

LESSON 71

God Breathed the Scriptures

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17



BIBLE TRUTH

THE SCRIPTURES ARE ABLE TO CARRY US THROUGH TIMES OF EVIL AND TRIAL

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 2 Timothy 3:1–17 from the Scriptures or read story 149, “God Breathed the Scriptures,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Marker Illustration

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Scripture Is Our Anchor

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ ten feet of rope

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 71—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Acquainted from Childhood

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

There will be terrible times in the last days—Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote this second letter to Timothy from prison in Rome believing that his execution was close at hand (see 2 Timothy 4:6). This letter may very well have been Paul’s last instructions to Timothy. In the third chapter, Paul warned Timothy about the evil that he was sure to confront in his ministry. As Timothy continued caring for the young churches, Paul wanted him to be aware of the evil around him, that he might guard against it and protect the church. After giving Timothy a list of sins, Paul concluded that people who live in unrepentant sin would not “arrive at a knowledge of the truth,” and in fact, actively oppose the truth (2 Timothy 3:7–8). Isn’t it amazing how God, working through a man like Paul, produced a letter that became a part of his eternal Word, which can also speak to us today!

God’s Word is an anchor in terrible times—After painting a dark picture of sin, Paul contrasted the wickedness of the world with the righteousness that comes to God’s people. Paul offered his own life as a testimony of God’s grace and then encouraged Timothy (2 Timothy 3:10–11). Paul contrasted the wicked, sinful men who oppose the truth and Timothy who had followed the truth from a young age. Paul encouraged Timothy that in the midst of evil and persecution, God’s grace would be available through Scripture, which he described as “breathed out by God” (2 Timothy 3:13–16).

Men wrote Scripture, however, God spoke through them so that they wrote the words God wanted them to write. God breathed the scriptures by his Holy Spirit. Peter spoke of it this way: “knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20–21). Scripture is not merely the words of men; it is actually the words of God to us.

The ministry of the Word sustains the church in terrible times—Paul finished his exhortation to Timothy by charging him to preach the Word (2 Timothy 4:2). In chapter 1, Paul opened his letter by charging Timothy to guard the good deposit of sound doctrine (2 Timothy 1:14). If we believe that the Bible is God’s Word, able to sustain us in terrible times, then the only logical thing to do is to proclaim it! Paul first encouraged Timothy personally and then instructed him to care for the church and do the work of an evangelist (2 Timothy 4:5), preaching to unbelievers. Paul wanted Timothy to know that God’s breathed-out Word can sustain and grow the church in spite of the sin that surrounds it.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

The Scriptures are profitable to train us in righteousness. Once the Scriptures teach us God's laws, we soon realize we cannot ever hope to keep the law. Once we see our failure, and then read about God's salvation through Jesus, we can repent of our sin and trust him.

Paul described that process in Timothy's life when he said the Scriptures were able to "make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). In that phrase, we see that the purpose of God's Word in both the Old and New Testaments is to point to the salvation available through Christ's death on the cross. Jesus told his disciples on the road to Emmaus how the Old Testament pointed to him (Luke 24:27). The Bible is not first a book of rules, but a book of faith. Salvation does not come by works, but by faith (Ephesians 2:8–9).

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 2 Timothy 3:1–17 from the Scriptures or read story 149, "God Breathed the Scriptures," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Marker Illustration

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

This illustration will help the children understand how God used people as his instruments to write Scripture.

Write the words to 2 Timothy 3:16 on the whiteboard. Then ask the children the following questions:

- (Point to the board.)*
- **Who wrote these words?**
(They will of course say that you wrote the words.)
- **What did I use to write these words?**
(You used a marker.)
- **So is it accurate to say that this marker wrote these words?**
(They should agree.)
- **Did I write these words or did the marker write these words?**
(Dialogue over the answer to this question and get a lot of students involved.)
- **Who wrote the Bible?**
(This is a similar question. Help them to see the similarities. Of course God used people to write the Bible just as you used the pen to write the words on the whiteboard.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 **10 MIN**

Scripture Is Our Anchor

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ ten feet of rope

This illustration is designed to show us that if we are anchored in God’s Word we will not fall away from truth.

Choose a volunteer and tie the rope around her waist. Tell her to pretend to be a boat on the ocean. Go through some pantomime exercises. Tell her to act like a boat on an ocean that is

perfectly calm. Pantomime being a boat amid gentle rolling waves and then on a rough sea with large waves.

Ask her what would happen if a strong wind began to blow. (She would begin to drift.) Ask her how this rope could help. (The rope could be tied to an anchor to keep her from drifting.)

Go through two more pantomimes. First have the individual demonstrate a boat on a rough sea with a strong wind and no anchor. Then hold the rope for her and pretend that you are the anchor while she demonstrates being a boat on a rough sea with an anchor.

Explain to the children that Christ and his Word are our anchors. Then draw them out as to why an anchor is a good analogy and how it fits in today's Bible text.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 71—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What is happening in the picture?**
(wind is blowing across a Bible)
- **What does it mean that the Bible is God-breathed?**
(It means that God wrote the Bible and that God's Word came from his mouth.)
- **How did God write the Bible through people?**
(The Holy Spirit showed them what to write.)

■ **Can we trust that what the Bible says is true?**

(Because the Holy Spirit directed the people so that they wrote God's words, we can trust that the Bible is completely true.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Acquainted from Childhood

Prior to class, ask some of your church friends to recount their earliest memory of hearing God's Word. Ask them what effect it had on their lives. When you hear a good testimony or two of God's Word having an effect on a person's life, invite them come to class and share it with the children. Some might remember their parents reading the Bible to them at a young age, or perhaps they remember memorizing Scripture in Sunday school.

Once they have finished giving their testimony in class, ask the children to try to remember the first time they heard God's Word. Ask the children how it has already helped them. Use this exercise to talk about Paul reminding Timothy of the impact God's Word had on his life (2 Timothy 3:14–15) and also what Paul says about how God's Word helps us today (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

