

LEADERS GUIDE

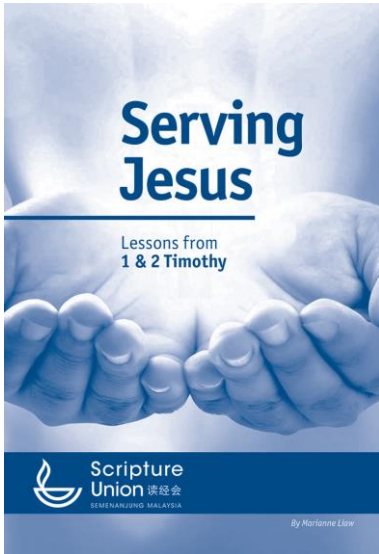
Serving Jesus

Lessons from
1 & 2 Timothy



Scripture
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SEMANJANG MALAYSIA

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Serving Jesus Leaders Guide

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About Scripture Union Peninsular Malaysia

Scripture Union Peninsular Malaysia is a registered Christian organisation committed to impact one million students with God's Word.

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Instructions for Leaders/Facilitators

1. This Bible study resource material can be used for school Christian Fellowship meetings, Boys' or Girls' Brigade meetings (during devotional sessions) and even for church youth Bible study groups or cell group meetings.
2. The recommended order of each study is as follows (this order may vary in some of the studies):
 - Opening prayer.
 - Game/Activity.
 - Just for starters questions.
 - Reading the passage.
 - Looking into the passage.
 - Thinking it through.
 - Responding to God's Word.
 - Digging deeper.
3. Instructions for an ice-breaker, game or activity which can be run usually at the start, or sometimes, half-way through the study are located under the "Game" or "Activity" section.
4. Following that, the "Just For Starters" section contains warm-up or ice-breaker questions which can be discussed within your group/groups. These questions are indirectly linked to the passage to be studied and serve to help the group to "warm-up" before diving into the passage of the Bible they will be studying that day.
5. This is ideally followed by going through the "Recap" section.
6. As leaders, please do read through the Bible passage beforehand and then have a look through the questions. Attempt working through the questions in the Users' Guide first before referring to the answers and additional notes in this Leaders' Guide.

7. The answers and additional notes on the passage are located in the “Looking into the passage” and “Thinking it through” sections.
8. Encourage your students to respond in prayer to God at the end of the study. Prayer points can be found in the “Responding to God’s Word” section to help guide those who are closing in prayer.
9. If there is extra time in the group, you can proceed to the “Digging Deeper” section – which looks at corresponding Bible passages or examines the passage itself more deeply.
10. Do encourage all group members to participate in answering questions and to fill in the answers in the Users’ Guide if possible.

Lesson 1: A Sinner Saved by Grace (1 Timothy 1:12-17)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: Who am I?

Suitable for groups of all sizes.

Materials needed:

- Pencils and paper
- Small bags/boxes

Instructions:

- Divide the students into several groups of approximately 8-10 persons. If the number of students is small, they may all remain as one group.
- Each group is given a small box or bag which will be used later in the game.
- Before the game begins, ask each student to introduce themselves (i.e. name, age) to each other in their respective groups
- After that, each student within their respective groups should receive a pencil and a piece of paper to write on.
- At the start of the game, ask each student to think of an interesting fact about him/herself which others in the group may not know about and write it down in the piece of paper.
- After everyone has finish writing, their paper is to be folded, and placed in the small box or bag and shaken up.
- The bag/box is then passed around and each student in the group takes 1 piece of paper at random.
- After everyone has gotten a piece of paper (which must not be his or her own), they each take turns to read what is written on the paper and then try to guess who in their group the description on the paper is referring to.
- Everyone in the group takes turns to do this, and group members can also try to help to make the guesses.

Objective of the game:

Other than helping group members warm up to each other, this activity gets them thinking about their identity, and who they perceive themselves to be. This will lead into the lesson, as Paul speaks of who he was (and who we are) in light of what Jesus had done for him (and for us)!

3. Just for starters question:

In groups, ask your students to look at the person on their right, and come up with a phrase which they think would best describe them. I.e. “A quiet and thoughtful person”, “the life of the party”, “always smiling” (Caution: Please remind your students to be courteous and polite to one another).

4. Introducing 1 Timothy:

Read through 1 Timothy 1:1-2 together. Discuss the following questions with your students:

What kind of book do you think 1 Timothy is?

1 Timothy is a letter.

Who wrote it?

It was written by the Apostle Paul, most probably in between the time of his first and second imprisonment in Rome.

Who was it written to?

It was written to Timothy, Paul’s protégé and co-worker.

Extra notes:

Paul shared a close relationship with Timothy and regarded him as a son (v2). Paul had left Timothy to pastor or lead the church in a place called Ephesus (v3). Timothy was facing certain issues arising in the church there, so Paul wrote to give him further practical instructions on how to lead the church. Throughout his letter, Paul repeatedly emphasizes that

Christian living and service should be grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

5. Reading the passage: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Read the passage aloud together

6. Looking into the passage:

Q1. Who does Paul thank? And why? (v12)

Paul gives thanks to **Christ Jesus**, because Jesus had judged him faithful and appointed Paul to his service.

Q2. How does Paul describe his past self before he was appointed to serve Jesus? (v13)

He was formerly a **blasphemer**, **persecutor**, and an **insolent opponent** of Christ Jesus.

Q3. What did Paul receive from God despite his sinfulness? (vv13-14)

Paul received **mercy** from God and the **grace** of the Lord overflowed for Paul with **faith** and **love** that are in Christ Jesus.

Q4. In verse 15, Paul called himself the foremost (worst) of sinners, who received mercy and grace from God. How was this grace shown to Paul (and to us)?

Christ Jesus came into the world to **save sinners**.

Q5. Jesus saved a sinner like Paul. What can be seen and understood from such an act of grace? (v16)

In saving Paul, Jesus displays his **perfect patience**.

This is an example to others who were to **believe** in Jesus for **eternal life**.

Q6. Paul ascribes honour and glory to the God who has saved him and shown him great mercy and grace. What words does Paul use to describe God? (v17)

God is:

- The **King** of all ages
- **Immortal**
- **Invisible**
- The **only** God

7. Thinking it through:

Discuss and think through the following points with your students:

When Paul wrote to Timothy, he told Timothy who he truly was before he trusted in Jesus. Paul called himself “the foremost or worst of sinners”. How about you? How do you perceive yourself to be? (i.e. Not too bad, not too good) What do you think the Bible has to say about what all of humanity is like?

- In society today, most of us like to think of ourselves as good people, or perhaps people who are neutral – neither good nor bad. We might say that we can’t possibly be bad people, since we don’t commit any serious crime, and we even help others or engage in charity work occasionally.
- When Paul wrote to Timothy, he did not try to hide who he knew he truly was or gloss over the truth that he was indeed a sinner. But a sinner saved by the grace of God.
- The Bible tells us that none of us are good, none of us are righteous, not even those who appear to look respectable and charitable on the outside. We’ve all turned away from God, the one who made us for himself. None of us seek for God. (Romans 3:10-12). We are sinners in need of God’s mercy and grace.

Paul wrote about the great mercy and grace Jesus had shown to him despite his sinfulness. Can you recall how Jesus showed his grace to Paul? How about to us?

- Paul wrote in clear terms about how he was shown mercy and grace – Christ Jesus came to save sinners. And he declared himself to be the worst of sinners as he was formerly an opponent and persecutor of the Christian faith, went around arresting Christians and had them thrown into prison. But Christ Jesus saved Paul.
- And this same Jesus also saves sinners like us. How? He came into the world as a human being, lived a perfect and sinless life and yet he died on the cross for our sins. On the cross, Jesus took the penalty for our sins, so that all who trust in Him can receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life.

How should we respond to the grace and mercy Jesus has shown to sinners like us?

- The right response to Jesus is of course, to put our trust in him and what he has done for us! There can be no other way in which we can be saved except through faith in Jesus.
- And like Paul, those of us who are saved by Jesus, are saved to serve him. How does a life of service to Christ look like? We'll find out more in the weeks to come!

8. Responding to God's Word:

Take some time to pray together in response to God's Word as a group.

You may like to pray according to the following points:

- a) Thank God for showing his grace and mercy to sinners like us.*
- b) Thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross to save sinners like us.*

c) *Pray that God will enable us to respond rightly to the mercy and grace He has shown us in Jesus.*

9. Digging deeper:

Get the students to read Romans 3:21-26 together.

What does this Bible passage tell us about all of mankind? How has God shown his grace to us? How can we be made righteous before God?

- The Bible spells it out clearly for us – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. What does this mean? It simply means that none of us are good, all of us have fallen short of God’s standard. We’ve rebelled against him. This is terrible news, as sin leads to us facing God’s righteous and just anger.
- However, the good news is God has shown us his grace in Christ Jesus. Sinners like us can be justified (declared “not guilty”) through Jesus’ death on the cross for our sins. On the cross, Jesus bore God’s just anger and the punishment for our sins upon himself.
- Hence, the only way that we can be made righteous is through faith in Jesus and what he has done for us.

10. Closing prayer

Lesson 2: Praying for all People (1 Timothy 2:1-7)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: People around the world

Suitable for groups of all sizes

Materials needed:

Power point slides or large print-outs with images of:

- Famous world leaders/individuals
- Different people groups (from various tribes and cultures all over the world)

Instructions:

- Students are asked to sit in groups.
- At the start of the game, an image of a famous world leader/individual or people group is revealed. The group which starts off the game needs to come up with at least 1 fact they know about this world leader/individual or people group (E.g. Mahatma Gandhi led India to achieve its independence, Tibetans stick out their tongues as part of their greeting to others).
- If the group can come up with 1 interesting fact (which is correct), then they score a point. Caution: Please ensure that group members are prohibited from using their mobile devices to look for answers. Only the teacher/facilitator (yourself) should have a mobile device to verify the fact put forward by the group if necessary.
- Each group takes turns to come up with 1 interesting fact related to different images of famous world leaders/individuals and people groups which are displayed.

