New Testament is mostly made of letters from apostles to churches or people.

Paul wrote 13 of the New Testament Epistles. Can you figure out which church or person each of these books were written to?

(older children may be able to do this without looking. For younger children, there is a matching game on the worksheet)

ROMANS, 1 AND 2 CORINTHIANS, GALATIANS, EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS, 1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS, 1 AND 2 TIMOTHY, TITUS, PHILEMON

Some of these epistles, or letters, were written while Paul was in prison. Those are called the PRISON EPISTLES. Some were written to people to tell them how to set up a church. Those are called PASTORAL EPISTLES, because Paul was helping to teach the people how to set up church leadership.

When we study Paul's life, we are tempted to focus on how bad it was that Paul was arrested and kept under guard for two whole years of his life, but we can also see God's all-powerful control and wisdom in this. Paul was forced to write letters to teach and encourage the churches, because he couldn't go to those places in person. Without having to travel from place to place, think about how much more time he would have had to share the good news. Plus, because his letters are written down, we still have them today and people across all generations can learn from them! GOD USES HARD THINGS FOR GOOD!

TIMOTHY:

This week we are learning about the life of TIMOTHY, and the letter that Paul wrote to him!

We remember that Timothy travelled with Paul on his 2nd and 3rd missionary journeys. Timothy and his family first met Paul in LYSTRA on Paul's first missionary journey. We know that Timothy had a mom and a grandmother who were Jewish and became Christians because of Paul's teaching. His mom's name was EUNICE, and his Grandmother's name was LOIS. We don't know his father's name, but we know he was a Greek, and we don't have any knowledge as to whether he believed in Jesus.

(Take a minute to fill in or sketch Timothy's family tree on the worksheet)

As we read through the book of Acts, we heard Timothy's name mentioned many times as Paul travelled from city to city. The last we hear about Timothy, he was traveling with Paul as Paul went back to Jerusalem for the last time. The book of Acts doesn't mention what happened to Timothy, but we find out in Paul's first letter to Timothy.

Look up 1 Timothy 1:3. Where did Paul tell Timothy to go?

Ephesus

Read 1 Timothy 1:3: Why did Paul want Timothy to go there?

Timothy went because people were teaching and believing wrong things (false doctrines, myths, genealogies), and not remembering that salvation is because of faith! Paul couldn't go back to Ephesus, so he wanted Timothy, his trusted friend and companion, to go and help set up a healthy church there. Timothy had spent a lot of time with Paul and had learned a lot from him. But did you know that Timothy's learning didn't start with Paul?

Turn to 2 Timothy 3:14-15. When did Timothy start learning the Holy Scriptures/Old Testament?

In infancy.

Who do you think taught him the Holy Scriptures?

His mother and grandmother. Wow! Did you know that's what your mom and dad are doing right now?? They are teaching you the Bible! God has given your parents to you so they can train you and teach you about God and the Bible. How cool that Mom and Dad get to teach you this lesson!

The books of 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy are like instruction manuals for a church. They teach about the way the church should be set up. Timothy was not the pastor of the Ephesian church, but he used Paul's letter to help get the church organized and to help them teach correct things about Jesus. These letters were then shared with other churches in that time, and in all the years until now, to help believers know how their churches should be run.

Here are some of the things Paul taught Timothy in his letters:

(If you choose, you can first look up the verses together and try to discern what Paul was trying to teach Timothy. Or, depending on time and ages of your children, you can just read and talk about the themes)

- Having courage that he could lead even though he was still a young man (1 Timothy 4:12)
- Beware of false teachers who teach things that might sound close to what God says, but that aren't true (1 Timothy 1:3-7)
- How to choose church leaders (pastors/elders, and deacons) (1 Timothy 3:1-13)
- That some might "fall away from the faith", meaning they acted like they believed, but never truly did (1 Timothy 4:1)
- How the church should be organized and care for each other (1 Timothy 5:1-25)
- To study hard to know what teachings are true (2 Timothy 2:15)
- To keep preaching the Word, and why the Word is important (2 Timothy 3:16-4:5)

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS:

- Trace your foot on paper and write this week's memory verse inside it as a reminder to Stand Strong in God's Word, as Timothy did. **1 TIMOTHY 1:6-7**
- Cut and fold the envelope that tells that Paul wrote 13 of the letters (Epistles!) in the Bible. Then cut each letter out and talk about the church or person it was written to. Older children could use study Bibles to research the themes of the each book and write those on the back of the letters
- Many of us are homebound right now! Just like Paul did, we can write letters to encourage each other. Who can you write to right now to encourage them? Are there members of our extended family, our church, or people in our neighborhood who are alone? How about sending cards and

On the back of this page, trace your foot and write this week's memory verse inside of it. Hang it as a reminder to Stand Strong in God's Word, as Timothy did. **1 TIMOTHY 1:6-7**