

“These people are servants of the Most High God! They are proclaiming a way of salvation to you!” (Acts 16:17b)

Paul and Timothy – Acts 16:1-5; 2 Timothy 1:5-7

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: PROCLAIM

Timothy was a friend and missionary partner of the apostle Paul. Paul and Timothy met during Paul’s first missionary trip when Paul visited Timothy’s hometown of Lystra. On his second trip to Lystra, Paul invited Timothy to travel with him. While he was still a young man, Timothy traveled to Asia, Greece, and Italy with Paul to spread the good news about Jesus.

Timothy later became a pastor of the church at Ephesus. Two of the letters Paul wrote to Timothy are in the Bible as the books 1 and 2 Timothy. The book of 2 Timothy was written by Paul while he was in prison.

How did Timothy’s faith become strong at such a young age? Paul’s letters to Timothy refer to the faith of Timothy’s grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice. As Timothy was growing up they taught him the Holy Scriptures. Timothy learned about God from his family. As you teach this lesson, encourage the children in your class to consider who has taught them and who continues to teach them about God. Invite them to also consider who is learning about God from them.

Paul encouraged Timothy not to let anyone look down on him because of his age. Paul knew that people of all ages can do God’s work. Encourage the children in your class to think big about how they can do God’s work.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This month’s unit is about proclaiming the good news of God’s love. One way to do this is through listening to people who are often ignored, like kids. We often dismiss what kids have to say because they are still learning. But we’re all learning! This week, focus on listening to the kids in your life and in your group.

Come Together

Come Together

Supplies: *Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, white cloth, battery-operated candle, family picture*

Prepare Ahead: *Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a white cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21). Place a family picture inside of the Wonder Box.*

- Point to the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster, and invite the children to wonder about what the word *proclaim* means.
- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we are hearing stories about a man named Paul. In today's story, we meet one of Paul's friends, Timothy. He was a kid when he met Paul. He travelled with Paul to share God's love and proclaim the good news.

ASK: Who can you share God's love with this week?

- We recommend reading a story each week from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary kid to read, "Paul and Timothy" (pp. 290–1) and "Be Encouraged" (pp. 310–1), from the storybook.

PRAY: Dear God, help us be leaders who share your love, just like Timothy. Amen.

Paul and Timothy – Preschool

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "Paul and Timothy" (Reproducible 11A) for each preschooler.*

- Invite the preschoolers to use crayons to color the picture. Invite elementary kids to help the preschoolers follow the directions on the pages.

SAY: Paul met Timothy when Timothy was a young boy. Timothy became a follower of Jesus and a leader in the church.

ASK: What makes a good leader?

What's Silly With This Picture? – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons, colored pencils, kids scissors

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "What's Silly With This Picture?" (Reproducible 11B) for each child.

SAY: Paul met Timothy when Timothy was a young boy. Timothy became a follower of Jesus and a leader in the church. But there are some silly things in this picture of Paul and Timothy. Can you find and circle them all?

- Invite the kids to circle the things that don't belong in the picture.
- Encourage the kids to color the picture.

People in This Month's Stories – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, CEB Bible

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "People in This Month's Stories" (Reproducible 11C) for each child.

SAY: This month we are hearing stories about Paul and the people who helped him along the way. Solve the crossword puzzle below using the names in the box from this month's stories.

- Invite the kids to solve the puzzle.

Who Teaches You About God? – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Who Teaches You About God?" (Reproducible 11D) for each child.

SAY: Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him about God.

ASK: Who teaches you about God?

- Give each child a copy of the reproducible.
- Invite the children to draw a portrait of the people who teach them on their papers.
- Encourage them to share about their pictures with the group.

Wonder Time

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages from the Reproducible Kids' Book, 11F–11G. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: Who teaches you about the Bible?

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you, and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 11 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18). Cut out the Unit 3 story figures (Class Pack—p. 3).

- Place the Wonder Box on the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat.

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *proclaim*.

- Show the children the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21).

SAY: Proclaim means to share out loud what you believe about your faith.

- Point to the portrait of Paul.

WONDER together:

- What do you think made Timothy a good leader?
- What are you excited to talk about and tell others?
- How will your words proclaim God's love?
- Add the portrait of Timothy to the poster.
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the family picture.

WONDER: Why do you think there is a family picture in our Wonder Box this week?

Experience Wonder

Family of Faith Tree (Art)

Supplies: paper, markers or crayons

SAY: Paul encouraged Timothy by telling him to remember what his family taught him about his faith.

ASK: What has your family taught you about faith?

SAY: We also call our church friends our family of faith.

ASK: What has your family of faith taught you about God?

SAY: We're going to make a family of faith tree.

- Give each child a piece of paper and something to draw with.
- Invite the kids to draw the portraits of the people who have taught them about God and Jesus. This can be their parents, grandparents, the pastor, the Sunday school team, etc.

Examine the Bible Verse

SAY: Our Unit 3 Bible verse is Acts 16:17b. Find it in your Bibles.

