

Teacher Notecards Level 5, Quarter D— Tomorrow's Champions

Use these Teacher Notecards as a reference when teaching
Explore Scripture.*

Print on paper or cardstock. Fold in half, then fold again
along the gray line. This will create a two-sided, notecard-
sized piece for you to hold in your hand.

*The narrative form has been edited to fit on these cards. Please see the full
Explore Scripture sections of each lesson for more interactivity, application, and
content.

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Big Idea: **Champions persevere through setbacks and adversity.**

2 Corinthians 11:16-33 [outline form]

Intro: *Paul mentored Timothy, modeling a willingness to suffer for Christ's message.*
 Ask: *Why was it important that Paul, as a church leader, did not give up in hard times?*

1. Understand the ministry of Paul and Timothy (picture 5D.1).
 - *Paul and Timothy traveled city to city, preaching the Gospel*
 - *Timothy was eager to serve the Lord and learn from Paul*
 - *Paul wrote Timothy two personal letters to teach and mentor him*
 - *False teachers questioned Paul's leadership throughout his ministry*
2. Paul outlined his endurance of suffering as proof to defend his love for Christ and his apostolic leadership.
 - *Paul boasted about hardship—not his ability. 2 Corinthians 11:16-23*
 - *He endured beatings, shipwrecks, betrayal from friends, and prison. . . 11:23-26*
 - *He went without food, water, and carried the burdens of others. 11:26-28*
 - *Paul boasted in his weakness to defend his reputation. 11:29-30*

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3. Paul persevered because of his ability to keep his eyes on Christ and heaven (picture 5D.2).
 - *Paul endured hardship to show love and obedience to Christ. 5:14-15*
 - *God's power strengthened him when he was weak. 12:10*
 - *Paul ran his "race" to win the prize—God's upward call. Philippians 3:13-14*
 - *His goal was to finish strong and earn eternal rewards 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

Conclusion: *Paul was determined to invest his life for the Lord—no matter what! His endurance of physical, emotional, and mental suffering showed his motives were not selfish. God loves to strengthen us so we can keep going in hardship and can help other people!*

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Big Idea: **Champions persevere through setbacks and adversity.**

2 Corinthians 11:16-33 [narrative form]

Intro: *Paul mentored Timothy, modeling a willingness to suffer for Christ's message.*
 Ask: *Why was it important that Paul, as a church leader, did not give up in hard times?*

Paul and Timothy traveled together, taking the Good News about Jesus from city to city. (picture 5D.1) Paul was glad to train or “mentor” Timothy, teaching him things he knew. Timothy was glad to learn from someone as well-known and capable as Paul. Timothy was eager to serve the Lord, too. But the road ahead would not be easy! Some people were determined to make it difficult for them. Paul had already faced much persecution and many hardships. More challenges would soon come their way.

During Paul's ministry, false teachers attempted to discredit him, undermining his reputation and integrity. It became necessary for Paul to defend his apostleship. Paul countered their claims by listing some of the hardships he had faced in his efforts to serve Christ faithfully. Divide the board into three columns: “Physical,” “Emotional,” and “Mental.” Throughout Paul's Christian life, he encountered

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adversity. (picture 5D.2) Ask for volunteers to read one verse each of 2 Corinthians 11:23-27. Discuss each persecution that Paul faced and ask: *How do you think this persecution would affect you physically, emotionally, and mentally?*

When experiencing all these hardships, why didn't Paul give up? What kept him going? Why didn't Paul stop? Encourage responses. Ask kids to look up and read these verses: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15—to show love for and obedience to Christ; 2 Corinthians 12:10—to experience God's power in his weakness; Philippians 3:13-14—to win the prize—God's upward call; 2 Timothy 4:7-8—to finish strong, earning eternal rewards, a crown of righteousness.

Paul was determined to invest his life for the Lord—no matter what! On the roads and the seas, Paul faced perils from Jews, from Gentiles, and from false believers. He endured hardships all along the way, often being without food, water, shelter, and sleep. In addition to all those “external” pressures, Paul shouldered the concerns of churches that he had personally helped to establish. Surely no one with selfish motives would face and endure such personal adversity!

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Big Idea: **Champions stay on course, embracing truth and rejecting false beliefs.**

1 Timothy 1 [outline form]

Intro: *Paul wrote Timothy, advising him to keep his faith strong and conscience clear.*

Ask: *Why do you think Paul taught that false beliefs could threaten strong faith?*

1. Paul encouraged Timothy to oppose false teachings and love from a pure heart (picture 5D.3).
 - *Paul urged Timothy to steer others from false teaching 1 Timothy 1:3-4*
 - *Controversy distracted from sincere faith and speaking in love. 1:4-5*
 - *Many believers taught in ignorance for selfish gain. 1:6-7*
 - *The right use of God's law is to teach truth to sinners 1:8-11*
2. Paul recognized his past role in persecuting the church and claimed Jesus' mercy in using his life.
 - *Christ used Paul's service to the church—in spite of his past sins 1:12-13*
 - *Paul explained that Christ's sacrifice covered him—the chief of sinners. . . 1:15*
 - *Jesus' mercy and patience with Paul's sin displayed God's glory. 1:15-17*