Objective of the game:

This game gets students to start thinking about world leaders and people around the world, and this will be a good lead-up into the lesson we'll be learning from God's Word today.

3. Just for starters question

In their respective groups, ask your students to think about a world leader or a people group which they would like to meet in their life time if they had the chance (e.g. Tun Dr. Mahathir, Inuits - Eskimos) and why they would want to meet them.

4. Recap on 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Go through the questions in this section with the students to get them to recall what they have learnt the previous lesson.

5. Reading the passage: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Read the passage aloud together

6. Looking into the passage:

Q1. How would you summarize Paul's words in v1?

Paul urges all kinds of **prayers** to be made for all kinds of **people**.

Q2. In this passage, who does Paul in particular, urges Christians to pray for? (v2)

He urges them to pray for **kings** and all who are in **authority**.

Q3. What is the reason behind praying for this specific group of people, according to Paul? (v3)

So that Christians may lead a **quiet and peaceful** life, **godly and dignified** in every way.

Q4. Why is it pleasing to God when Christians pray to be able to lead a peaceful and godly life? (v4)

This is because God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

(To have a peaceful, quiet and godly life can lead to opportunities to share the Gospel with others.)

Q5. What is the truth that Paul was appointed as preacher and apostle which needs to be shared with all people so that they can be saved? (vv5-7)

The truth which needs to be shared is that:

- There is one God
- There is one mediator between God and men who is the man, Christ Jesus
- Jesus gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given in its proper time.

7. Thinking it through:

Get the students into groups to think through the following:

Paul urged that all Christians pray for all people, especially for kings and leaders, so that those who trust in Jesus can live peaceful, godly and quiet lives, with the aim of sharing the Gospel with others so that they too can be saved.

What do you usually speak to God about in prayer? How about when you pray together as a group in church or in school? Do you take time to pray for all groups of people, or just the few whom you know and yourself?

- Prayer is simply speaking to God about things. But it is good for us to stop and ask ourselves what we usually speak to God about. There is a tendency to ask God for the things that we need, and perhaps pray for our family members and friends. But should our prayers just revolve around those whom we know?

- In today's lesson, we are urged to pray for people all around the world, remembering particularly, those who are rulers and leaders. We should be praying that those in high positions will rule justly and with integrity, so that freedom and justice can be upheld, and Christians can live peaceful and godly lives.

What are some of the steps you can take to be able to pray effectively for people around the world and its rulers and leaders? How can you be intentionally praying for opportunities to share the Gospel with others?

- How can we be praying more effectively for people around the world and their leaders? Well, the simple task of keeping updated with world news can help us to be more specific with our prayers. We should make special effort to pray for countries across the world when we gather together in church or in school.
 - We could pay special attention to countries where many or most people have not had the chance to know about Jesus, or do not have the freedom to put their trust in him. In countries such as these, we can pray for more people to be sent as missionaries to share the Gospel and for Bibles and Christian resources to be made available so that more can hear and know about Jesus and come to put their trust in him as saviour and Lord.
- 8. Responding to God's Word:** Take some time to respond to God's Word by praying together.

You may like to pray according to the following points:

- a) Thank God for the rulers and leaders he has set in place to rule over our country and countries all over the world.*

- b) *Pray for rulers and leaders in the world to rule justly and with integrity, so that we can live peaceful and quiet, dignified and godly lives.*
- c) *Pray that all over the world, opportunities will arise for more and more people to come to know about Jesus and to trust in Him as Saviour and Lord.*

9. Digging deeper: Read Romans 13:1-7

What do the Scriptures tell us about the authorities and leaders who rule over us? What is the purpose for which God has set them in their positions? What then should our response be as followers of Christ towards our governing authorities and leaders?

- The Bible clearly tells us that authorities and leaders who rule have been instituted by God. They've been placed in their positions to punish those who do wrong and uphold justice. Hence, as followers of Jesus, we are called to be subject to the authorities that God has placed over us and to obey the laws which have been set over us by our leaders.
- However, we must remember that where rulers or leaders go against God's commands or seek to stop us from living our lives as Christians and sharing the Gospel, we as servants of Christ must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

10. Closing Prayer

Lesson 3: The Mystery of Godliness - The Gospel (1 Timothy 3:16)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: The “Gospel” jigsaw puzzle

Suitable for groups of all sizes

Materials needed:

- Self-made jigsaw puzzles and envelopes
- Print out A4 sized pieces of paper with the word “GOSPEL” printed in large and clear fonts on it. (The word “GOSPEL” should fill up the entire piece of A4 paper)
- Cut this A4 sized piece of paper into smaller pieces (these should be similar with puzzle pieces you find in a jigsaw puzzle) and place them in an envelope.
- Make as many puzzles as needed. Each group must have 1 “GOSPEL” jigsaw puzzle.

Instructions:

- Students are divided into groups
- Each group is given an envelope containing all the pieces of 1 “GOSPEL” jigsaw puzzle inside of it. (Reminder: Do not tell the students what the puzzle is all about. They must figure it out themselves)
- When the game begins, the group members must work together to put the puzzle pieces together in order to form the word “GOSPEL” properly, just like fitting a jigsaw puzzle.
- The first group which successfully completes this task is the winner.

Objective of the game:

This game conveys the idea of ‘mystery’, putting the puzzle pieces together to reveal the word “Gospel” is a fun and interactive way which leads into the study of what the mystery of godliness is.

3. Just for starters question

In your groups, ask your students what they think inspires good behaviour in a person. Is it his or her family background? Could it be receiving good moral education or having good role models. Ask them to share their thoughts and opinions.

4. Recap on 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous lesson.

5. Reading the passage: 1 Timothy 3:16

Read the passage aloud together

6. Looking into the passage:

Paul, in writing to Timothy probably quotes from a creed or hymn which was familiar to the Christians of that time.

Q1. What in summary is the mystery of godliness?

It is the **Gospel** of Jesus Christ.

Q2. Fill in the blanks in the table below:

Phrase	Meaning
Jesus was manifested in the flesh	This means that Jesus who is <u>God</u> , became a <u>human*</u> and was born into this world.
He was vindicated by the Spirit	Jesus <u>died</u> on the cross and paid the penalty for the sins of mankind. However, 3 days later, he was raised from the <u>dead</u> by the Spirit and therefore seen to be the true King and <u>Saviour</u> of all.
He was proclaimed among the nations	Jesus commissioned his disciples, and they went throughout the <u>world</u>

	preaching the <u>Gospel</u> of Christ.
He was taken up in glory	After Jesus was raised from the dead, he appeared to his disciples and then was taken up to <u>heaven</u> .

**So we acknowledge Jesus is fully human and fully God.*

Q3. How does the Gospel impact the lives of those who trust in Jesus?

It enables us to live **godly** lives for Jesus.

Extra notes:

In the New Testament, the term “mystery” refers to something which was hidden in the past, but now has been revealed or made known to God’s people

7. Thinking it through:

In groups, ask the students to discuss the following:

Paul wrote to Timothy, telling him the great mystery of godliness did not lie in good moral teaching or worldly philosophy. Rather, the Gospel about who Jesus is and what he has done should be what enables followers of Jesus to live lives that were pleasing to him.

Does the Gospel move you to live a life pleasing to Jesus?

- We often think that a good and stable family background or good moral teaching is what motivates and inspires good behaviour in people. But the Bible tells us that this isn’t true. Our hearts are sinful, and while we may look good on the outside, the inside of our hearts remain unchanged.

- However, the Gospel, this great mystery of godliness is what saves us and enables us to live lives which are pleasing to God! God's love which he has shown to us in his son Jesus should motivate us to live lives which are pleasing to him.

Can you think of ways which the greatest news of all time – the Gospel - should make you want to live a godly life?

- Have you stopped to consider just how great God's love is for you? He was willing to send his one and only son Jesus to save you from your sins. He loved us even when we were undeserving sinners! What a wonder it is that we've been saved from death and judgement through Christ!
- We have a new identity in Christ, no longer slaves to sin, but slaves to righteousness! We have been given the Spirit, who enables us to live godly lives.
- And even as Jesus has conquered death and is risen, we know we have the hope of eternal life that we can hold on to, even as we live in this sinful and broken world.
- The Gospel should impress upon our hearts the desire to live for the One who loved us and gave Himself up for us.

- 8. Responding to God's Word:** Take some time to respond to God's Word by praying together.

You may like to pray according to the following points:

- a) Thank God for the Gospel he has given to us.*
- b) Thank God for Jesus who died on the cross to save us from sins and who rose again conquering sin and death.*
- c) Pray that God will help us to remember the Gospel each and every day of our lives.*
- d) Pray that God will enable us to live godly lives in response to what he has done for us in Jesus.*

9. Digging deeper:

Read Titus 2:11-14

According to this Bible passage, what should enable us to say no to ungodliness and yes to godly living? What has Jesus done for us, and how should this enable us to live lives which are pleasing to him?

- We have read that God’s grace has appeared, bringing salvation for all people (v11). And how has God shown his grace in saving us – by sending Jesus who died to redeem us. Our identity is now in Christ, who has purified us to be a people who belong to Him (v14).
- This grace continues to work in our lives, enabling us to say “NO” to sin and “YES” to godliness. God’s Spirit who is within all who trust in Jesus works in our hearts to change us to be more and more like Christ. And hence, God’s grace revealed in the Gospel of His Son Jesus, moves us to live for Jesus until he comes again!

