

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

Who Fits the Description?

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bibles for the class
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

God-Breathed

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Terrible Times

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ city newspaper—main front page section
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class

TOTAL 70 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

The Last Days

The last days are not just the few last days before Jesus returns. Rather the last days refer to the time between Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection, and his second coming. The writer of Hebrews tells us that the last days were marked by the time of Christ's ministry ("in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son" [Hebrews 1:2]). When preaching to the multitude on the day of Pentecost, Peter quoted Joel, saying that the last days were marked by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:17). It is not important to determine just when the last days began. What matters is to understand that they represent the season from Jesus' life to his return. During this time, as Paul indicates to Timothy, the world will be very evil, but the gospel will prevail!

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

Who Fits the Description?

- ✓ Bibles for the class

Read together 2 Timothy 3:1–5, and then ask the class if they know anyone like the person Paul is describing.

Of course, you want to help them see we are all in some way included in this passage. Once you help them identify with the person described in the paragraph—the bad news—tell them the gospel of 2 Timothy 3:14–15—the good news. Even though we are sinners like Paul is describing, we can be saved from our sin just as Timothy was.

Help the students to associate salvation with the gospel and not with going to church or being born into a Christian family. The latter two are no guarantee that we will have faith in Christ.

Take them to 2 Timothy 4:3–4. Help them to see that just because a person hears the truth doesn't guarantee they will follow the truth. Some children who have been raised in Christian homes and have attended church regularly have turned away from the truth.

If we remember that we are capable of great sin and turning away and commit ourselves to trust Jesus and his Word, we will not turn away. The reason for this is that just like taking a wrong road when driving, the sooner you discover your wrong turn the easier it is to get back on track.

God's Word helps to keep us on track and warns us when we have made a wrong turn. Point out 2 Timothy 3:16

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESON 2 10 MIN

Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bibles for the class
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

Tell the class that this is another one of those “3:16” verses that is good to remember (John 3:16; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 3:16).

Look them all up and talk about why they are good verses to memorize. Then take time in class to memorize 2 Timothy 3:16. Write the verse on the board and, one by one, erase the words. See who can be the first to recite the entire verse completely from memory.

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

God-Breathed

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Tell the class to draw a scene that represents either God breathing out the Scriptures or that depicts someone using the Scriptures in a way outlined in the story. When the class is finished, have some of the children describe their drawings.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Terrible Times

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ city newspaper—main front page section
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class

Prior to class, preview a large city newspaper. Be sure to cover over immodest pictures with paper squares. Also be careful to screen the stories to make sure there are no stories of rape or other sexual crimes. You can cover over these stories if need be.

The object of this exercise is to help the children connect the evil of the last days in Paul's description to Timothy with our world today.

Divide the class into groups of three. Give each group a newspaper page. Explain why you covered over stories and photos. Then ask them to read 2 Timothy 3:1–9. Explain that their task is to read through their newspaper page and evaluate our world. What do they see?

Give them some time and then have each team report what they found.

Help the children recognize that our times are similar to Paul's, with the exception that we are not currently being arrested for our faith. Draw them out about the sin in their own lives. It is important that we not only recognize sin around us but also sin in our own lives.

Use this exercise to help the students appreciate our need for God's Word. Look at 2 Timothy 3:1—4:8 and ask the class to help you list all the ways this portion of Paul's letter to Timothy tells us God's Word is helpful. Write their answers on the whiteboard.