



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for November 23, 2008
Released on Wednesday, November 19, 2008

"Sharing the Good News"

DEVOTIONAL READING: Acts 4:13-20

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 2 - 4

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 2 Timothy 2:1-3; 4:1-5

MEMORY VERSE: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2)

2 Timothy 2:1-3

1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God's plan is that those who hear and believe the message of Christ pass along that news to others.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God's children are to communicate His truth so that others will hear and become communicators too.

2. Believers are to be brave and strong like soldiers when people do not want to hear what God says.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, bring a picture of Jesus and the disciples.

For Telling the Lesson, take a scroll, and pictures of Paul, of a Roman soldier, of Jesus, of Timothy teaching, a farmer and an athlete.

For Telling How to Live, take a drawing of a cross.

For Helping to Remember, supply modeling clay and a 3-inch square of colored cardboard for each child. Take a tube of all-surface glue.

TEACHER'S NOTES

The Lord has chosen to use people to reach people. The message may be transmitted from the pulpit, through a book, by way of the Internet, or over the back fence; but the transmitter is always people.

Paul told his young helper Timothy to preach the Word. The importance of passing along the good news is the thrust of this week's lesson. Paul used various illustrations in this week's lesson to show Timothy the roles necessary in being faithful to Christ and spreading the gospel. Use these illustrations (soldier, athlete, farmer, teacher, and evangelist) to help tell the lesson.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Time: A. D. 64

Place: from Rome

Timothy was one of the co-workers of the Apostle Paul. He traveled with Paul on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:1-3), and Paul referred to him as his "son" (1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 2:1). At the time of this letter to Timothy, Paul was in prison in Rome but wanted to encourage Timothy to carry on the work of the Lord.

Timothy was a young man and pastor at Ephesus. His relationship with Paul was an enduring one right up to the time of Paul's death (2 Timothy 4:6). Paul wrote to encourage Timothy to keep preaching and sharing the gospel of Christ with others. In this week's lesson, Paul advises Timothy to entrust the teachings he had received from Paul to his own disciples, who would then faithfully pass them on to disciples of their own.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Has your teacher or maybe Dad or Mom ever said to you, "Now be sure you remember to do this"? Whatever "this" was, it was something the teacher or Dad or Mom thought was important.

Well, just before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His friends to do something that God thought was very important. (Show Jesus and disciples.) It was something God still thinks is important. Jesus said, "When I am gone, I want you to go all over the world and tell everybody I have come to take away their sins. I want everyone to hear that news." Letting people know what Jesus did on the cross is important to Him, and it is important to God.

TELLING THE LESSON

The gospel is the good news that Jesus came and died to take away all our sins. We can have our sins forgiven if we believe in Him. This is the message that Jesus wants those who believe in Him to share with the world. This is the message that He gave His friends (His disciples) to tell others.

Jesus' friends did tell people, and some of those people told others. The Apostle Paul even traveled from one town to another telling the news that people could have their sins forgiven because Jesus had died for them. (Show Paul.)

One day Paul wrote a letter to Timothy (Show scroll.) Timothy was a young man who had traveled with Paul and had helped him. Timothy then became a pastor in one of the churches, and Paul wrote a letter to encourage him in the ministry. One of the things Paul told Timothy in that letter was, "Preach the Word."

In the days before there was television or radio or newspapers, a man would sometimes just stand and shout what important thing had happened. He used his voice to let people know the news. In a way Paul was telling Timothy, "Jesus the Saviour has come. That is important news. Use your voice to let people know."

But what if people do not want to listen to this news? Some people do not want to know they have sins that need to be taken away. They want to hear only things that make them feel good about themselves. Paul said to tell the news of Jesus anyway.

In another place in Paul's letter he wrote, "Be a good soldier for Jesus Christ." Things are not always easy for soldiers. (Show soldier.) Things will not always be easy for the people who try to tell the news of Jesus either. But good soldiers want to please their commander, the one in charge. Good soldiers do what their commander says. Paul told Timothy, "Your commander is Jesus. (Show Jesus.) Be a good soldier for Him. Do what He says."