10. Closing Prayer

Lesson 4: Training in Godliness (1 Timothy 4:6-10)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: The “Fitness” Challenge

Suitable for groups of all sizes

Instructions:

- Students are divided into groups
- At the start of the game, the leader informs the students that a set of “fitness” challenges will be read out, one for each round. (E.g. Do 20 push-ups, Do 15 sit-ups)
- After a challenge is read out, each group sends 1 of its members to perform the challenge, and the first group that completes it successfully gets 1 point.
- A few rounds of this game can be played, each time with a different “fitness” challenge.
- The group with the highest points (and the fittest members!) wins.

Objective of the game:

This game helps students ease into the study, as it raises the following question which will be asked in the lesson: While bodily training leads to physical fitness, how does one train oneself to grow in godliness?

3. Just for starters question

Ask your students to think of what kind of training

- an athlete/football player
- a dancer
- a model

would have to undergo in order to achieve the fitness and skills level needed for their work.

4. Recap on 1 Timothy 3:16

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous lesson.

5. Reading the passage: 1 Timothy 4:6-10

Read the passage aloud together.

6. Looking into the passage:

In the earlier part of this Bible passage, Paul warned Timothy against false teachers who would teach false teachings which would lead others away from the truth (v1-5)

Q1. According to Paul, what must Timothy be trained in to be a good servant of Christ? (v6)

A good servant of Christ must be trained in **the words of faith and sound doctrine.**

Q2. What must Timothy keep away from? (v7)

He must have nothing to do with **irreverent, silly myths.**
These were teachings taught by **false teachers.**

Q3. What should Timothy's aim be even as he underwent training? (v7)

His aim should be to grow in **godliness.**

Q4. Why was training in godliness "of value in every way"? (vv8-9)

This is because it holds a promise **for the present life and also for the life to come.**

Q5. Who should every Christian who toils and strives to grow in godliness set their hopes on? (v10)

Their hopes should be set on **God** who is the **Saviour** of all who **believe.**

7. Thinking it through:

In groups, ask the students to discuss the following:

Paul encourages Timothy who is a young leader in his church to continue to train himself in godliness. How? By being trained in the words of faith (the Gospel) and sound doctrine (true teachings from God's Word). He was to avoid false teachings, which were not from the Scriptures. Paul reminded Timothy that toiling and striving towards godliness should be the aim of every Christian whose hopes are set on God.

Are you training yourself in godliness? Do you have a clear understanding of the Gospel? Are you growing in your knowledge of God through reading his word?

- Paul made it clear to Timothy that training in godliness is synonymous with training one's self in being grounded and rooted in the Gospel (words of faith) and in sound doctrine. A person who trusts in Christ must have a clear understanding of what he believes in. And hence, the study of the Scriptures must be an integral and essential part of a Christian's life.
- Do you have a clear understanding of the message of the Gospel, what you believe in? Do you know the important and essential truths about the Christian faith? If you're not training yourself in growing in your understanding of God through the Word, then you are vulnerable to be misled by false teachings.
- Being trained in the words of faith and the truths of Scripture will enable a believer to discern what is right, true and pleasing to God. This will inevitably help a Christian live a life

that is God-honouring. For our aim should be to bring glory to God, on whom our hopes rest.

What are some of the things that hinder you in your training for godliness? What are some of the reasons that keep you from learning more about God's truth through his Word?

- Although most Christians would agree that training ourselves in knowing God through his Word and having a firm grasp of the Gospel is important, many of us fail to train ourselves in this respect. What hinders us from learning God's Word? Do we have a problem with our priorities? Does everything else take precedence before making time to read the Bible? Is it the wrong perception that the Bible is too hard a book to understand? Or do we take for granted that we already know all that there is to know?
- Whatever our excuses may be, Scripture clearly tells us that if the Christian goal is to grow in maturity and Christ-likeness, then this goes hand in hand with being firmly grounded in the truth of God as revealed in the Scriptures. This training is life-long, until we see Jesus face to face.

What are some ways that you can be training yourself to know God more by engaging with his Word? How can you make "training in the words of faith and sound doctrine" an integral part of your life as a follower of Jesus?

- There are many ways that one can train his or herself in the words of faith and in sound doctrine. First and foremost, make sure that you understand and know how to articulate what the Gospel is all about.

- Make Bible reading a regular habit in your daily life. In fact, meet up with a small group of friends in church or in school to study the Scriptures together. If there are good Bible courses or classes available in your church, do make it a point to attend them.
 - Yes, training in godliness is hard work, but it is crucial to help us become good servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. **Responding to God’s Word:** Take some time to respond to God’s Word by praying together.

You may like to pray according to the following points:

- a) Thank God for the Gospel and his Word that he has given to us.*
- b) Pray that God will help us to be trained in holding fast to the Gospel and growing in our knowledge of him through the Bible.*
- c) Pray that God will help us to persevere in our training in godliness, by enabling us to know him through his Word.*

9. **Digging deeper:**
Read Hebrews 4:11-13

What are followers of Christ encouraged to do? What is God’s Word likened to in this passage? What is its function?

- The writer of this Bible passage encourages Christians to continue to strive and persevere to enter God’s rest, that is, we who are already saved by faith in Jesus should continue pressing on in the faith, growing in our relationship with God, until the day we meet him face to face.

- And for this we have Scripture, God’s Word which is likened to a double-edged sword that pierces into our innermost parts and reveals our deepest motivations, thoughts and desires. Even as we immerse ourselves in God’s Word, it teaches, rebukes, corrects and trains us, it helps us to examine our hearts, and reveals to us our sinfulness and need to change or grow so that we become more and more like Christ.

10. Closing Prayer

Lesson 5: Walking the Talk (1 Timothy 4:11-16)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: Whisper-down-the-land (charades version)

Suitable for groups of all sizes.

Instructions:

- In their respective groups, students are asked to form one straight line per group. Each student must be facing each other's backs, and they must be facing away from the leader who will be standing in front of all the lines.
- At the start of the game, the leader will ask the first person from each group to come up, and will be given a description they have to act out when they return to their groups (E.g. Fireman, Policeman, Accountant).
- The first student from each group must then return to their groups and act out what they have heard/read from the leader to the 2nd person in line in their group. The 2nd person will then have to act out what he/she has seen from the 1st person and so on.
- The last person of the group must try to guess the answer to what has been acted out by the person before him/her in the group. The group with the correct answer gets a point.
- Several rounds of this game can be played, with different categories of descriptions which need to be acted out (i.e. Occupation, Activities, Hobbies).

Objective of the game:

This game brings across the concept of having to show who you are in "action" which subtly brings across the point of putting to practice/action who you are - walking the talk.

3. Just for starters question

“Walking the talk” – Within their groups, ask your students to think of a time when they witnessed someone “walking the talk”. It could have been a student leader, a teacher, their parents or even a leader of the country. Ask them to share their experiences and thoughts, as well as the impact this person’s words/actions had on them.

4. Recap on 1 Timothy 4:6-10

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous lesson.

5. Reading the passage: 1 Timothy 4:11-16

Read the passage aloud together.

6. Looking into the passage:

In the previous lesson, Paul wrote to Timothy regarding training in godliness. This would entail Timothy being trained in the words of the faith and in sound doctrine so as not to be led astray by false teachings.

Q1. What does Paul ask Timothy to do, as a leader of the church? (v11)

He tells Timothy to **command and teach these things.**

Timothy is to teach the truth which he had learnt and heard from Paul to those under his care.

Q2. How can Timothy as a young man, “walk the talk” as he leads those under his care? (v12)

Paul tell him not to let anyone **despise** him because of his **youth.**

He is to set an example in **speech, conduct, love, faith** and **purity.**

- Q3. What was Timothy to devote himself to while he awaited Paul's arrival? (v13)
He was to devote himself to **the public reading of Scripture, exhortation** and **teaching**.
- Q4. What was Paul's advice to Timothy with regards to the gift God had given to him? (v14)
Timothy was told not to **neglect** the gift which God had given to him. He was to use this gift to serve God by serving others.
- Q5. What else would Timothy have to do as he walked the talk of being a Christian leader? (v15-16)
He was asked to **practice** and **immerse** himself in all the things he had learnt so that others could see his **progress**.
He was to keep a close **watch** on **himself** and the **teaching** that he taught to others.

7. Thinking it through:

Ask your group members to discuss the following:

Timothy was a young pastor or leader of his church. But Paul encouraged him to set an example for those who were under his leadership in his conduct and words. Age was not a factor for Timothy to walk the Christian talk, and to put into practice what he preached and taught others.

What are some of the ways that you can set an example to others in speech, conduct, purity, faith and love as a follower of Jesus?

- Timothy, as a young Christian leader was exhorted by Paul to set a godly example to those who were under his care. How about us? What are some of the ways that we can set a godly example to others? Is our speech edifying and encouraging?

Do we reflect the love of Christ through our actions? Are we growing in our knowledge and love of Jesus?

- Do we seek to reach out to others who are in need? How about those who do not know about Jesus? Are we seeking to share Christ with them? There are many ways in which we can seek to set an example to others around us through the way we live as followers of Jesus Christ.

What are some ways that you can devote yourself to hear God's Word together with others?

- As followers of Christ, especially if we are in leadership position, God's Word must always be a priority in our daily lives. We can be seeking to encourage others to hear and learn God's Word, as well as learning and sharing God's Word with others.

What gift(s) has God given to you? How can you be seeking to use this gift(s) to serve others?

- The Scriptures tell us that God has given each and every one of his people gifts to serve and help build up the body of Christ. Do you recognize the gift(s) God has given to you? If yes, are you using this gift for your own benefit, or to serve God and others? Find out various ways in which you can use your gift to encourage and build up other fellow believers in Christ.
- 8. Responding to God's Word:** Take some time to respond to God's Word by praying together.