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3. Paul renewed his challenge to Timothy to continue believing truth (picture 5D.4).
 - *Timothy should remember past promises in order keep fighting well 1:18*
 - *To avoid "shipwreck," Timothy should hold on to his faith in Christ 1:19*
 - *Believers should avoid rejecting God and speaking disrespectfully of Him . . 1:19-20*

Conclusion: *Timothy lived Ephesus, a city with many ideas that were opposed to the Gospel. Paul knew that believing false teaching about his faith would have shipwrecked Timothy—Paul helped him understand the difference between what was true and what was false. Just as Paul helped Timothy, we need to find people who we trust to be our personal trainer to help us grow as believers.*

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Big Idea: **Champions stay on course, embracing truth and rejecting false beliefs.**

1 Timothy 1 [narrative form]

Intro: *Paul wrote Timothy, advising him to keep his faith strong and conscience clear.*

Ask: *Why do you think Paul taught that false beliefs could threaten strong faith?*

Let's talk about goals. *In sports such as soccer or hockey, where is the goal? How do you score a goal? In a race, what is the goal?* Another kind of goals are personal goals that people set and work hard to reach. Did you know that God has goals for every person? He wants each of us to achieve His goals for us.

What does it take to be a champion for the Lord? Today we'll see that God's champions set goals and work hard to stay on course, embracing truth and rejecting false beliefs.

What is a personal trainer? In what area of your life would you like to have a personal trainer? In today's Bible passage, we will see that Timothy had a personal trainer named Paul. When they were together, Paul helped Timothy grow in many ways. But now Paul was far away. (picture 5D.3) 1 Timothy is a letter that Paul sent to

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encourage his young friend. Let's look at the first chapter and see what Timothy's personal trainer wants him to do to stay on course with his goals—and to avoid shipwreck. (picture 5D.4)

Make two columns on the board and list the Bible verses beneath each column. Ask different kids to look up each verse and to summarize Paul's advice to Timothy.

"Ways to Win" (Avoid Shipwreck)—1 Timothy 1:5, 1:8, 1:12, 1:14, 1:19

"Ways to Lose" (Ruin Your Life)—1 Timothy 1:4, 1:6, 1:7, 1:9-10, 1:19, 1:20

What other things can you do to reach your goals in the Christian life? Encourage responses. *What other things can lead to shipwreck as a Christian?*

When people came to Ephesus teaching things that were different from the message about Jesus that Paul had given to him, Timothy faced some new challenges. Paul helped Timothy understand the difference between what was true and what was false.

Every Christian can learn by listening to the advice and direction from a personal trainer or "mentor." Name some people that you think might be good mentors. Just as Paul helped Timothy, I challenge each of you to think of someone you trust who can be your personal trainer to help you grow as a Christian.

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Big Idea: **Champions worship humbly and sincerely, not drawing attention to themselves.**

1 Timothy 2 [outline form]

Intro: *Paul instructed Timothy to pray for everyone and worship God with right action and a humble heart.*

Ask: *What does it mean to worship God without drawing attention to yourself?*

1. Paul asked Timothy to intercede for authority figures and all men, for God wants everyone to know Jesus.

- *Pray on behalf of leaders and all men, giving thanks for them. . . . 1 Timothy 2:1*
- *Prayer for others pleases the Lord who wants all to know the truth. 2:2-4*
- *Jesus is the only Mediator who can reconcile mankind to God. 2:5-7*
- *Paul hoped men would pray free of anger and controversy (picture 5D.5). . . 2:8*

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2. Paul called people to worship in humility, submitting themselves to God (picture 5D.6).

- *God sees right action and character as beautiful, not outward flashy clothing . . . 2:9-10*
- *It is important to submit to the Bible's authority. 2:11*
- *God desires a heart of faith, love, holiness, and modesty 2:15*

Conclusion: *God's life-purpose for every Christian is to glory and enjoy Him forever. Genuine, heartfelt worship that is truly about adoring God is our ultimate priority. Forget yourself and what you look like—worship God with your whole heart!*

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Big Idea: **Champions worship humbly and sincerely, not drawing attention to themselves.**

1 Timothy 2 [narrative form]

Intro: *Paul instructed Timothy to pray for everyone and worship God with right action and a humble heart.*

Ask: *What does it mean to worship God without drawing attention to yourself?*

We are looking at Paul's letters to Timothy to see what it takes to be a champion for the Lord. Today we'll see that God's champions worship humbly and sincerely, focusing on God instead of drawing attention to themselves.

Some people enjoy being the center of action; others don't like it at all. They prefer to be in the audience rather than on stage. In this lesson we'll learn that there is one time when no one should be the center of attention. *Guess when that is?* Worship is one time when God must receive all the glory. He shares His greatness with no one! People who are involved in public worship must always be careful that they are not in the spotlight.

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(picture 5D.5) *What are these people doing? Are they drawing more attention to themselves or to God?* (picture 5D.6) *What are these people doing? Are they drawing more attention to themselves or to God?*

We know that God deserves our worship. The Lord wants us to worship Him. *But what does that look like? How does God want us to worship Him?* We must learn to worship God the way He wants to be worshiped—not necessarily the way we want to worship Him.

Bring a church bulletin or worship folder. Ask the kids to identify the elements that your church includes in worship services. List these activities on the board. Talk about the purpose of each one. Discuss how each item brings glory to God.

