

## What Every Mother Wants

**Objective:** The lesson is going to be what every Mother really wants for her son or daughter is to grow up to have a “sincere (i.e. authentic; real) faith” as Timothy had. We are going to learn about Timothy and his family.

**Materials:** Worksheets, Bible, Crayons, Pencils, etc.

**Lesson:** Ask the kids what they think their mother wants for them. What is the most important thing they have taught them? Ask them if they know who Timothy is. Then you can talk to them about what any parent would want for their child. The main verses are going to be from 2 Timothy 1:3-7. Here are some other bible verses you can read to them. Acts 16:1-5; 2 Timothy 1:3-7; 3:14-15

Here is a summary of Timothy you can read to them.

Story Overview:

Timothy’s mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) were Jewish Christians. They raised Timothy to be a Christian even though his father was a Greek. When Timothy was a young man he joined Paul in Lystra and travelled with him on his second missionary journey. Timothy helped Paul by travelling to other places to teach churches and by helping him write some of his epistles. Eventually Paul asked Timothy to stay in Ephesus and minister to the church there. 1 and 2 Timothy are letters from Paul to Timothy to teach him how to be a good minister to the church.

Background Study:

Although Timothy’s mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) were Jews, his father was not. He was a Greek. These women must have taken their faith very seriously because Timothy was taught about God from infancy (2 Timothy 3:15).

When Timothy was a young man he joined Paul in Lystra and travelled with him on his second missionary journey. Timothy helped Paul by travelling to other places to teach churches (1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10-11) and by helping him write some of his epistles (1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; Philemon 1. Timothy had been with Paul during his first two year imprisonment in Rome. Later, at the time Paul wrote his epistles to Timothy, Paul was in prison again. The first time Paul was imprisoned he lived in a rented house (Acts 28:30). It is believed that Paul then was released for a time. Later, when the persecution of Christians intensified, Paul was arrested again. This time, tradition says, he was kept in an underground dungeon, awaiting execution as a common criminal.

Timothy ministered to the church in Ephesus. 1 and 2 Timothy are letters from Paul to Timothy to teach him how to be a good minister to the church. Paul wrote to encourage Timothy. He reminded Timothy of what he had gone through for the sake of Christ and encouraged Timothy to remain true to God’s Word and to preach it boldly. Paul’s letter to Timothy was solemn, but

not downhearted. Paul had led Timothy to the Lord and considered Timothy a son—a spiritual son. Paul was giving his final challenge to the young man he had disciplined and loved deeply.

Paul knew that Timothy would face persecution and that people would reject his message. Timothy, being from Lystra, had firsthand knowledge about some of Paul's sufferings in that region. (Acts 13:14-14:23). Paul had visited Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra on his first and second missionary journeys.

To prepare Timothy for persecution, Paul exhorted him to remain true to God's eternal Word. Through human authors God had revealed Himself in His word. By remaining true to that Word, Timothy could be sure he spoke God's truth.

The final charge Paul gave Timothy was to preach the Word "in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2—whether it's popular or not). To preach God's Word, Timothy had to know it. Likewise, if we are to be ready to use God's Word in our lives or to share it with others, we need to study it. Timothy's life is a wonderful example of a child who learned from God's Word and grew up to be strong and faithful. This should give us, as bible class teachers, great encouragement to make sure that our class preparation is good and that everything stays focused on the Word. Children do not have to wait until they are "older" to learn about God and His Word. Timothy was not just "baby-sat" during infancy—he studied the word of God. Don't lose sight of the importance of teaching children!

#### The Story:

Once there was a woman who loved God very much. Her name was Eunice. When Eunice had a baby boy she named him Timothy. Since her husband did not believe in God, Eunice asked her mother, Lois, to help her teach little Timothy how to love the Lord. As Timothy grew, he learned more and more from his mother and his grandmother.

When Timothy grew to be a young man, he met the missionary, Paul. Timothy became a helper to Paul. Paul loved Timothy just like a father loves a son. Timothy was a helper and a friend to Paul even when Paul went to prison. Timothy helped Paul write letters to churches so that they could learn about God too.

Timothy decided to live in the city of Ephesus. He helped the church there by teaching and preaching. Sometimes it was hard for Timothy. He was a young man still and sometimes older people did not listen to him because he was young. But Timothy loved God and he did not give up teaching the people in Ephesus.

Timothy's old friend Paul wrote him letters to help him be a better minister. He gave Timothy advice and told him that he should always study God's word and be ready to give answers to people who ask questions. Paul told Timothy that God's Word would help him know what to say to people who needed help.

When Timothy was working with people he would have been glad that his mother and grandmother had helped him start learning about God from when he was very small.

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### **Review Questions:**

1. What was the name of the young man who started learning about God when he was very little?  
Timothy
2. Who taught Timothy about the word of God when he was little? His mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois.
3. What missionary did Timothy help? Paul

### **Activity**

Make a “family scrapbook” for Timothy’s family. Draw pictures of his mother, grandmother, father, and then Paul and some of the events of Timothy’s life (reading bible scrolls when a child, helping Paul write letters first preaching job in Ephesus, etc.)

You can also make one of your own family.

Another activity is making scrolls

Here’s how to make the scrolls:

### **Supplies:**

1. Paper cut into a long rectangular strip. Tan or brown paper looks great but it is not necessary.
2. Brown paint and a wiping cloth or brown crayon with paper removed.
3. Two sticks of some kind (purchased dowel sticks, sticks you find on the ground outside, pencils...)
4. Tape or glue to attach the sticks to the paper.
5. Pen or crayon to write with.

### **Instructions:**

1. You or the children write a scripture or message on the scroll (alternatively, prepare scroll first and then write).
2. Crunch or wad the paper up into a ball. Then smooth it out and wad it up again. Do this a number of times until the paper is soft and looks old and worn.
3. If using a crayon then turn it on its side and gently rub over the paper. The colour will be uneven and will make the “wrinkles” of the paper stand out better.
4. If using the paint then use a small amount on a cloth. Rub the cloth over the paper so the wrinkles will stand out and the paper look old.

5. Use the glue or tape to attach the sticks at each end.
6. To close the scroll just roll up the ends. Tie it off with twine or ribbon if you wish.

### **Stories Suggestions for Scrolls:**

1. Jeremiah and the Scroll
2. The Story of Timothy (All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16, NIV)
3. Paul in Ephesus
4. Philip Teaches the Ethiopian
5. Or use for the memory or important verse in any lesson. Here are some examples:
  1. The Birth of Jesus "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV
  2. Wise Men and a Star "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16, NIV
  3. Wise King Solomon "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Psalm 111:10a, NIV
  4. Meaning of the Lord's Supper "Do this in remembrance of me." 1 Corinthians 11:24b, NIV
  5. The Noble Bereans "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15, NIV
  6. Great Commission and Ascension of Christ "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20), NIV

If you don't like any of these you can write a story that has had an impact on you or your favorite bible story.