You may like to pray according to the following points:

- a) Thank God for His Word, which gives us guidance to live godly lives as followers of Jesus Christ.*

- b) *Pray that God will enable us to set an example in every aspect of our lives so that others will see Christ in us.*
- c) *Pray that we will develop a love for learning God's Word together.*
- d) *Pray that we will use the gifts God has given to us to serve him by serving others.*

9. Digging deeper:

Read Philippians 3:17-21 together.

In this letter from Paul, whose example were the Christians in Philippi encouraged to follow?

- Paul encourages the Philippians to follow his example and the example of those who seek to live a life worthy of the Gospel, lives which are pleasing to God.
- Ultimately all believers are exhorted to follow the example of Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to death on a cross in obedience to the Father, to save us (Philippians 2:1-10). Similarly, we are to follow the example of those who seek to live their lives with the goal of pleasing Jesus.

Whose example should they not imitate? Why?

- Paul advised the Philippians against following the example of those who did not know or trust in Christ. As those who live without acknowledging Jesus as Saviour and Lord live ultimately for their own self-satisfaction (their god is their belly). Their minds are set on the things of this world and what they can achieve in this life. They take pride in what displeases God (their glory is in their shame), and without Jesus, their end will be destruction.

- While there are things that we can learn from those who are successful and rich in this world, they must not be our role models when it comes to living our lives as followers of Christ, no matter how impressive their abilities, talents and earthly achievements may be.

What was their identity in Christ and how did this affect their goals in life? How does this apply to us as followers of Christ today?

Paul reminds the Philippians that they are citizens of heaven – we await the return of a Saviour, who is Jesus Christ. The things of this world will fade away and with Jesus' return all things will be made new. In light of this, all who trust in Jesus should seek to live life with eternity in sight, and with their minds set on Jesus, the Saviour and King of the world.

10. Closing Prayer

Lesson 6: Godly Contentment (1 Timothy 6:3-10)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: The “Money” Game

Suitable for groups of all sizes.

Instructions:

- Students are randomly given a certain “worth” – 20 cents, 50 cents, 1 dollar.
- At the start of the game, the leader will mention an amount of money (e.g. 1 dollar and 50 cents). The students will have to find other friends of different “value” or “worth” and form groups that will add up to the amount which was mentioned by the leader.
- Several rounds of this game can be played. The leader will mention different amounts for each round played.
- The aim of the game is to be able to get the students to form random groups with the stated amount for each round as quickly as possible.

Objective of the game:

This game’s concept deals with money, and it leads into the lesson today where Paul writes to Timothy about godly contentment.

3. Just for starters question

In their groups, ask students to think and discuss how important it is for them to be rich in life. What extent would they be willing to go to in order to earn wealth? Would they be tempted to do something wrong if it gave them the opportunity to become rich?

4. Recap on 1 Timothy 4:6-11

Discuss the questions based on the previous lesson.

5. Reading the passage: 1 Timothy 6:3-10

Read the passage aloud together.

6. Looking into the passage:

Q1. How does the Apostle Paul describe false teachers who were present during Timothy's day? (vv 3-6)

These false teachers:

- teach doctrine which did not **agree** with the sound words of **Jesus Christ**.
- are puffed up with **conceit** and understand **nothing**.
- have a craving for **controversy** and **quarrels** which produce **ungodliness** and **dissension (division)**.
- think that **godliness** is a means of **gain**.

Q2. According to Paul, as contrasted with the false teachers who sought earthly gain, what is true gain and why? (vv6-7)

Paul emphasizes that **godliness** with **contentment** is great gain because we have brought **nothing** into the world, and we cannot take **anything** out of the world with us (after we die).

Q3. What is the result of many who desire to be rich? (vv8-9)

Those who desire to be rich fall into **temptation**, into a **snare** and **senseless and harmful** desires which result in **ruin** and **destruction**.

Q4. What does Paul conclude about greed in this passage? (v10)

The **love** of money is a root to all kinds of **evils**.

7. Thinking it through:

Paul warned Timothy against false teachers, who were putting on a false front of "godliness" so that they could gain riches from others. Paul also reminded Timothy about godly contentment, and how the love of money is the root to all kinds of evil.

What about us? Do we sometimes allow our love for money or earthly riches to run our lives? What are our priorities? Is it to pursue earthly success and to gain earthly wealth and recognition? How should today's lesson help us think about earthly wealth as contrasted with true godliness and contentment?

- We live in a fallen world where society pursues earthly wealth and success. Many tend to think that money is the solution to all our problems in life. During Timothy's time, Paul warned against false teachers who put on a false front of "godliness" with the aim of enriching themselves. They did not teach the truth, but rather stirred up controversies, quarrels and dissensions in the church.
- Even today, we have many such "preachers" who tell people, for example, that trusting in Jesus makes you healthy and wealthy. This prosperity gospel is toxic, and it ends in ruin and destruction. Paul told Timothy that such people were to be avoided at all cost.
- He pointed Timothy to what is of true gain in life – which is contentment and godliness hand in hand. Why? It is simply because none of the earthly wealth and riches that we accumulate can be taken with us after we leave this world. These riches are but temporary.
- But, as mentioned in previous lessons, godliness is of true gain, because it leads us to true blessing, in this present life and the life which is to come. We sometimes allow our priorities to become focused on the things of this world, on worldly success and riches. But Paul reminds us what is truly of value in life – to find our contentment in Jesus Christ. For the things of earth are temporary and fleeting, but the things of God last forever.

8. Responding to God's Word:

You may like to pray according to the following points:

- a) Thank God for all the things he has given us for our daily needs.*
- b) Thank God most of all for the gift of eternal life that he has given us through his son, Jesus Christ.*
- c) Pray that God will keep us from the love of money and help us to find godly contentment in Christ.*
- d) Pray that God will help us to pursue godliness with contentment which is of true and great gain in the life.*

9. Digging deeper:

Read Matthew 6:19-24 together.

What did Jesus have to teach his disciples about “storing up treasures”? What kind of treasures were Jesus’ disciples supposed to store up? What did Jesus teach them regarding whom they were to serve?

Jesus taught his disciples that they should be storing up “treasures in heaven” where moth and rust cannot destroy, and thieves cannot break in and steal. Jesus told his disciples that they should not store up earthly treasures which would one day fade away.

What they pursued in life ultimately revealed who was truly their master. Jesus emphasized that there could only be one master in their life, because they could not serve both God and money (or riches). Have you asked yourself who you are serving today? Who is your master? Is it God, or something else?

10. Closing Prayer

Lesson 7: Fight the Good Fight of Faith (1 Timothy 6:11-16)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: Arm-wrestling

This game is suitable for groups of all sizes.

Instructions:

- At the start of the game, each group is asked to choose a member to represent their group in a few rounds of arm-wrestling.
- Each representative will be paired up against another, and at the end of each round, the winner of that round will proceed to the following round.
- This will continue until the final round, where the final 2 contestants will arm wrestle with each other. The group of the contestant who wins the final round wins the game.

Objective of this game:

In the many rounds of arm-wrestling, this game brings across the concept of “fighting the fight” till the very end, a concept which will be explored in the lesson.

3. Just for starters question

In their respective groups, ask the students to imagine and discuss the following scenarios.

What would be needed for:

- An army to win a battle
- A warrior to win a hand-to-hand combat
- A player to win a game of chess

4. Recap on 1 Timothy 6:3-10

Go through the truths learnt in the previous lesson with your students.

5. Reading the passage: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

Read through the passage as a group, together.

6. Looking into the passage:

In the earlier part of this Bible passage, the Apostle Paul warned Timothy against false teachers who were putting up a “godly” front with the intention of getting rich. He reminded Timothy that the love of money was the root of all kinds of evil.

Q1. What was Paul’s instruction to Timothy as a young Christian leader? What were “these things” he was to flee? (See the previous passage 1 Tim. 6:3-10). And what was he to pursue? (vv11-12)

He is to flee ungodliness and greed. And he is to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness.

Q2. What was Timothy to set his heart on, and what was his goal? (v12)

He was to fight the good fight of faith and take hold of the eternal life which he was called to and to which he made the good confession.

Q3. What was Paul’s charge to Timothy as he fought the good fight of faith? (v13)

Paul charged Timothy to keep the good commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul was charging Timothy to keep the message of the Gospel pure and true until the day Jesus returns.

Q4. Who or what did Paul stake his charge to Timothy on? (v13)

He staked his charge to Timothy on:

- God who gives life to all things,

- And on **Christ Jesus** who made a good confession before Pontius Pilate.

Q6. Paul ends this section of his letter to Timothy by giving praise to God, the Father. How did Paul describe the Father? (vv15-16)

He is:

- the **one** and only **Sovereign**, the **King** of kings and **Lord** of lords,
- who alone has **immortality**,
- who dwells in unapproachable **light**,
- whom no one has ever **seen** or can **see**.
- The one to whom be all **honour** and **eternal dominion**.

7. Thinking it through:

Paul told Timothy to fight the good fight of faith. Timothy was charged to pursue righteousness and to take hold of eternal life to which God had called him to, and to which he had made the good confession. Paul charged Timothy to keep the Gospel pure and untainted till Jesus returns.

In a sinful and dark world, it can be hard to flee from sin and pursue righteousness and godliness. How can we be reminding ourselves to stay true to the calling that God has called us to in Christ Jesus?

- Paul's words to Timothy are the same words that God speaks to us by His Spirit today: We are to flee what is evil and pursue what is good. We are to live as people who have been saved by God and ransomed by the blood of Jesus. We have been given eternal life in Christ. How would it look like for you to pursue righteousness? It will involve saying "NO" to the things you know displeases God and goes against his word.

- Will you strive to remain steadfast in your faith in Christ, no matter the circumstances, even in times of trouble and trials? Will you be gentle in your interactions with others, not asserting your own rights or bossing people around wherever you go, but entrusting yourself to Jesus, the King of all. Will you walk in love – showing God’s love to others? Will you keep growing in the faith – desiring to know Jesus more and more each day?