God's life-purpose for every Christian is to glorify and to enjoy Him forever. Genuine, heartfelt worship is our ultimate priority—twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week!

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Big Idea: **Champions conduct themselves honorably, guarding their reputations.**

1 Timothy 3 [outline form]

Intro: *Paul taught Timothy to look for church leaders of excellent character and reputation.*

Ask: *Why is it important that leaders have respect from the church and the community?*

1. Timothy should look for church leaders who had excellent judgment, healthy family life, and a good reputation (picture 5D.7).

- *Overseers should conduct a life that is above reproach. 1 Timothy 3:1-3*
- *A leader must show good leadership in his family life first. 3:4-5*
- *To avoid pride, the leader should have had time to prove his faith. 3:6*
- *An elder's good reputation outside the church will prevent disgrace. 3:7*

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2. Church deacons were also required to be respected community members with high integrity (picture 5D.8).

- *Deacons need to be respected by the community for their decisions. 3:8-9*
- *Their faith, family life, and finances must withstand scrutiny. 3:10-12*
- *Service breeds respect from others and increased confidence in God. 3:13*
- *A leader's conduct supports the truth of the Gospel. 3:14-15*

Conclusion: *The New Testament identifies two groups of church leaders; elders and deacons. Leading these church is a lot of work and responsibility, but these people can also enjoy special rewards. Think about how you can be ready for leadership, showing self-control and faithfulness in every task!*

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Big Idea: **Champions conduct themselves honorably, guarding their reputations.**

1 Timothy 3 [narrative form]

Intro: *Paul taught Timothy to look for church leaders of excellent character and reputation.*

Ask: *Why is it important that leaders have respect from the church and the community?*

Who would like to tell me what a "reputation" is? Reputations have to do with the opinions of others—the way that other people see us. Listen to what these famous people said about reputations. After I read each quotation, I'd like someone to help explain what it means or give an example.

"It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it."—Benjamin Franklin

"Associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company."—George Washington

"Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us."—Thomas Paine

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Let's see what kind of reputations church leaders need to have. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Ask kids to give an example of each leadership quality.

(picture 5D.7) *What do you think is taking place in this picture? How are the people showing that they respect their teacher? In the early church, when a person with a good reputation was selected to become a church leader, other leaders laid their hands on him and prayed for him. (picture 5D.8)*

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-12. Ask kids to give an example of each leadership quality for deacons.

Obtain a list of elders (bishops, pastors, overseers), deacons, and deaconesses in your church. The New Testament identifies two groups of church leaders: elders (also called overseers, bishops, pastors), and deacons (deaconesses). *Who are the leaders in our church?* Let's see how many leaders you can name.

Why do you think someone would want to become a leader in the church? Leading the church is a lot of work and responsibility, but these people can also enjoy some special rewards. Read and discuss 1 Timothy 3:13.

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Big Idea: **Champions practice self-discipline, serving as role models for others to follow.**

1 Timothy 4 [outline form]

Intro: *Paul directed Timothy to pursue godliness and be an example for other believers.*

Ask: *How would Timothy's choice to live a godly life help train other Christians?*

1. Paul reminded Timothy that people would become deceived by false teachings of the enemy (picture 5D.9).
 - *During the last days many will follow deceptive spirits 1 Timothy 4:1-2*
 - *Many will not believe in marriage and forbid consuming certain foods . . . 4:3*
 - *God created food and all good things which we can thank the Lord for . . 4:4-5*
2. Timothy's role was to teach truth and train himself in godliness (picture 5D.10).
 - *When Timothy explained the value of God's gifts, he served Christ well . . . 4:6*
 - *Arguing over ideas is a waste of time; training in godliness is better 4:7*
 - *The hard work is accomplished by hope in God 4:8-9*

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3. Timothy could teach and serve as a model for others even as a young man.
 - *Timothy should teach and serve as an example in love, faith, and purity. . 4:11-12*
 - *The Church needs to hear the Scriptures and receive truth. 4:13*
 - *Timothy should focus on spiritual gifts he received and work hard to grow. . 4:14-15*
 - *Right living supports the salvation message and truthful teaching 4:16*

Conclusion: *Paul knew that right behavior and the pursuit of godliness would make Timothy a far more effective teacher and a leader. He knew that thankfulness, self-discipline, and modeling good choices would build the church of new believers and bolster the truth of Timothy's teaching. Remember that your example can help teach other people even if you are young!*

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Big Idea: **Champions practice self-discipline, serving as role models for others to follow.**

1 Timothy 4 [narrative form]

Intro: *Paul taught Timothy to look for church leaders of excellent character and reputation.*

Ask: *Why is it important that leaders have respect from the church and the community?*

We are looking at Paul's letters to Timothy to see what it takes to be a champion for the Lord. Today we'll see that God's champions practice self-discipline, serving as role models for others to follow. (picture 5D.9)

Let's talk about people who have "personal discipline." Name a champion who demonstrates personal discipline. *Why is discipline a good thing to develop? Why isn't personal discipline easy to achieve?* Nearly everyone agrees that personal discipline is a good thing, but not everyone wants to pay the price to develop it.

