



## **Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for March 20, 2011**

**Released on Wednesday, March 16, 2011**

### **"Getting Ready to Lead"**

**Lesson Text:** 1 Timothy 4:6-16

**Background Scriptures:** 1 Timothy 4:6-16

**Memory Verse:** "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine" (1 Timothy 4:16).

### **1 Timothy 4:6-16**

**6** If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

**7** But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness.

**8** For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

**9** This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation.

**10** For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

**11** These things command and teach.

**12** Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

**13** Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

**14** Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

**15** Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

**16** Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

## **TEACHER'S NOTES**

This lesson is an opportunity to teach the children that they do not have to be grown-up before they can serve the Lord.

Timothy was young enough (probably about thirty) that Paul thought someone in Ephesus would make remarks about him, saying that Timothy was too young to be a pastor. So Paul wrote him a letter to encourage him.

He wrote, "Do not behave yourself in such a way as to cause people to look down on you or to tell you that you are too young to pastor the church." Paul reminded Timothy that God had given him spiritual gifts to enable him to preach as well as to live a godly life before his congregation.

Engage the children in thinking about the talents they were born with. Some of them may be taking piano lessons, and most primaries like to sing. Then you can teach them that God will turn their talents into spiritual gifts when He shows them how to use them for Him.

Of course, many of them will not be able to think of one talent. So remind them that giving a simple smile, sharing their crayons while working on a project, and bringing money for the class offering are ways that they can exercise their spiritual gifts.

Encouraging is also a gift of the Spirit. Teach the children to cheer others on instead of, being jealous of their accomplishments.

The story of Sarah in Beginning the Lesson will illustrate that children who live godly lives can be used by God to change the lives of people around them. When Sarah receives Jesus as her Saviour, she is so radically changed that her family goes to church to find out what happened to her.

Teach them that children really can live the Christian life and be an example of Jesus' love. By committing themselves to live for Jesus and consistently exercising their spiritual gifts, children can make a difference!

### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach the children that they are not too young to live the Christian life. God can use changed lives.

### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

- 1.** Jesus is the One who helps us live a godly life.
- 2.** Children are not too young to walk with Jesus. They can set an example by the way they live.
- 3.** As children use their spiritual gifts for God, He can use them to change the lives of people around them.

## **PLANNING VISUAL AIDS**

For Beginning the Lesson, find a picture of a ten-year-old girl.

For Telling the Lesson, find pictures of Timothy and Jesus teaching. Also, show the class the scroll from last week's lesson. (Save this scroll for use in lesson 6.) Make two posters: one with the word "EXERCISE" and the other with the words "BE A GOOD EXAMPLE."

For Helping to Remember, draw a gift box on a piece of construction paper for each child. Provide crayons or markers, ribbon, glue, and safety scissors (blunt tip) for the gift box. Give each child a piece of lined writing paper. Bring a stapler.

## **BEGINNING THE LESSON**

Sarah was just ten when she received Jesus as her Saviour. (Show picture of a ten-year-old girl.) Before that year, Sarah's parents had taken her to church only twice a year—at Christmas and Easter.

Sarah had a neighbor who loved Jesus and believed that children can know Jesus and live for Him. She had prayed for Sarah's family and had invited her to Vacation Bible School many times.

When Sarah finally went, she heard for the first time that Jesus died so that she could have her sins forgiven.

When the teacher invited boys and girls to receive Jesus as Saviour, Sarah made the decision to believe in Jesus and be saved.

Sarah's parents were not particularly happy when she told them that she was a new Christian, but they allowed her to go to church with their neighbor anyway.

As they watched Sarah live a godly life, they knew that Jesus had changed her. Many of her old fears disappeared, and Sarah was happy all the time.

Sarah's parents became so curious about what had happened to their daughter that they went to church to find out. You guessed it! They asked Jesus to become their Saviour! Sarah was not too young to be an example of how to live for Jesus.

## **TELLING THE LESSON**

Timothy was another young person who walked with Jesus. He was quite young when Paul asked him to pastor the church at Ephesus. (Show picture of Timothy preaching.)

Paul knew that there might be some people in the church who would say that Timothy was too young to pastor. So Paul sent him a letter to encourage him. (Show the scroll from lesson 2.)

He wrote, "Do not behave yourself in such a way as to cause people to look down on you or to tell you that you are too young to pastor a church. You are not

too young to set an example of how to live a godly life."

Paul was telling Timothy to act in a grown-up manner and not look down on himself or feel that he was too young to do the job God had called him to do.

"Do not forget the spiritual gifts that God gave you when the church leaders prayed over you," he continued. "Be sure to exercise those gifts. (Show the word "EXERCISE.") Exercise your spiritual gifts of teaching, preaching, faith, and giving; then you will live a godly life before your congregation.

"Just as we need to exercise our bodies to keep them strong," Paul wrote, "we also need to put our bodies to work living a godly life to grow strong in the Lord. (Show the words "BE A GOOD EXAMPLE.") Living like Jesus will help you be a good example and stay close to the Lord.

"Until I come, make sure that you read all you can about the Lord," wrote Paul, "and be like Jesus (show picture of Jesus) in the way you love and in the way you live your life."

## **TELLING HOW TO LIVE**

This message is for you too, boys and girls. You can know Jesus as your Saviour and walk with Him as well as any adult can.

You should never think that you are too young to live for Jesus. Remember Sarah who led her whole family to the Lord? While she was only ten years old, her family could see Jesus in her life. She was so changed that her parents wanted to know more.

Paul's advice to Timothy is just right for you too. Do you remember what Paul said?