What are some of the ways that we can ensure that we keep the Gospel, the Good News about Jesus pure and unstained until he returns.

- Paul’s charge to Timothy in fighting the good fight of faith is to keep the Gospel pure and unstained. We need to keep reminding ourselves daily of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. We must ensure that this message remains unchanged. We need to be watchful about other forms of false Gospels which we may hear and keep ourselves from falling into the false promises they offer, be they offers of perfect health or earthly wealth.
- We must also be wary of Gospel preachers who seek to hide the truth about sin and judgment in order to make the message they preach look more attractive to their hearers. Let us strive to keep the good commandment, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ unstained and free from reproach till the day Jesus returns.

What practical ways can we be applying to help us fight the good fight of faith until Jesus comes back?

- What are some of the practical ways we can apply in our lives as we fight the good fight of faith? Well, the Bible tells us clearly that the sword of the Spirit is the word of God

(Ephesians 6:17), and hence, in our fight against sin and the devil, we need to equip ourselves by reading and understanding God's Word. Make it a habit to read God's Word daily and make the effort to join a group bible study with other fellow Christians.

- Come before God in prayer expressing your dependence on Him for your daily battle against sin, and if possible, join a Christian prayer group that meets together to pray for one another. God has also given us a community of believers who are meant to encourage one another to keep living for Jesus. Are you part of a community that loves and serves Jesus? Don't neglect meeting together to learn God's Word and pray together so that we can strengthen one another in fighting the good fight of faith.

8. Responding to God's Word:

You may like to pray along the lines of some of these points:

- a) Thank God for calling us to Himself and saving us through His Son Jesus Christ.*
- b) Pray that God will help us to fight the good fight of faith until the end.*
- c) Pray that we will seek to hold fast to the Word of life, the Gospel, and to keep it pure and unstained until Jesus returns*
- d) Pray that God will help us to pursue righteousness and to flee from evil.*

9. Digging deeper:

Read Hebrews 10:24-25

How can we seek to encourage one another to persevere in the faith until Jesus returns? What did the writer of Hebrews encourage believers to do?

The writer of Hebrews reminded those who trust in Jesus that they were to keep meeting together as God's people. They were not to give up doing so. The purpose of meeting up was encouragement! To encourage one another to grow in the love for God and one another, to be rich in good works, even as they awaited the return of their Saviour Jesus Christ.

So, let's not give up meeting together to encourage one another, spurring each other to stay faithful to Jesus each time we meet and to serve Him until the day he returns!

10. Closing Prayer

Lesson 8: Godly Stewardship of Earthly Riches (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

1. Opening prayer

2. Activity: The Game of “Life”

This game is suitable for groups of all sizes.

Materials needed:

- Paper money (enough for all the students in your class).
- Personnel needed: 4 assistant leaders to run certain game stations.

Instructions:

- Before the game starts, each of your students is given the same amount of paper money which they are told is worth 10 dollars in the game.
- Introduce your students to the 4 stations in the game which will enable them to “increase” their wealth. (Your assistant leaders will have to man these stations):

1. The “work” station: Students will have to line up and wait to be given a “task” they have to fulfil before they get paid”.

2. The “betting” station: Students can use their “money” to “bet” on a coin toss game (heads or tails). They will either win or lose their “money”.

3. The “buy and sell” station: Students can “trade” their belongings for “money” from the “trader”. (The items will be returned to the students after the game is over).

4. The “property” station: Students can buy various property after accumulating a certain amount of “money”. (Different

“property” i.e. bungalow house, sports car, etc. will be labels written on pieces of paper).

- “Money-hunt” - Tell your students that there are various amounts of money hidden in various locations of the vicinity and they can hunt and look for them.
- In a stipulated period of time (15-20mins), ask your students to spend or invest the “money” they have been given in any of the above-mentioned stations.
- Make observations of how your students choose to use and invest their money.
- After the stipulated period of time, gather your students together and brief them on your observations. (Explain to them that there are actually no winners in this game).

Objective of this activity:

This activity is a precursor to the lesson. It gets students to think about how they would use wealth and earthly riches.

3. Just for starters question

Get your students to think through what they would do if they had a million dollars. Why would they spend or invest their money in this way?

4. Recap on 1 Timothy 6:11-16

Go through the truths learnt in the previous lesson with your students.

5. Reading the passage: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Read through the passage as a group together.

6. Looking into the passage:

Q1. Who does Paul instruct Timothy to address/charge in this passage? (v17)

Timothy is to address/charge those who are rich.

Q2. What is Timothy's charge to those who are rich? (v17)

Those who are rich:

- Should not be haughty.
- Should not set their hopes on riches but on God.

Q3. Why should those who are rich set their hopes on God instead of earthly riches? (v17)

Earthly riches are uncertain. They may be lost, destroyed or fade away.

God is the one who richly provides everything for us to enjoy.

Q4. What should those who are rich be doing instead? (v18)

They should:

- Be rich in good works.
- Be generous and ready to share.

Q5. Why should those who are rich be godly in the way they use their riches? (v19)

In doing so, they are storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for them to take hold of that which is truly life.

7. Thinking it through:

Ask your students to discuss the following:

What does Paul's instruction to Timothy in his charge to those who are rich teach us about how we should use our earthly wealth?

- Paul wrote to Timothy to charge those who are rich not to be proud, and not to put their hope and confidence in earthly wealth. After all, earthly wealth can very easily disappear, be

stolen or lost. Instead, those who are rich ought to have their hopes set on God, who is the giver and provider of all things.

- Sometimes, society or the world may tend to take how rich or successful a person is as a yardstick to measuring how successful they are in life. I'm sure we know of rich people who are often proud of how much they have earned or achieved in life. But this shouldn't be the case as God's people. Our hopes should be set on God, who is constant, unchanging and eternal.

How should our identity as God's people affect the way we use our money and our possessions? What should our attitude towards earthly wealth be like in light of this passage?

- Paul wrote to Timothy to remind those who are rich to be truly rich, that is, they are to be rich in good works, they were to be generous and ready to share their possessions! After all, everything that they have comes from God Himself, from whom all blessings flow.
- It can be very tempting for us to hoard riches for ourselves – but if we can remember that earthly riches are but temporary, then we will realize that being truly rich is to be rich in God – and that is by seeking to please God in the way we use what he has given to us! After all, the Christian's aim is not to store up earthly treasure, but treasure in heaven, which God gives to all who seek to serve and live lives which are pleasing to him.
- Perhaps you may not be very rich, but are you looking for ways to share what you have with those in need, especially those who are your brothers and sisters in Christ? Remember, showing Christ-like love to others by giving to those who are in need, no matter how small the amount ~~may be~~ pleases God, and it is all part and parcel of the good works that we are called to do in response to a God who loved us so much, that he gave his son, Jesus to us unreservedly, that we may have life in his name.

8. Responding to God's Word:

You may like to pray along the lines of some of these points:

- a) Thank God for the many earthly blessings he has given to us to enjoy.*
- b) Pray that God will help us to be godly in the way we use whatever riches that we have.*
- c) Pray that we will be faithful stewards of the riches God has blessed us with, to be rich in good works and generous in sharing what we have with those who are in need.*
- d) Pray that God will help us to focus on storing treasures which are eternal.*

9. Digging deeper:

Read through Matthew 19:16-26

Think through the story of this rich young man and Jesus. What do you think was this rich young man's problem?

In this story, a rich young man approaches Jesus confidently and asks him what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. This man's confidence in himself is seen in his boast that he has kept all of the commandments Jesus named to him since he was a boy. This young man's confidence of being right with God, or gaining eternal life obviously rested on what he had done so far in life. This young man however, fails to see the problem which he (and all of mankind) had in his heart.

Why do you think Jesus responded in the way he did towards this rich young man?

Jesus' response to this young man might have seemed extreme. Jesus had asked him to sell all he had and give his money to the poor and to come follow him. Jesus' call to the young man wasn't at all unreasonable, if he was indeed as "perfect" as he claimed to be. But Jesus' challenge to the young man revealed the problem of his heart – that he treasured his wealth more than anything else in the world, even more than he loved God. And hence, he wasn't ready to give up all he had to follow Jesus.

Jesus concluded that it would be in actual fact, be impossible for those who are rich to enter God's kingdom. What then?

What can we learn from this Bible passage?

Well, Jesus goes on to say that, while it may be impossible for those who are rich to be saved, with God all things are possible. In fact, it would be utterly impossible for anyone at all to be saved by human effort. That's because like this rich man, all of us are sinful at heart, we fail to love God the way we ought to. And yet, we can be thankful to God that he has made a way for us to be saved through Jesus' death on the cross for our sins. In response to what Jesus has done for us, and our newfound identity as children of God, we seek to live lives which are truly rich, rich towards God in doing good works he has called us to do, storing up eternal treasures in heaven.

10. Closing Prayer

Lesson 9: Guard the Gospel – the Good Deposit (2 Timothy 1:1-14)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: Guess the value!

This game can be played by groups of all sizes.

Materials needed:

- Eggs – 1 egg per group
- Personnel – Assistant leaders who will seek to steal/break these eggs.

Instructions:

- Divide the students into groups
- Each group is given an egg each which they are to guard and protect.
- At the start of the game, the leader must give the following instructions:
 - Each group member may not hold on to their group's egg for more than 5 seconds. It must be passed to another group member.
 - Everyone must keep moving, and no one can stay still during the game.
 - During the game, assistant leaders will come around to "steal" or "destroy" these eggs.
 - Group members must try their best to "protect" and "guard" their egg while passing it on from one to another.
 - At the end of the 10-minute timeframe, groups which still have their egg intact are declared the winners.