Paul told Timothy that some people followed their own selfish interests and ended up walking away from the truth. They adopted beliefs that were wrong, and they became involved in activities that were even worse! Paul tells us that even more

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people will do this during the "last days."

Let's make two lists that will help us avoid the dangers and cling to the truths. On the board, make two columns with headers: "STOP" and "START." Now as we study 1 Timothy 4 together, it's your job to identify dangers that believers should STOP doing, and to find activities that they should embrace or START.

Paul begins by reminding Timothy that he faces spiritual warfare. Satan and his demons are always ready to twist the truth and to ruin the church.

Look at 1 Timothy 4:1, 4:3, 4:4, 4:6, 4:7-9, 4:10, 4:11, 4:12, 4:13, 4:14, 4:15, and 4:16 (picture 5D.10)

What kinds of things do you think Paul would tell people today to STOP doing? Encourage kids to respond. *What things do you think Paul would tell people to START doing?* Invite responses.

Paul knew that right behavior and the pursuit of godliness would make Timothy a far more effective teacher and a leader. Thankfulness, self-discipline, and modeling good choices would build the Church and bolster the truth of Timothy's teaching. Remember that your example can help teach other people even if you are young!

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Big Idea: **Champions demonstrate unbiased concern for the welfare of all people.**

1 Timothy 5 [outline form]

Intro: *Paul urged Timothy to treat all people as beloved family members.*

Ask: *How can you love others and treat all people like beloved family members?*

1. Paul advised Timothy how to treat older and younger people like family.
 - *Men and women of all ages should be treated like family 1 Timothy 5:1-2*
 - *Widows should be cared for by their families; by the church if alone 5:3-4*
 - *A widow without family hopes in God's provision 5:5-7*
 - *Families who do not care for their parents or grandparents displease God. . . 5:8*
2. Paul proposed a specific plan on how to care for older and younger widows (picture 5D.11).
 - *The Church should aid older widows who had been faithful wives and mothers. . 5:9*
 - *Humility, hospitality, and love for others were required traits 5:10*
 - *Younger widows should remarry to avoid idleness. 5:11-15*
 - *Family cared for widows so the church aided only those truly alone 5:16*

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3. Elders should be treated with honor, and all people treated with impartial regard (picture 5D.12).
 - *Elders who ruled well were worthy of double honor, especially teachers . . . 5:17-18*
 - *Accusations against elders required two or three witnesses 5:19-20*
 - *Timothy should uphold God's laws without favoritism 5:21-23*
 - *God will judge our actions; everything will be revealed. 5:24-25*

Conclusion: *Paul knew that a healthy Church would treat all people like family members and provide for those in need. He taught Timothy to model respect for church leaders and a love for all without prejudice or favoritism. How can you love people around you without playing favorites?*

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Big Idea: **Champions demonstrate unbiased concern for the welfare of all people.**

1 Timothy 5 [narrative form]

Intro: *Paul urged Timothy to treat all people as beloved family members.*

Ask: *How can you love others and treat all people like beloved family members?*

Who is the only Person that is not affected by prejudice and favoritism? Every person matters to God. He is always loving, always caring, and always compassionate. God never shows partiality, prejudice, or favoritism.

Outline a simple church building on a piece of paper. Leave lots of room in the center of your illustration for kids to write. Make copies for each student. On the board, draw the same outline of a large church building with six different rooms or sections. Distribute the church outlines to the kids.

Ask students to draw six boxes inside their church building. Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2 and label four shapes with the groups of people that these verses identify (older men, younger men, older women, younger women). Next read 1 Timothy 5:3 and label another shape with this group of people (widows). (picture 5D.11) Then read

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1 Timothy 5:17 and label this group of church leaders (elders). (picture 5D.12)

Who can name some other groups of people in the Church? Encourage kids to respond. Most churches have many different ministries and groups of people who share common interests. Paul wanted to remind Timothy that the relationships among people in the church are all important. *What relationships does Paul mention in verses 1-2? What do these people remind you of?* The Church is like a large family! Write "My Family" on the roof of the church drawing.

In the Church, there is no room for partiality, prejudice, and favoritism. This is so important that Paul calls three very powerful witnesses to observe what is taking place. *Who are these three witnesses, and what is Timothy NOT supposed to do?* Paul also reminds Timothy that nothing is hidden from God's sight. *What are verses 24-25 all about?*

Paul knew that a healthy Church would treat all people like family members and provide for those in need. He taught Timothy to model respect for church leaders and a love for all without prejudice or favoritism. *How can you love people around you without playing favorites?*

4

Big Idea: **Champions are content to be rich in good deeds that earn eternal rewards.**

1 Timothy 6 [outline form]

Intro: *Paul advised Timothy to invest in eternity and godliness instead of worldly wealth.*

Ask: *What does it look like for someone to be “rich in good deeds”?*

1. Timothy should teach others godliness and contentment—love of money would bring trouble (picture 5D.13 & 5D.14).

- *Servants should respect their masters to honor God’s name . . . 1 Timothy 6:1-2*
- *Teach sound doctrine to avoid conceit, controversy, and lack of truth . . . 6:3-5*
- *Benefit comes from godly behavior and contentment with what we own. . 6:6-7*
- *Desire for wealth and love of money bring temptation and destruction. . 6:9-10*

2. Paul urged Timothy to pursue right living with a clean heart, keeping focus on Jesus and eternity.

- *Timothy should pursue godliness, faith, love and gentleness. 6:11*
- *Fight the good fight, receive eternal life, and keep God’s commands . . . 6:12-14*
- *Jesus Christ will appear again; He is immortal and shrouded in light . 6:15-16*

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3. The wealthy could use their resources in a godly way to benefit God’s kingdom.