ASK: Is the Book of Acts in the Old or New Testament? (*New*) Where is Acts located in the New Testament? (*right after the Gospel books*) In what chapter of Acts is our verse located? (*16*) What is the verse number? (*17*)

- Gather the kids around the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster. Read it together.

ASK: What is the reference for our verse? (*Acts 16:17*)

SAY: Our Bible verse is from one of the stories we will hear this month. Paul and Silas heal a woman and this is what she says!

Peaceful Place

Supplies: copies of the Unit 3 Faith Word (Leader Guide—p. 115); Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook; suggested book: The World is Waiting for You, by Barbara Kerley; paper; crayons or markers; stationary; pens or pencils

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items provided.
- Encourage the children to color the Unit 3 Faith Word coloring page.
- Invite the children to write letters like Paul did.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Proclamation Through Preaching

SAY: A spiritual practice is something we do to help us connect to and spend time with God. It doesn't have to be the same thing every time, but it can be. A spiritual practice can be praying silently or out loud, dancing, singing, walking, breathing, drawing, chanting, or speaking blessings.

- Guide the children through a spiritual practice and invite them to repeat after you:
 - LEADER SAYS: My voice is important.
 - CLASS SAYS: My voice is important.
 - LEADER SAYS: My voice matters.
 - CLASS SAYS: My voice matters.
 - LEADER SAYS: Thank you, God, for my voice.
 - CLASS SAYS: Thank you, God, for my voice.

PRAY: Dear God, help us proclaim your love in all we say and do. Amen.

- Bless the children before they leave. Touch each child on the hand as you say this blessing: "You are important. You matter."

Family Spiritual Practice

SAY: Let's take a look at your Take-Home Pages for today (*Reproducibles 11F–11G*). Ask your family to participate in this week's spiritual practice and encourage someone on your church's prayer list.

Supplemental Activities

Preschoolers and Early Elementary – Follow the Leader

Supplies: none

SAY: Paul and Timothy were both leaders.

ASK: What makes a good leader?

- Invite the kids to play follow the leader.
- You will be the first leader. Encourage the kids to follow you and do what you do. Then, choose a child to be the leader.
- After the child has gotten a turn to lead for a few minutes, choose another leader.
- Keep playing until every child has gotten to be the leader.

Older Elementary – Inherited Traits (Science Activity)

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pens or pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Inherited Traits" (Reproducible 11E) for each child.

SAY: In our Bible story, Paul reminds Timothy that he inherited his faith from his mother and grandmother. There are other things we inherit too! Today we are going to take a class survey to see how many of us have certain inherited traits. A trait is something that can be used to divide people into groups. For example, eye color is a trait.

- Have the children sort themselves into groups according to the color of their eyes. All people with the same eye color will stand together.
- Give each child a copy of "Class Survey" and a pencil.
- Have the children work together to determine the number of people having each eye color.
- Have each child record the results on his or her sheet.

SAY: As you can see, the next trait on your survey is hair color.

- Have the children sort themselves into groups according to hair color.
- Have the children work together to determine the number of people having each hair color.
- Have each child record the results on his or her sheet.

SAY: Let's check out our ears. Your earlobe is the soft part at the bottom of your ear. Some people have attached earlobes. Their ear shape curves down straight to their head. Other people have unattached earlobes. Their ear shape dips down and then back up before attaching to their head, resulting in a part of the ear that hangs down.

- Have the children sort themselves into two groups according to whether their earlobes are attached or unattached.
- Have the children determine how many of them are in each group and record the result on their sheets.

ASK: How many of you can curl or roll your tongue?

- Have everyone who can curl their tongue stand on one side of the room and everyone who cannot curl their tongue stand on the other side.
- Have the children determine how many of them are in each group and record the result on their sheets.

SAY: One more. Take your hand and smooth back your hair so that your hairline is visible at the top of your forehead. Turn to your neighbor and have them tell you whether your hairline forms a point or whether it goes straight across.

- Have everyone with a hairline that forms a point stand on one side of the room and everyone with a straight hairline stand on the other side of the room.
- Have the children determine how many of them are in each group and record the result on their sheets.

SAY: The traits on our survey have something in common. They are all inherited traits. These are all things that are determined when you are born. You can dye your hair, but your natural hair color won't change. Inherited traits are not taught, but are passed on through genetic code. In our Bible story today, we'll meet someone whose mother and grandmother passed on their knowledge of Scripture to him.

ASK: Is knowledge of the Scripture an inherited trait? (No)

SAY: Some things are taught instead of inherited.

Intergenerational Activity – Children Lead

Note: Each week we will feature a special intergenerational activity. Plan to invite youth and adults to join you for these activities.

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Paul and Timothy" (Reproducible 11F) for each person.

SAY: Today we heard about Paul and Timothy. The kids in our group will read and teach you this story.

- Invite some of the children to read the story to the group.
- Encourage the kids to ask the adults and youth questions about the story.
- Invite the children to tell the adults and youth what they think is the most important part of today's lesson that they all should know.