Objective of the game:

The concept of this game, "guarding" a certain object leads into the concept of this lesson, where Paul tells Timothy to guard something of infinite value, the Gospel.

3. Just for starters question

In a group(s), ask the students to share what they think is most precious and important to them (i.e. family, self-esteem, their favourite toy). What would they do to guard and protect this precious item?

4. Introducing 2 Timothy

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7

Discuss the following questions with the students:

How did Paul address Timothy in this letter?

Paul addressed Timothy as his beloved child.

How did Paul feel towards Timothy, and what was he thankful for?

Paul longed to see Timothy and remembered him in prayer day and night. Even though he was not with Timothy in person, Paul remembered the sincere faith in Jesus which Timothy had - a faith that was passed down from his grandmother, Lois and his mother Eunice, who probably raised Timothy and taught him about Jesus in his childhood.

What was Paul's encouragement to Timothy?

As in his previous letter to Timothy, Paul encourages him to use the gift God had given to him to faithfully serve God.

Extra notes:

When Paul writes this second letter to Timothy, he is in prison again in Rome, and will soon face death because of his boldly proclaiming the Gospel. Hence, this letter is very much a farewell letter from Paul to Timothy, as a spiritual father to him.

5. Reading the passage: 2 Timothy 1:8-14

Get the students to read 2 Timothy 1:8-14 together.

6. Looking into the passage:

Q1. As a follower of Christ, what did Paul urge Timothy about? (v8)

He urged Timothy:

- Not to be **ashamed** of the testimony of **Jesus Christ** or of Paul, who is a **prisoner** because of the Gospel.
- To share in **suffering** for the Gospel by the power of God.

Q2. According to Paul why should Timothy, and all who trust in Jesus not be ashamed of the Gospel? What has God done for us? (v9)

God has **saved** us and **called** us to a holy calling.

Q3. What is the basis of God's salvation and calling to us? (vv9-10)

The basis of our salvation and calling in God is not because of our **works**, but because of his own **purpose** and **grace**, which he gave us in **Christ Jesus** before the ages began.

This was manifested through Jesus' appearing, he abolished **death** and brought **immortality** and **light** through the Gospel.

Q4. Why was Paul unashamed and willing to suffer for the Gospel? (v12)

Paul was unashamed and prepared to suffer for the Gospel because:

- He **knows** Jesus Christ, whom he **believes**.
- He is **convinced** that Christ will **guard** the Gospel which was entrusted to Paul until he returns.

Q5. What then, were Paul's instructions to Timothy (and to all who trust in Christ)? (vv13-14)

Paul's instructions were to:

- **Follow** the pattern of the **sound words (teaching)** from Paul (who is an apostle of Christ) in the **faith** and **love** that are in Christ Jesus.

- **Guard** the **good deposit**, the Gospel which was entrusted to Timothy (and to us), by the help of the **Holy Spirit** who lives in all who trust in Christ.

7. Thinking it through:

Get the students into groups to discuss the following:

Paul told Timothy not to be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus and to be prepared to suffer for the Gospel's sake. For it is solely God's grace which saves us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, not by our works. Paul also reminded Timothy to guard the Gospel, with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in all believers.

Are you ashamed of the Gospel? Are you fully convinced that the Gospel is God's power to all who believe?

- We must ask ourselves this question honestly. Are we ashamed of the Gospel? If we have full confidence in the Gospel, then why do we hesitate to share this Good News with our family and friends? It is the message which brings salvation to those who will otherwise perish without God.
- Do we hesitate to identify ourselves as Christians, followers of Christ because we fear being ridiculed or being made fun of by others? Is there this sense of "shame" that shouldn't be there?
- We need to remember the immense grace that God has shown to us in Christ Jesus! He saved us not because of any good we have done, but despite our sinfulness! He chose us and called us to himself even before the ages began.

Are you prepared to suffer for the sake of the Gospel? Have you counted the cost to following Jesus?

- This grace, which God has shown us in Christ should move us to respond by being able to count the cost, take up our crosses and follow Jesus. We must be prepared to suffer for Jesus' sake. Christ himself suffered death in our place to make us children of God! If Jesus is indeed the way, the truth and the life, we can stake all of our lives on Him and the Gospel we proclaim, and be prepared to suffer for the sake of the Gospel at all times.

What are some of the ways that we can continue to guard the good deposit, the Gospel which has been entrusted to us?

- Paul's charge to Timothy applies to us as well. In the face of a sinful world, where false teachers will emerge to lead believers away from the truth, we need to keep holding fast to the Gospel which is taught in the Scriptures.
- We must continue to strive to have a firm grasp on the Gospel, and on the Scriptures, where truth as revealed by God Himself can be found. We need to keep reminding each other of the Gospel, and we need to keep sharing this Gospel with others who need to hear it, so that they can repent, believe and be saved.

8. Responding to God's Word:

You may like to pray along the lines of some of these points:

- a) Thank God for the Gospel, the good deposit he has entrusted all who trust in Christ with.*
- b) Thank God for saving us by his grace through Jesus' death and resurrection, and not by our own works.*

- c) *Pray that God will give us the love and faith in Jesus, so that we will always be unashamed of the Gospel.*
- d) *Pray that God's Spirit will give us the strength to be prepared to suffer for the sake of the Gospel*
- e) *Pray that God's Spirit will help us to guard the Gospel which is entrusted to us.*

9. Digging deeper:

Read Romans 1:16-17.

What does Paul emphasize in this Bible passage? Why is he unashamed of the Gospel? Why should we be unashamed of the Gospel?

Paul stated most clearly that he was unashamed of the Gospel. Why? Because it is God's power for salvation for all who will put their faith in Jesus. The Gospel message tells us that it is faith in Jesus' death and resurrection alone which makes us righteous (gives us a right standing with God). This salvation which is declared in the Gospel is for all! Shouldn't we, who have been saved through faith in Christ and his Gospel be able to echo the words of the Apostle Paul in our lives?

10. Closing prayer

Lesson 10: A Faithful Soldier of Christ (2 Timothy 2:1-7)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: Battle of the “soldiers”

This game is suitable for groups of all sizes

Materials needed:

- 2 sets of toy/hand-made swords and shields

Instructions:

- Divide the students into 2 groups
- At the start of the game, ask each group to send a representative “soldier” who will do “battle” on their behalf.
- The following instructions need to be made clear to both representatives before the game begins:
 - Their aim is to “attack” one another by touching each other with their swords only on the following body surface areas: the chest, arms and legs.
 - They must also “defend” themselves at the same time from being “attacked”, using their shields.
 - 1 point will be given each time one “soldier” successfully touches his opponent using his sword.
- This game can be played a few rounds, with different students representing each of the two groups.

Objective of the game:

The concept of playing “soldier” naturally leads into today’s study where Paul tells Timothy what it means to be a soldier of Christ.

3. Just for starters question

In their groups, ask the students what they think would make a good soldier from various aspects (i.e. the physical, mental

and skills) and share their thoughts with fellow group members.

4. Recap on 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Get the students to recollect the truths they have learnt in the previous lesson.

5. Reading through the passage: 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Get the students to read 2 Timothy 2:1-7 together.

6. Looking into the passage:

Q1. What did Paul urge Timothy to be strengthened by? (v1)

He urged Timothy to be strengthened by the **grace** that is in **Christ Jesus**.

Q2. What was Timothy to do with what he had heard/learnt from Paul? (v2)

He was to **entrust** what was taught to him to **faithful** men, who will be able to **teach** others also.

Q3. What was Timothy to be ready to do even as he carried out the task God had called him to? (v3)

He was to be prepared to share in **suffering** as a good **soldier** of Christ.

Q4. Paul uses 3 analogies to explain what it meant to be a faithful servant of Christ in vv4-6.

Fill in the blanks in the table below:

Occupation	Description	Application
A soldier	Does not get <u>entangled</u> in civilian pursuits.	As servants of Christ, we are not to get entrapped by the things of

	His aim is to please the one who enlisted him	this world . Our aim is to please God who has saved and called us his own.
An athlete	Competes according to the rules	As servants of Christ, we serve God according to and in obedience to his Word which is has given us.
A farmer	Who is hardworking gets the first share of the crops	As servants of Christ, we should serve God diligently , giving our best and putting in hard work and effort in all that we do for him.

7. Thinking it through:

Get the students into groups to discuss the following:

Paul wrote to Timothy about what it meant to be faithful in serving Christ. Timothy was to identify and train other leaders who were faithful with the truth he had been taught by Paul, so that they in turn could teach others. This was definitely hard work!

What does a faithful servant of Christ look like? Paul gave 3 analogies (or examples) of what it meant to be faithful to God in service. What can you learn from these 3 analogies, and how can you be seeking to apply them in your service to God?

- Paul told Timothy to be like a soldier whose aim is to please the one who enlisted him, his superior. All of us are under the greatest King of all, and our aim should be to please him. However, do you often find yourself being “entangled” by other worldly pursuits? Do the things of this world such as earthly success, achievements and desires distract you and take priority in your heart instead of living to please the one who saved and rescued you for sin and death?
- And what about the athlete that competes by the rules? Do you seek to serve and live your life according to God’s Word? Or do you live your life anyway you please without regard for what the Scriptures have to say? A faithful servant of Christ engages in God’s Word and applies its truths to his daily life.
- Are you the hardworking farmer who labours in the harvest field? How is your attitude like when it comes to serving Christ? Do you tend to approach serving with a heavy heart? Are you diligent in what you have been given to do for the sake of Christ? If it’s God’s work we’ve been tasked to do, we should be prepared to do it wholeheartedly, giving our very best at all times.

8. Responding to God's Word:

You may like to pray along some of these points:

- a) *Thank God for the grace he has shown us in Christ Jesus.*
- b) *Pray that God will strengthen us and help us be faithful in our service to Christ.*
- c) *Pray that God will help us to aim to please only him in all that we say, do and think.*
- d) *Pray that God will enable us to live and serve in accordance to his Word.*
- e) *Pray that we will always serve God diligently and whole-heartedly.*

9. Digging deeper:

Read through 2 Timothy 2:7 once again.