- *The rich must avoid arrogance and instead hope in God’s provision. 6:17*
- *Good deeds and generosity allow us to invest in eternity 6:19*
- *Timothy should guard what is entrusted to him and avoid godless chatter . 6:20-21*

Conclusion: *Each day Christians receive pulls from two opposite directions. We hear God’s voice telling us to obey Him and we have Satan’s temptation to follow his way. The struggle is won or lost by our decisions. Choose to flee Satan’s temptations and pursue good things from the Lord!*

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Big Idea: **Champions are content to be rich in good deeds that earn eternal rewards.**

1 Timothy 6 [narrative form]

Intro: *Paul advised Timothy to invest in eternity and godliness instead of worldly wealth.*

Ask: *What does it look like for someone to be “rich in good deeds”?*

1 Timothy 6 reveals many ways to invest our time, talents, and treasures. (picture 5D.13) *What is taking place in this picture?* (picture 5D.14) *What does this picture show?*

Bring a 10’-20’ long rope to stretch across the classroom. Ask the kids to find a place to hold the rope, but not to tug until you give the signal. *What happens when only one person pulls and no one resists?* Choose one child to demonstrate this. *What happens if one person on each end pulls? What happens if half the people pull in one direction and the other half pull in the other?* Now just for fun, let’s see what happens when everyone pulls in every different direction.

“Evil” pulls one end of the rope and “Good” pulls the other end. Paul warns Timothy that some people use their time, abilities, and money in foolish ways. Instead

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of lifting us up, they pull us down. *What does Paul tell Timothy to do?* But Paul also explains that some investments are very wise. They increase in value and produce eternal results. *What does Paul tell Timothy to do with these things?*

Ask two children to hold one end of the rope each and to stretch it tight. One child will represent “Evil” and the other “Good.” Make sure that these two children holding the ends of the rope understand that they are to pull only if the phrase clearly indicates that they do so. The person holding the opposite end of the rope should not resist the other person’s tug.

- **EVIL** (Flee!)—challenges those in authority (6:1-2); denies what the Bible says (6:3-4); has corrupt ideas, causes trouble (6:5); pretends to be godly (6:5); longs to be rich (6:9); falls into temptation (6:9); loves money (6:10); trusts in wealth (6:17); promotes worldly discussions (6:20); abandons the faith (6:10)
- **GOOD** (Pursue!)—respects and honors leaders (6:1-2); obeys God’s commands (6:13-14); enjoys godliness and contentment (6:6-8); is rich in good works (6:18); pursues righteousness and godly living (6:11); uses money to do good deeds (6:18); trusts God for their needs (6:17); stores up treasures in heaven (6:19); fights for the faith (6:12)

Read the conclusion found on the outline form.

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Big Idea: **Champions bravely proclaim the Gospel message in spite of suffering.**

2 Timothy 1 [outline form]

Intro: *Paul shared his suffering for the Gospel and challenged Timothy to keep faith.*

Ask: *When has God given you courage to stand up for your faith?*

1. Paul longed to see Timothy and encouraged him to use his gifts without timidity (picture 5D.15).

- *Paul affirmed his apostleship and his role sharing the Gospel. . . 2 Timothy 1:1-3*
- *Paul prayed constantly for Timothy and longed to see him. 1:3-4*
- *Timothy's family had established his faith (picture 5D.16). 1:5*
- *God would help Timothy use his gifts with power, love, and self-discipline. . . 1:6-7*

2. Paul invited Timothy to join him in suffering for the Lord by the power of Christ's resurrection.

- *Timothy shouldn't be ashamed of the Gospel but share in Paul's suffering. . . 1:8*
- *We must live holy by the grace acquired by Christ's defeat over death . . . 1:9-10*
- *Paul trusted the Lord to protect his ministry and message 1:11-12*

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- *The Holy Spirit would guard the faith and truth Timothy received . . . 1:13-14*

3. Paul shared about his visits from believers while he was imprisoned in Rome.

- *Paul lamented that the believers in Asia had deserted him 1:15*
- *Onesiphorus and his family sought out Paul in Rome to encourage him . . 1:16*
- *Paul praised Onesiphorus' helpfulness and asked the Lord to bless him . . 1:17-18*

Conclusion: *Paul worked diligently to teach Timothy to share the Gospel without fear, being willing to join others suffering for the Gospel. God would empower Timothy to teach sound doctrine. We can be a positive example of faith for other people-- God gives us courage to share His message with others!*

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Big Idea: **Champions bravely proclaim the Gospel message in spite of suffering.**

2 Timothy 1 [narrative form]

Intro: *Paul shared his suffering for the Gospel and challenged Timothy to keep faith.*

Ask: *When has God given you courage to stand up for your faith?*

We are looking at Paul's letters to Timothy to learn what it takes to be a champion for the Lord. Today we'll see that God's champions bravely proclaim the Gospel—in spite of suffering.

