



LIFE'S TOOLBOX

Disciples & Early Church • U9#3 1st-3rd Gr. • Mar.30, 2025

Concept

The Bible is the authoritative word of God.

Goal

Students will learn that the Bible is like a toolbox that God has given us to help us live our lives for him. They will be encouraged to study the Bible and know what it says.

Passage

2 Timothy 2:15, 3:14-17

Key Verse: "... be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15b (NLT)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
Optional Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>2 strips of 8' Velcro or Gaffer's Tape or chalk</i>	Activity Stations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Water pitcher</i>• <i>8½" squares of paper, 2/student</i>• <i>4 copies of Bible promise sheets</i>• <i>Cardstock paper, 2 half sheets/student</i>• <i>Crayons/Markers</i>

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information (for the teacher)

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Both Paul's letters to Timothy address the problem of false teaching that threatened the church (1 Tim 1:3-11; 4:1-7; 6:3-5, 2 Tim 2:14-19; 3:6-9; 4:3-5). We can conclude from these passages that the false teachers were not opposed to using the law (Old Testament) to prove their own ideas. In addition, they added myths and genealogies to formulate their beliefs. Both Gnostic and Jewish teachers focused on genealogies: the Gnostics had developed myths involving the genealogies of the "eons between God and man;" the Jews had mythological interpretations of the Old Testament genealogies. Without an exegetical approach to interpreting the Bible, people were free to develop their own interpretations. Consequently, the false teachings resulted in quarrels and friction among its followers. Paul identifies as part of the false teachings the opposite extremes of self-denial (asceticism, 1 Tim 4:1-5) and self-gratification (sensuality, 1 Tim 5:6, 2 Tim 3:4-6 and materialism, 1 Tim 6:5, 9-10, 17-19). It also appears that the "self-gratification" leaders exploited their followers sexually and financially.

Today we see similar types of false teaching. Therefore, if we desire to stay faithful to God's truth, we must pay close attention to Paul's counsel to Timothy to handle accurately the Word of Truth. This lesson echoes Paul's exhortation to accept the Bible as God's only reliable Word to us and to correctly interpret and use the Bible in our daily lives.

Take some time to consider your own individual study and application. How long has it been since you spent time digging into the Word to discover more about God and His truth for you personally? What is the last truth you applied as a result of teachings or personal study? Do you take seriously the admonition to know and use the Word accurately? Is your relationship with God and others growing as a result of the time you devote to your study of the Word? Consider how you can appropriately share your revelation and applications of God's Word with the students.

Instructions: Fill water pitcher for Activity Station

Activity Stations:

- **Bible Promise Cards**
 - **Instructions:** This week the students will illustrate promises about God's truth.
- **Object Lesson – "Fold It and Fill It"**
 - **Instructions:** Give each student an 8½" square of paper. Tell them they have about 3 minutes to fold the paper in such a way as to make a cup that will hold water. Pour a small amount in each of their "cups" to see if they will hold water. Give each student another 8½" square of paper. Give them the following instructions to make a paper cup: (1) Fold the paper in half diagonally so it creates an arrow that points up; (2) Fold the bottom right corner upward so it touches the middle of the left edge. Turn the paper over, and repeat this step; (3) Separate the top flaps and fold the front flap into the front pocket. Fold the back flap into the back pocket. Open the center pocket to reveal a paper cup. Put some water in each cup.

The past few weeks we have talked about Paul's instruction to his good friend, Timothy. Paul wrote to Timothy about the importance of knowing what the Bible says so we can know and do what God wants us to.

How many of you made a cup? How did the instructions help you get a drink? (You learned how to make a cup to hold water.) These instructions would be very valuable if you were really thirsty. God's instructions to us through His word are far more valuable.

Please listen as I read **2 Timothy 3:14, 15**.

In 2 Timothy 1 we learn that Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him God's truth. He is an adult now and we just read in verse 14 that Timothy learned and was convinced of the truth because his mother and grandmother taught him. Paul told him to continue in what he has learned. What do you think that means? (It means never stop learning.)

Look at verse 15. Who knows what Paul means by "the holy Scriptures?" So where do you get wisdom? So what does it v. 15 mean? (Note: this is a good opportunity to see if the students are able to clearly state the gospel.) The wisdom of the holy Scriptures says that the only way anyone can have salvation or be saved from God's judgment is to believe or trust that Jesus died for all sins. He took the punishment each of us deserves so we can be forgiven and have a relationship with God. Timothy understood that to be forgiven or saved from God's judgment he had to personally believe in Jesus. So by faith he, like many of you, became a Christian when he was young.