Get your students to think about the following questions:

In what ways are you serving Christ? List them down. How can you be applying the truths from the passage you learn today to your service to Christ?

Ask your students to list down ways that they are serving, perhaps in their school CFs, church YFs or even during church service or the wider community. What are the practical ways that they can seek to render whole-hearted, Word-centred and God-pleasing service in all that they are serving in. Spend time speaking to them about this, and then pray with or for them.

10. Closing Prayer

Lesson 11: Suffering for the Gospel (2 Timothy 2:8-13)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: “Suffering- themed” charades

This game can be played by groups of all sizes.

Materials needed:

- A deck of cards which each card has one word related to the theme of “suffering” (i.e. pain, sorrow, trouble, trials, difficulty, prison, death).

Instructions:

- Divide the students into groups.
- Before the start of the game, inform the groups that this will be a game of charades which answers revolve around the theme of “suffering”.
- When the game begins, encourage a volunteer from any of the groups to come up to the front and draw a card from the deck of cards. He must then proceed to act out the word on the card without using speech or sound.
- All the groups can try to guess what the volunteer is trying to explain via his actions.
- Points are awarded to the group(s) which make the correct guess.
- This game can be played for several rounds.

Objective of the game:

Today’s lesson revolves around the theme of suffering for the Gospel, hence, this game is a starter to get them thinking on the subject of suffering.

3. Just for starters question

Ask your students to think about an incident where they or someone they know underwent some form of suffering. What happened, and how did they feel about it? (Caution: Remind group leaders to be sensitive when leading this discussion in the group, as it is a very personal and emotional question)

4. Recap on 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Get the students to remember the truths they have learnt in the previous lesson.

5. Reading through the passage: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Get the students to read 2 Timothy 2:8-13 together.

6. Looking into the passage:

In this passage, Paul wrote to Timothy about what had happened to him as a result of preaching the Gospel.

Q1. Who did Paul ask Timothy to remember? (v8)

Paul asked Timothy to remember **Jesus Christ**, who is:

- **Risen** from the dead. He has conquered sin and **death**.
- The offspring (descendant) of **David**. Jesus is God's promised **King**.

Q2. What happened to Paul as a result of preaching the Gospel about Jesus Christ? (vv8-9)

He was **suffering**, being bound in **chains** like a criminal for preaching the Gospel.

Q3. What did Paul rejoice in even though he was in prison, suffering for the Gospel? (v9)

He rejoiced because the **word of God** is not bound. More and more people were coming to hear the **Gospel**.

Q4. How did this truth affect Paul's attitude towards suffering?
(v10)

He was willing to **endure** every form of suffering, so that the elect, God's chosen people may also obtain **salvation** which is in Christ Jesus.

Q5. In vv11-13 Paul summarized the Christian's response to suffering for the Gospel with a trust worthy saying.

Our Response	Outcome	Meaning
If we died with him (Jesus)	We will also live with him	If we are dead to sin and the world, and are prepared to die for the Gospel , we will live forever with Jesus.
If we endure suffering	We will reign with him	Those who endure suffering for the sake of the Gospel will rule with Jesus when he returns.
If we deny him	He will also deny us	If we turn away and reject Jesus as Saviour and Lord, he too will reject us.
If we are faithless	He remains faithful because he cannot deny himself.	Even if we were to be faithless and forsake our trust in Jesus , He will not change. He will remain

		faithful in keeping his <u>word</u> and will accomplish his plans and purposes because he is <u>God.</u>
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7. Thinking it through:

Ask your students to think through the questions in this section.

Paul willingly suffered for the sake of the Gospel. This was because he knew God's word was not bound, and more and more people were coming to hear the Gospel and trust in Jesus. He was willing to endure all kinds of suffering so that more people whom God had chosen would come to know about Jesus and put their trust in him.

Are you ready and willing to suffer for Jesus, and for the sake of the Gospel?

- This is an important question that every person who trusts in Jesus needs to be able to answer. Are we ready to face hostility, harsh words, unfair treatment and strained relationships? Or worse, imprisonment, beatings and death?
- Will we be willing to lay down our lives for Christ, who first laid down his life for us? For if we endure suffering, God's word tells us that we will reign with Jesus. While suffering for the Gospel in this world may result in momentary discomfort and afflictions, the result is eternal glory with Christ in heaven.

Do you know of someone or a community who are suffering for the sake of the Gospel? How can you best pray for them and help them?

- Perhaps you know of a friend who is the only Christian in the family. He may be experiencing the pain and suffering because family members are not happy that he has turned away from his former religion and put his faith in Christ. What can you do? You can continue to offer words of encouragement and support to him and pray for him and with him. Pray that God will grant him strength and perseverance, that he will continue to press on in the faith, and that in God's mercy, his family will also one day come to trust in Jesus.
- Perhaps you have read of a community of people in a country who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus. Pray for God's strength, comfort, love and protection to be with them. Pray also that even as they suffer, God's word will continue to go out and more and more people will come to trust in Jesus. If there are ways that you can give support or aid through various Christian mission organizations, don't hesitate to render your help to them.

8. Responding to God's Word: Group prayer time.

You may like to pray along some of these points:

- a) Thank God for the hope of eternal life we have in Jesus, our risen King.*
- b) Thank God that the Gospel is not bound, and continues to go out throughout the world*
- c) Pray that God will enable us to be prepared to suffer for the sake of the Gospel*
- d) Pray for those who are suffering for the Gospel, that God's comfort, strength, courage and love will be with them even as they persevere in the faith.*

9. Digging deeper:

Get your students to read and think through Revelation 21:1-4
Read Revelation 21:1-4 together

What does John see in his vision of how things will be like when Jesus returns? What can those who trust in Jesus be looking forward to on the day that Jesus comes back? How can this wonderful hope strengthen those of us who are suffering for the sake of the Gospel?

- When John sees a vision of how things will be like when Jesus returns to rule as king, he sees a majestic and beautiful picture. All of creation is made new, with the old passing away. The sea, which symbolizes chaos and destruction is no more. He hears a voice saying that God's dwelling is with His people. God himself will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, mourning, crying, pain or suffering.
- This is simply mind-blowing. Imagine looking forward to an eternal future just like that, where we can be with God and enjoy him forever! This gives the Christian who is suffering for the Gospel hope amidst the pain and afflictions they are undergoing. We know that there is a glorious eternity which awaits us, where those who have endured will reign forever with Jesus.

10. Closing prayer

Lesson 12: A Worker Approved by God - Part 1 (2 Timothy 2:14-21)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: Whisper-down-the-lane

This game is suitable for groups of all sizes.

Materials needed:

- Pieces of paper with messages/sentences written on them.

Instructions:

- Divide the students into their various groups and get each group to line up in a straight line.
- At the start of the game, the first person of each group goes up to the leader to read the message which will be shown to them by the leader from a piece of paper with a message written on it.
- The first person then returns to their respective groups and whispers the message to the 2nd person in the group.
- The 2nd person must then whisper what he thinks he hears to the next person and so on down the line.
- Each person can only whisper the message once to the person after him/her.
- At the end of the round, the last person who has heard the “message” will say out what he thinks he has heard.
- The group with the most accurate message at the end of each round wins.
- Several rounds can be played with different group members taking turns to be the first and last person of their groups.

Objective of the game:

This game leads into the concept of being able to handle and share a message accurately. The concept naturally leads into today’s lesson where Paul reminded Timothy how handling

God's Word faithfully is linked to being a faithful worker approved by God.

3. Just for starters question

Ask your students to think of an incident where they had either received a message which was misheard/misinterpreted and wrongly delivered, or a time when they themselves had misheard and delivered a wrong message. What happened during that incident? How was the false message different from the original one? What was the result of this?

4. Recap on 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Go through the questions which are based on last week's lesson.

Why was Paul suffering in prison? What was his attitude like in the face of suffering? Why could he respond in such a manner?

5. Reading through the passage: 2 Timothy 2:14-21

Get the students to read 2 Timothy 2:14-21 together.

6. Looking into the passage:

Q1. According to Paul, how should Timothy instruct those under his care? Why? (v14)

He was to **remind** them of the things Paul had taught him and to **charge** them before God not to **quarrel** about words. This was because arguing over unimportant issues does no **good** but brings **ruin** to its hearers.

Q2. How, instead was Timothy to present himself? What should he do? (v15)

He should do his best to present himself as a **worker** approved by **God**, without the need to be **ashamed**. He is to handle **God's Word** rightly.

Q3. What was Timothy to avoid, and why? (vv16-17)

He is to avoid **irreverent babble** because it leads to more **ungodliness** and can **spread** like gangrene.

Q4. Paul gave Timothy two examples of those who had swerved from the truth, Hymenaeus and Philetus. What false teaching were they spreading, and what was the outcome? (vv17-18)

They were teaching that the **resurrection had already happened**. (This is wrong because it goes against the true teaching that Jesus would **return** and those who trust in him would be **raised** to live and rule with him forever.)

Their false teaching was upsetting the **faith** of some who heard them.

Q5. However, even though there were false teachers going around, Paul reminded Timothy of God's word from the Old Testament. What was this? (v19)

God's **firm foundation**, His church (his people) stands, bearing this seal:

- The **Lord** knows those that are **his**.
- Let everyone who names the **name of the Lord** depart from **iniquity**.

This means that while God will preserve those who **belong** to Him, those who truly belong to Him must flee from **sin**.

Q6. In vv20-21, Paul described the situation in God's church using the analogy of a great house. What can we learn from what Paul wrote to Timothy?