When Paul wrote this letter, he was imprisoned in a dark, uncomfortable dungeon. His time on earth was nearly over. (picture 5D.15) Timothy was still leading the church in Ephesus. Paul wanted to encourage Timothy to stay strong in the Lord. In the hard times to come, Paul would no longer be around to help him.

Timothy's Heritage (2 Timothy 1:1-7) Paul strongly desired to see Timothy again—face to face. Thinking about him made Paul remember the roots of Timothy's faith. *Who had introduced Timothy to God's Word? (picture 5D.16) What did Paul encourage Timothy to develop? What spirit does God give to His champions? How*

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well do you sense that you embody this spirit right now? What can you do to grow in God's spirit of power?

God's Faithfulness (1:8-12) Paul invited Timothy to "join with him in suffering." *What is the only thing worth such hardship for Paul? The Roman emperor, Nero, was beginning to persecute the Church severely. Who would help Timothy in his suffering? What do these verses tell us about salvation? About grace? About eternal life? Discuss the brief summary of the Gospel found in verses 9-10. How did Paul's own example encourage Timothy? Encourage responses.*

Timothy's Challenge (1:13-18) Paul had worked diligently to teach Timothy correctly. *What are God's champions entrusted to protect? Who helps accomplish this?*

Discuss why Paul mentions both the people in Asia and the believer named Onesiphorus (1:15-18). *What does Paul's account of Onesiphorus tell you about Paul's circumstances? How did Timothy know Onesiphorus? How can positive and negative examples of other believers' faith encourage and strengthen our own?*

Paul worked diligently to teach Timothy to share the Gospel without fear, being willing to join others suffering for the Gospel. God would empower Timothy to teach sound doctrine. We can be a positive example of faith for other people-- God gives us courage to share His message with others!

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Big Idea: **Champions diligently teach believers to remain faithful to the Lord.**

2 Timothy 2 [outline form]

Intro: *Paul gave Timothy special instructions to remain strong and endure.*

Ask: *When was a time that you finished a hard task? What helped you stay strong?*

- Paul urged Timothy to empower others and work diligently to please the Lord (picture 5D.17).
 - *Timothy empowered faithful believers to teach others 2 Timothy 2:1-2*
 - *Serving the Lord is like being a soldier who obeys his superiors 2:3-4*
 - *Paul also compared leadership to life as an athlete or a farmer 2:5-6*
- Christ's resurrection motivates believers to stay faithful in the midst of suffering.
 - *Paul was willing to suffer to share the news of Jesus' resurrection 2:8-9*
 - *Paul endured everything so others would attain salvation 2:10*
 - *Believers who share in Christ's death also share in His resurrection . . . 2:11-12*
 - *Christ is faithful to us even when we lack faith and confidence . . . 2:12-13*

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- Believers should speak truth without quarrel or ungodly talk.
 - *Speak truth to other believers without senseless quarreling. 2:14*
 - *Present yourself as an approved worker who speaks wisdom and truth. . 2:15-18*
 - *A believer's foundation is that Christ removed sin and made us His. 2:19*
 - *God can cleanse and use any "vessel" for His purpose to do good works. . 2:20-21*
- Timothy should avoid controversy and pursue kind teaching and correction backed by right living (picture 5D.18).
 - *Flee youthful passion and foolish, ignorant controversies 2:22-24*
 - *Pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace, and kind teaching 2:22-24*
 - *With gentle correction, those opposing you may find truth and escape the devil. 2:25*

Conclusion: *To lead well, Timothy would need endurance in the midst of hardship, commitment to God's word, and consistent teaching as he led other believers. Believers today need to keep pursuing righteousness, faith, love, and peace and not be distracted by debates or controversy. You can show others how to follow God by daily choosing to obey Him!*

2

Big Idea: **Champions diligently teach believers to remain faithful to the Lord.**

2 Timothy 2 [narrative form]

Intro: *Paul gave Timothy special instructions to remain strong and endure.*

Ask: *When was a time that you finished a hard task? What helped you stay strong?*

Paul gave special instructions to Timothy about working hard and avoiding false teachers. He reminded him of some important truths.

Timothy, Paul's Son (2 Timothy 2:1-10) Paul wanted Timothy to be strong because he would need strength as a church leader. Point out Paul's preaching was to go from Paul to Timothy to other people qualified to teach others, and so on. This summarizes the process of making disciples. *What three examples does Paul give for Christians to follow?* (picture 5D.17)

Even though Paul was in prison, what would reach beyond his chains? For whose sake was Paul suffering and why?

Timothy, an Approved Workman (2:11-21) Verses 11-13 were most likely from a

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hymn of the early Church. *What promise is given to those who endure? What must Christians do with their very best effort?*

Timothy also faced challenges in Ephesus from people who taught things that were not true. *Why was it wrong for people to say the resurrection had already taken place? How must the Church respond to false teaching? How can we determine whether a particular teaching is true or false?* Encourage responses.