Paul also encouraged Timothy to be like a good athlete (2 Timothy 2:5) and a farmer (2 Timothy 2:6) (Show athlete and farmer.) An athlete must compete according to the rules if he/she expects to succeed. A farmer must labor and work hard to enjoy his crops.

Remember how important it is to God that the people who hear of Jesus do not just keep the news to themselves? Listen to what Paul said next. "Timothy, I have taught you about Jesus. I have taught you how He wants His people to live. Now you tell others the things you have learned. (Show Timothy teaching.) Then they will be able to teach people too."

Paul's encouragement to Timothy was for him to preach the word, even if it was not convenient ("in season" and "out of season"). It was very important for Timothy to teach others what Paul had taught him. God wanted everyone who had heard the good news about Jesus to share this news with others, and then they would share with someone else, and on and on.

That was God's plan when Paul and Timothy were here. And that is just what God's plan is today.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Have you heard that Jesus died on the cross for you? (Show cross.) Do you believe He did? Then you are God's child, and He wants you to help other people know the important news that Jesus died for them too.

There are different ways to do this. Be kind; then when someone asks why you will not do something mean, you can say it is because you want to please Jesus. You could invite a friend to Sunday school, where he will hear about Jesus. Or when someone says you have done a good job with your schoolwork, you might say that your friend Jesus helped you. The ways of telling about Jesus will change as you grow up. Someday you may tell by writing a book or teaching Sunday school or singing in front of many people. Let us ask God right now to help us see ways we can tell the good news.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Give each child a square of cardboard and a supply of clay. Have each person make himself telling two friends the good news that Jesus came. Then help him glue his clay figures to the cardboard.

This week's lesson activity is a double puzzle to help remember the main point of the lesson.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2)

Many people (witnesses) had heard Paul teach his helper Timothy about Jesus and how to please Him. Now it was Timothy's turn. He would tell others the good news that he had learned. "Commit thou to faithful men" means giving the news to the kind of men who would tell even more people.

As we learn about Jesus, it then becomes our responsibility to share this good news with others. They, in turn, will share with still others. And it keeps going – and the good news about Jesus keeps spreading.

CONCLUSION:

This week's lesson explains how Paul wanted Timothy to teach others the things Paul had taught him. It is vital that teaching of the gospel be faithfully passed on in a consistent manner to new believers. The message of Christ needs to be presented at all times, whether it is convenient or not.

Timothy was to entrust these teachings to other faithful believers who could also teach others. The goal is that those we teach may be "able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). That is how the faith continues. One person teaches one person, who teaches another, and so on. May God help you teach His Word to others today!

PRAYER:

Father God, we thank You for the leaders you have given us. Help us to learn from them so that we can teach others and share the good news, in Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "Power for Living," and tells how God is there to help no matter how big our troubles. Study 2 Corinthians 11:16 - 12:10.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

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WORKS CITED

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

DOUBLE PUZZLE

Sharing the Good News

(2 Timothy 2:1-3; 4:1-5)

Part 1: Unscramble the clue words, which are words from the lesson text (the verse is noted).

R N S O G T	(2:1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			1						
A T L I U F H F	(2:2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
						5			
D N E E U R	(2:3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2							
I D R S L E O	(2:3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			6						
C R A P E H	(4:2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
					3				
U N S D O	(4:3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		8							
U R T T H	(4:4)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			7						
C T W H A	(4:5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
					4				

Part 2: Copy letters from the numbers above to the line below with the same number to get a two-word phrase:

1 2 3 4 5 6 1 5 2 7 8

Answer Key to Double Puzzle

Sharing the Good News

(2 Timothy 2:1-3; 4:1-5)

Part 1:

strong
faithful
endure
soldier
preach
sound
truth
watch

Part 2:

Teach Others