(Show the word "EXERCISE.") Yes, Paul told Timothy to exercise. Was he talking about push-ups or jumping jacks? No, he was talking about using the spiritual gifts of teaching, preaching, faith, loving, and giving.

God has given you spiritual gifts too. You were born with lots of talents. They are gifts from God. When you use those talents to serve the Lord, you are exercising your spiritual gifts as well.

What are your talents? (Take time for the children to share.) God wants us to use those talents to help others come to know Jesus.

The Holy Spirit lives in you and will help you exercise your talents for God. As you walk with Jesus and come to church, you will no doubt be able to use your singing voice or ability to play an instrument for the Lord.

Is there anyone who cannot think of any talents that he or she has? How many of you have a smile? Let me see it. Did you ever think of smiling as a talent? Every time you smile, you are exercising your gift of helping others be happy.

How many of you have ever shared a crayon or glue or scissors with someone at

your table? Anytime you share, you are exercising your gift of giving. How many brought money for the class offering today? You exercised your gift of giving when you placed the money in the offering plate.

One of the best gifts is encouraging. When you tell someone he or she is doing a good job, you are exercising a gift that is called "the gift of encouragement."

As you exercise your spiritual gifts at home and at school, you will be setting a good example of how to live the Christian life. (Show "BE A GOOD EXAMPLE" poster.)

There are so many ways that boys and girls can be good examples. When your teachers at school see your good attitude, they will wonder what makes you so polite.

When your family sees you sharing and hears you cheering someone on, they will know God is working in your life. You, boys and girls, are not too young. God can use you to change people's lives.

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER**

Hand out gift box drawings on a piece of construction paper that can be used as a cover page. Give the children crayons or markers to color the box. Give them bits of ribbon that they can glue to the box to decorate it.

Give each one a piece of lined writing paper to staple behind the cover page. Have them write a list of spiritual gifts. (You may wish to print the words and have the children trace the letters.)

### **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE**

#### **"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine" (1 Timothy 4:16).**

"Take heed" was Paul's way of telling Timothy to "pay attention." What did Paul want Timothy to pay attention to?

First of all, himself. Paul wanted Timothy to see himself as a man who was not too young to do the job God had called him to do.

Then Paul wanted Timothy to pay attention to the truth that he preached, which is called "doctrine." There are lots of subjects to preach about to a congregation, but Paul wanted Timothy to be sure to preach about Jesus—that Jesus died for their sins and rose again. That would help all who heard him to live godly lives.

### **CONCLUSION**

Children are not too young to be an example. Be sure that all of the class understands that they can be a good example by just offering a smile or a kind word. Let God use you to have a positive effect on others.

## **PRAYER**

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the perfect example of how to live through Jesus Christ. We ask that You continue to use us to set a good example in order to lead others to Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

## **ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON**

In next week's lesson, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter instructing Christians to do good to others, especially their own families. Study 1 Timothy 5:1-8, 17-22 "**Doing Good for Others.**"

## **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

Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers

## WORD SEARCH

### "Getting Ready to Lead" (1 Timothy 4:6-16)

P A K E E T C R L W G X R E U  
S E C G N T I U P O V P E S C  
R A U C X I F R D Y R R F I T  
E X V N E H R L I O J E U C V  
F D A I T P I T F P V M S R Z  
F B Y I O N T A C T S E E E F  
U U A W E U N A Z O Y M C X T  
S F A S Z E R T T Y D B O E R  
I D S W H O L L Y I T R M N T  
E T A T I D E M E Y O A M E Q  
C O N V E R S A T I O N A K L  
G D A C H A R I T Y K C N Z K  
D D E E H R R W Z V H E D G D  
H W R Q V U L U Z V O E W E O  
K X I U P V F R U O B A L S V

ACCEPTATION  
CONVERSATION  
FAITHFUL  
LABOUR  
PURITY  
SAVIOUR  
TEACH

CHARITY  
DOCTRINE  
GODLINESS  
MEDITATE  
REFUSE  
SPIRIT  
WHOLLY

COMMAND  
EXERCISE  
HEED  
PROFANE  
REMEMBRANCE  
SUFFER

20 words were placed into the puzzle

## WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

### "Getting Ready to Lead" (1 Timothy 4:6-16)

```
+ A + E + T + + L + G + R E +  
S + C + N + I U + O + P E S +  
R A + C + I F R D + R R F I +  
E + V + E H R L I O + E U C +  
F + + I T P I T F P + M S R +  
F + + I O N T A C + S E E E +  
U + A + E U N A + O + M C X +  
S F + S + E R + T + D B O E +  
+ + S W H O L L Y I + R M + T  
E T A T I D E M + Y O A M E +  
C O N V E R S A T I O N A + +  
+ + + C H A R I T Y + C N + +  
+ D E E H + R + + + H E D + +  
+ + + + + U + + + + + + + +  
+ + + + P + + R U O B A L + +
```

(Over, Down, Direction)

ACCEPTATION (2, 1, SE)  
CHARITY (4, 12, E)  
COMMAND (13, 7, S)  
CONVERSATION (1, 11, E)  
DOCTRINE (11, 8, NW)  
EXERCISE (14, 8, N)  
FAITHFUL (2, 8, NE)  
GODLINESS (11, 1, SW)  
HEED (5, 13, W)  
LABOUR (13, 15, W)  
MEDITATE (8, 10, W)  
PROFANE (12, 2, SW)  
PURITY (5, 15, NE)  
REFUSE (13, 1, S)  
REMEMBRANCE (12, 3, S)  
SAVIOUR (1, 2, SE)  
SPIRIT (11, 6, NW)  
SUFFER (1, 8, N)  
TEACH (15, 9, SW)  
WHOLLY (4, 9, E)