Household instruments or utensils can illustrate godly living. *What kind of utensils should God's champions be?*

Timothy, the Lord's Servant (2:22-26) *What do you imagine are the "evil desires of youth"?* Encourage responses. *What should champions pursue instead? What kind of arguments lead to fighting? What must Christian leaders do in the face of opposing ideas?* (picture 5D.18) *What can believers ask God to do in the meantime? Who is really supporting those people who oppose the truth?*

To lead well, Timothy would need endurance in the midst of hardship, commitment to God's word, and consistent teaching as he led other believers. Believers today need to keep pursuing righteousness, faith, love, and peace and not be distracted by debates or controversy.

4

Big Idea: **Champions equip themselves to stand against people who oppose the truth.**

2 Timothy 3 [outline form]

Intro: *Paul warned Timothy of future opposition from self-centered, deceived people.*

Ask: *Why is it important to stand up for truth with people who deny God's power?*

1. During the last days people will live for themselves and deny the power of God (picture 5D.19).

- *People will love money and pleasure, living ungratefully. 2 Timothy 3:1-2*
- *People will lack self control—choosing evil instead of God 3:3-4*
- *Do not associate with those who deny the Gospel's power. 3:5*

2. People steeped in sin will be deceived by others and never come to knowledge of truth.

- *Those weak with sin will be easily lead astray and never learn the truth. . 3:6-7*
- *These false teachers oppose truth and operate with depraved minds 3:8*
- *The false teacher's foolishness will be clear to everyone 3:9*

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3. God's Word, Paul's training, and Timothy's salvation would help him endure persecution.

- *Timothy knew of Paul's righteous conduct and perseverance 3:10-11*
- *Those who follow Jesus and live a godly life will see persecution 3:12*
- *Timothy should continue following the truth of Scripture 3:14-15*
- *All Scripture is inspired and useful for God's people (picture 5D.20) . . 3:16-17*

Conclusion: *Paul knew many would oppose the truth about Jesus. This would lead to persecution and hardship for believers. But if we learn to recognize those people and separate ourselves, we will not be lead astray. Instead we should listen to godly teachers, continue in our faith, and learn to apply God's word. Do not give up learning God's truth—it will equip you to stand firm against any opposition!*

2

Big Idea: **Champions equip themselves to stand against people who oppose the truth.**

2 Timothy 3 [narrative form]

Intro: *Paul warned Timothy of future opposition from self-centered, deceived people.*

Ask: *Why is it important to stand up for truth with people who deny God's power?*

Paul warned Timothy about people who were causing trouble in the Church. Unfortunately, he also said that things would go from bad to worse.

Paul's Warning (2 Timothy 3:1-5) The "last days" Paul referred to here include our time now. *Which characteristics do you see most in people today? (picture 5D.19) As if it isn't bad enough that the Church has enemies, what does Paul say about them in verse 5? Some of these people may seem very religious, but they deny God's power and they deny that Jesus is both God and human. What is Paul's first piece of advice regarding these people?*

Paul's Verdict (2 Timothy 3:6-9) If necessary, share this information with your class: In Ephesus, the women of Paul's day felt very liberated. Many women gravi-

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tated to the Church because it also offered a freedom that they had never before experienced in society.

Paul warned about men who urged women to use the "freedom" found in the Church to give in to evil desires. *What were these "knowledgeable" women never able to do? What did Paul say about people who acted in these ways?*

Paul's Challenge (2 Timothy 3:10-17) Paul contrasted these wicked people with himself. *What did he remind Timothy? What warning did Paul give? How are believers to respond?*

Paul gave some final advice in this chapter about Scripture. *What does it mean that Scripture is "God-breathed" or "inspired"? (picture 5D.20) Why is God's Word useful? What does the Bible do for us?*

Many people will oppose the truth about Jesus. This will lead to persecution and hardship for believers. But if we learn to recognize those people and separate ourselves from them, we will not be led astray. What is more, if we listen to godly teachers, continue in our faith, and learn and apply God's Word, we are equipped to stand firm against any opposition.

4

Big Idea: **Champions triumph as they faithfully proclaim God's Word.**

2 Timothy 4 [outline form]

Intro: *Paul instructed Timothy to persevere in God's Word.*

Ask: *Why is it important to share God's truth with people?*

1. Paul urged Timothy preach God's word and be prepared to encourage others with good teaching (picture 5D.21).

- *With Christ as witness, preach God's Word and teach others . . . 2 Timothy 4:1-2*
- *In the future, people will not accept solid teaching and will reject truth . . . 4:3-4*
- *Keep a clear mind, do not fear suffering, and share the Good News 4:5*

2. Paul finished his race of "faith" well and looked forward to receiving his reward from the Lord (picture 5D.22).

- *Paul had poured out his life as an offering to the Lord 4:6*
- *He fought the good fight, finished the race, and remained faithful 4:7*
- *A crown of righteousness awaits Paul and all believers at judgment day . . . 4:8*

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3. Paul sent final messages to believers and praised God for allowing him to share the Gospel at his trial.