Let's look back to chapter 2, verse 15. Our key verse is, "... be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15b). What does this mean?

When Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, he was in the city of Ephesus, where false teachers were telling lies to the people. These lies came from stories they heard and read. Paul wants everyone to know that the Bible is the only truth that is always 100% trustworthy. Keep reading with me in verses 16 and 17.

What is the Bible useful for? (It is useful for teaching, correction, teaching what is wrong and teaching how to live right.) If we know the Bible, we will know what is true, we will know when we are wrong and we will know the right way to live. If we don't know the Bible, we will not have accurate truth.

I want to tell you a story. Once there was a person named Pat who didn't know how to study the Bible correctly. When he looked in the Bible to find out what he should do, he opened the Bible, closed his eyes, pointed to a verse and thought that verse would tell him what to do. This is what happened. (Teacher should act out the following in exaggerated form):

(Open and point to a place in your Bible, then read Luke 22:65.) "They kept insulting Jesus."

(Open and point to a new place in your Bible, next read Luke 10:37.) "'Go and do the same.' I wonder if this is what God wants me to do? I'll try one last time."

(Open and point to a place in your Bible, then read John 13:27.) "'What you do, do quickly.' So I quickly went over to my neighbor's house and called him all kinds of names. Why was he mad at me? I just did what the Bible told me to do."

We know that Pat didn't use the Bible the right way to find out what God wanted him to do. What would you do differently? (You would read the whole passage to find out what it was about.) The first verse Pat found described how the Roman soldiers mistreated Jesus. They were not verses telling Pat to insult other people. So, how do we read to make sure we know what it is really saying? (We need to read what comes before and after that part to be sure we understand what it is talking about.) We may need to learn about the culture of the time to determine if the passage talks about a problem only known at that time or if it is a problem of all cultures in all times. We need to find out if this instruction is repeated in other places in the Bible. We need to find the meaning of the words.

What's our key verse? To be a good worker for God we must know what His word says, how to read and understand it and apply it to our lives.

Lesson Continued

We had various reference books in the Activity Station. They are good tools to help us know more about the passage, such as what the culture was like, what was happening then, repeated in other passages, mean of words, etc. Let's pray that, like Timothy and Paul, we will never stop learning the truth. Let's also pray that the Holy Spirit will teach us how to apply these truths in our daily lives. As we do these things, we will learn to love and trust God, live as God designed us and be great workers for God.

Transition

We're going to see a skit about a handyman who is not an approved worker because he has no idea how to accurately use his tools.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Drama - "Mr. Fixit" skit performed by Drama team

Transition

Let's head back to our room and get into small groups

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups

- What is the key verse? What does it mean?
- What was Mr. Fixit's problem? (He didn't know how to use his tools the right way.) What is the toolbox for knowing God and His truth?
- Do you want to be like Amelia Bedelia or Mr. Fixit or like Timothy? Does it really matter whether we read the Bible or not? Why?
- Is it enough just to read it? What are some ways you can learn the Bible? Who can help you?

Missions Prayer: Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving Campaign.

Let's pray now and thank God that He has given us the Bible so that we can learn what is true about Him and what we need to know to become His child.

Optional Activity

Game – True or False [1]

[1] Adapted from Instant Games for Children's Ministry, Susan Lingo, © 1995 Susan L. Lingo, Group Publishing, Inc., p. 34.

Instructions: Play this game outside if weather permits. If playing the game inside, place 2 pieces of Velcro on the floor across the room from each other. If playing the game outside, use tape or chalk on the blacktop. The areas behind the Velcro/chalk lines are the "safety zones." Divide the class into 2 groups – the "True" group and the "False" group. Have the two groups line up facing each other in the area between the 2 lines. A teacher will make a statement. If the statement is true, the "True" group chases the "False" group to their safety zone.

If the statement is false, the "False" group chases the "Trues" to their safety zone. Those who are tagged before reaching the safety zone must join the other group.

Sample statements:

- $7 + 7 = 16$
- Jesus is God.
- Jesus died and His body is in a grave in Jerusalem.
- The Bible can be interpreted in many ways.
- The Bible is God's Word to all the world.
- Columbus is the capital of Ohio.
- Everyone will go to heaven when they die.
- All people are God's children.
- All religions lead to God.
- (Think up some of your own.)