- *Paul urged Timothy to come and bring Mark to encourage him 4:9-13*
- *Paul shared a personal warning about someone who opposed him. . . . 4:14-15*
- *During Paul's trial no one stood with him—he was abandoned 4:16*
- *The Lord gave Paul strength to preach the Good News to the court 4:17-18*

Conclusion: *As was typical in Paul's day, he ends his letter with instructions and greetings to specific people. Paul was feeling lonely, but he knew he was not alone. God had been Paul's strength, helping him remain faithful to the end. He would protect Paul, strengthen him to preach God's word, and bring him to God's kingdom! Like Paul, do not give up faithfully speaking God's truth to all people no matter the cost!*

2

Big Idea: **Champions triumph as they faithfully proclaim God's Word.**

2 Timothy 4 [narrative form]

Intro: *Paul instructed Timothy to persevere in God's Word.*

Ask: *Why is it important to share God's truth with people?*

Paul had come to the end of his letter to Timothy. It was one of the last letters he ever wrote. Paul had one final opportunity to encourage Timothy to remain faithful.

Paul's Charge (2 Timothy 4:1-5) *What was Paul's final challenge to Timothy? (picture 5D.21) To emphasize the importance of this, Paul stated it like an oath of office—"in the presence of God and Christ Jesus."* Have kids use a dictionary to look up the words "correct," "rebuke," and "encourage." Discuss how a champion might do these things. Remind kids how Paul had stated earlier that Scripture could accomplish these things (2 Timothy 3:16).

Why do people turn away from the truth to embrace falsehoods and myths? How do God's champions separate themselves from people like that?

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Paul's Life (2 Timothy 4:6-8) Remind the kids that Paul knew his life was nearly over. (picture 5D.22) On the board, write "Paul's Life." Beneath, write the phrases below. Discuss the meaning of each phrase and how the students can take specific action to follow Paul's example: *a drink offering* (Paul had poured out his life for Christ); *fought the good fight* (A boxing analogy. Paul had defended Christ against those who opposed Him.); *finished the race* (Paul had successfully completed the task God gave him.); *kept the faith* (Paul had carefully observed and guarded the truth.)

What did these lifelong actions earn Paul? Draw an equal sign (=) and write "crown of righteousness" beside it to signify the result of Paul's faithfulness. Who also can earn this crown?

Paul's Help (2 Timothy 9-22) *As was typical in Paul's day, he ends his letter with instructions about and greetings to specific people. Paul was feeling lonely, but he knew he was not alone. What had God done for Paul? God had been Paul's strength, helping him remain faithful to the end. How would God continue to be with Paul at the end of his earthly life?*

4

Big Idea: **Champions overcome all challenges through Christ Jesus.**

Romans 8:28-39 [outline form]

Intro: *Paul wrote to Rome about God's uncompromising love for His people.*

Ask: *How does it feel knowing that God's love is always with you?*

1. God chooses believers and makes them right with Him through Christ's sacrifice (picture 5D.23 & 5D.24).

- *God works all things together for the good of those who love Him. . . Romans 8:28*
- *God knows who will follow Him—He chooses them to be like Jesus. 8:29*
- *God gives believers right standing with Him and glory through Jesus. 8:30*
- *Because God is for us, no one can prevail against us 8:31*



2. Nothing can separate us from the God's love; Christ died for and protects God's people.

- *No one can accuse us—Christ's death makes us right with God. 8:32-34*
- *Nothing earthly can separate us from Christ's love 8:35-36*
- *Again, we should take heart that nothing can prevail against us 8:37*
- *Nothing supernatural can separate us from Christ's love 8:38-39*

Conclusion: *Paul's letter shows us one of the greatest promises in Scripture. God's champions are never alone! Paul wrote that nothing could separate us from the love that God the Father and Christ His Son have for us. That is why God's champions are "more than conquerors." Be confident that you are loved no matter what and you are right with God—you can overcome challenges with His help!*



Big Idea: **Champions overcome all challenges through Christ Jesus.**

Romans 8:28-39 [narrative form]

Intro: *Paul wrote to Rome about God's uncompromising love for His people.*

Ask: *How does it feel knowing that God's love is always with you?*

We are looking at Paul's words to learn what it takes to be a champion for the Lord. Today we'll see that God's champions overcome all challenges through Christ Jesus. (picture 5D.23)

God's Chosen (Romans 8:28-30) Note: Although theologians have wrestled with different implications of the following verses, the point to stress to your kids is that God wants them and chooses them to be His. *Have you ever gone through the process where captains choose teams for a game? How can it feel, waiting to be chosen? Well, God—the greatest Captain there is—has chosen you to be on His "team"! He wants you to be His champions. (picture 5D.24)*

God's Help (Romans 8:31-34) Make a brief list of people, organizations, and forces that oppose Christianity. Ask the children which of these could defeat God.



Erase the list. If God is on our side, nothing can stop us from doing His will! *What amazing gift did God give us? Can Satan or anyone else condemn us for the wrong we've done? Who continues to ask God to forgive us when we do stumble? What kind of confidence does it give you, knowing you will be forgiven if you "mess up"?* Encourage responses.

Christ's Love (Romans 8:35-39) Now we come to one of the greatest promises in Scripture. God's champions are never alone! Make another list of "opposition" Paul mentions in verses 35, 38-39. Discuss each item briefly. Paul writes that none of these things (Erase the list.) can separate us from the love that God the Father and Christ His Son have for us. That love is ours forever! That is why God's champions are "more than conquerors"! *So how do you feel, knowing God's love is always with you?* Encourage responses. *How can you respond to this wonderful promise from God?*

Be confident that you are loved no matter what and you are right with God—you can overcome challenges with His help!