Analogy	Meaning
<p>There are different vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay. Some for <u>honourable</u> use, some for <u>dishonourable</u> use.</p>	<p>This means that in a Christian community, there would be <u>faithful</u> workers approved by God, those who taught God's word <u>rightly</u> and lived godly lives, and those who were <u>unfaithful</u>, spreading ungodliness and <u>false</u> teaching.</p>
<p>Anyone who <u>cleanses</u> himself from what is dishonourable will be a vessel for honourable use, set apart as <u>holy</u>, useful to the master of the house, ready for every <u>good work</u>.</p>	<p>Anyone who keeps himself from <u>ungodliness</u> and <u>false</u> teaching will be a <u>worker</u> approved of by God, ready for every good work God has for him to do.</p>

7. Thinking it through:

Ask your students to think through the questions in this section.

Paul told Timothy that to be a worker approved by God, one must equip himself to handle God's Word rightly, stay away from false teaching and pursue godliness in character, instead of indulging in sinful talk and babble.

***How can you equip yourself to handle God's Word faithfully?
How can you build up discernment to know how to
differentiate false teaching from what is true?***

- Many of us may be keen to serve God in various ways be it in our churches or Christian Fellowships or societies in our schools. But what does it mean for us to equip ourselves so that we will be faithful workers of God? We can understand what Paul wrote to Timothy very clearly.
- A faithful worker of God is equipped to handle God's Word rightly. Regardless of what our service to God may be, we need to be growing in our knowledge of the Bible. Knowledge of God's Word should also lead to our hearts being changed, so that we become more and more like Jesus. But many of us shy away from learning the Scriptures. We find it dull or boring. We lack the discipline to make Bible reading a daily part of our lives or to make it a point to study the Bible as a group.
- Our minds wander off during sermons in church service and we fall asleep. How can we possibly serve God effectively if we do not hear what he says to us? How can we discern what is false and harmful to God's people if we don't know the truth? It starts by recognizing and acknowledging just how important it is for a worker of God to know the truth from the Scriptures.

***How can you keep yourself from indulging in ungodly
conversations, and instead pursue godliness?***

- In our sinfulness, we tend to indulge in unhelpful and ungodly chatter. There are lots of juicy gossips and unwholesome talk which goes on, even within the church. These should be things we seek to avoid. Instead, we should seek to speak of

things which are godly in order to build up and encourage one another. The easiest way to avoid ungodly chatter is to flee from it and refuse to respond or be a part of it. Godliness is a key criterion to one being a worker approved by God.

8. Responding to God's Word: Group prayer time.

You may like to pray along some of these points:

- a) Thank God for the privilege he has given to us to work for and serve him.*
- b) Pray that God will help us to seek to be workers approved by him.*
- c) Pray that God will enable us to be equipped so we can rightly handle his word.*
- d) Pray that God will help us to discern and stay away from false teaching.*
- e) Pray that God will enable us to pursue godliness and flee from evil.*

9. Digging deeper:

Get your students to read and reflect on Ephesians 5:1-21. From this passage of Scripture, what are we, as God's people encouraged to put away in our speech and conversations and what, instead, should we seek to do together to grow in Christ?

- Paul's instructions to the church in Ephesus were very clear. As those who have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus, our response is to walk in love. A big part of walking in love is related to how we relate to one another in our speech. Instead of foolish talk or crude joking, there should be thankfulness.

- We are called to guard against being deceived by empty words, but instead be addressing or teaching one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. As God's people, we are to build each other up to love and serve the Lord.

10. Closing prayer

Lesson 13: A Worker Approved of by God - Part 2
(2 Timothy 2:22-26)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: Pass the message

This game can be played by groups of all sizes.

Materials needed:

- Pieces of paper with descriptions of godly characteristics written on them (e.g. kind, righteous, pure, good)

Instructions:

- Divide the students into their various groups and get each group to line up in a straight line.
- At the start of the game, the first person standing in the line of each group goes up to the leader to read a godly characteristic from one of the pieces of paper, which will be shown to them by the leader.
- The first person then returns to their respective groups and begin acting out that characteristic to the 2nd person in the group. (They are not allowed to speak, only to act.)
- The 2nd person must then act out what he thinks is the characteristic to the next person and so on down the line.
- Each person can only act out the characteristic within a stipulated time (5 seconds) to the person after him.
- At the end of the round, the last person in the group needs to figure out what his group members have been trying to act out.
- The group with the correct answer wins.
- Several rounds can be played with different group members taking turns to be the first and last person of their groups.

Objective of the game:

This game leads into the concept of “godliness” as a servant of the Lord, a concept which will be explored in today’s lesson.

3. Just for starters question

In their groups, get your students to discuss the following questions:

What do you think is the best way to win an argument? Do you know someone who is good at winning arguments? Name some good ways and bad ways to win an argument.

4. Recap on 2 Timothy 2:14-21

Ask your students to remember and reflect on what they have learnt in the previous lesson.

Can you recall what it meant for Timothy to be a worker approved by God? What was he to avoid? Why? What was he to be able to handle rightly, so that he would be equipped for every good work? What does this mean for us today?

5. Reading through the passage: 2 Timothy 2:22-26

Get the students to read 2 Timothy 2:22-26 together.

6. Looking into the passage:

Q1. What did Paul advise Timothy to do as the Lord’s servant?
(v22)

He was to **flee** youthful passion.

Together with those who call on the **Lord** with a pure **heart**, he was to pursue:

- **Righteousness**
- **Faith**
- **Love**
- **Peace**

Q2. What was Timothy to avoid? (v23)

He was to have nothing to do with foolish and ignorant **controversies** which would stir up **quarrels**. (These controversies referred to **false teaching**.)

Q3. According to Paul, what should a servant of the Lord, a worker approved by God be like? (vv24-25)

A servant of the Lord:

- Should not be quarrelsome but **kind** to everyone.
- Should be able to **teach** God's Word.
- Should **patiently** endure evil and **correct** his opponents with **gentleness**.

Q4. As a servant of the Lord seeks to be godly even when dealing with his opponents, what is the desired outcome? (vv25-26)

As a servant of the Lord patiently corrects his opponents, it is with the hope that:

- God may perhaps grant them **repentance** leading to a knowledge of the **truth**.
- and they may come to their **senses** and escape from the snare of the **devil**, after being captured by him to do his will.

7. Thinking it through:

Ask your students to think through the questions in this section.

How do we often respond to those who oppose us? Especially if we know that what they are doing or saying or teaching is wrong? How is our approach towards them often like?

- In our sinfulness, we instinctively strike back at those who oppose us. What more if we know that our opponents are teaching lies, spreading false teaching and misleading others from the truth. Situations like this often end in ugly quarrels.

After all, aren't we justified in doing so, since we are the ones who are upholding the truth? Very often, our goal is simply to win an argument, rather than anything else. However, Paul wrote to Timothy telling him that this wasn't to be the case.

How does our common response differ from what Paul wrote to Timothy in today's lesson? How should this then shape the way we respond to those who are opponents of the faith?

- Instead, Paul told Timothy that while a servant of the Lord was to flee youthful passions (or sinfulness) and pursue righteousness, peace, faith and love, when confronting opponents of the faith, he was to do so with kindness and patience, seeking to correct his opponents with gentleness. And the outcome of it all wasn't to show who could debate or argue better, but instead, the desired outcome would be that one's opponent who has been led astray would come to his senses, realize the truth and repent, turning back to the Lord.
8. **Responding to God's Word:** Group prayer time.

You may like to pray along some of these points:

- a) Thank God for the precious truth he has given us in his Word.*
- b) Pray that God will help us to flee from youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.*
- c) Pray that God will grant us the grace to be kind and patient towards those who oppose the truth, and seek to correct them in love*
- d) Pray for those who have been led astray by false teachings, that God will grant us opportunities to help them see the truth, so that they will repent and turn back to him.*

9. Digging deeper:

Get your students to read and reflect on 2 Timothy 2:22-26 again.

How would it look like to pursue righteousness, love, faith and peace? What are some practical ways we can look at when dealing with those who teach false doctrine or false teachings. What about when we speak to friends who have been misled? How can we seek to be godly even as we correct them?

- Take your students through each of the godly attributes mentioned by Paul to Timothy. What would it look like as a youth in this generation to pursue righteousness and love for God and others, to grow in the faith and to pursue peace?
- Discuss practical ways we can take when dealing with those who are false teachers. (i.e. Mormon missionaries, Jehovah witnesses) How best can we be engaging with them? Our goal in the end must of course be to share the Gospel with them – helping them to see our sinfulness, the judgment we deserve, and how Jesus’ death in our place for our sins and his resurrection gives us forgiveness of sins and eternal life. And it is faith in him alone and nothing else which brings us salvation.
- How can we be correcting them in gentleness? It can be consciously reminding one’s self of what the desired outcome is: To help them come to their senses and turn back to God, NOT to win an argument.

10. Closing prayer

Lesson 14: Life in the Last Days (2 Timothy 3:1-9)

1. Opening prayer

2. Activity: Win-lose-or-draw

This game can be played by groups of all sizes.

Materials needed:

- Multiple pieces of A4 paper for each group
- Pencils
- A deck of cards with commonly-thought-of words, phrases, ideas which come to mind when thinking about “the end of the world” (e.g. the end of the world, apocalypse, zombies, destruction, death, explosion).

Instructions:

- Get students to sit in a circle in their respective groups
- Before the game begins, each group will be given a stack of A4 paper and a pencil.
- When the game begins, each group must send a representative forward.
- The representatives will be shown one of the cards with a phrase, word or description on it.
- The representatives will then return to their groups and begin drawing what they have seen to their group members who will in turn try to guess what it is.
- The first group to make the correct guess wins that round.
- This game can be played for several rounds with different group members taking turns to draw.

Objective of the game:

The “end of the world” concept in this game helps students to think about what Paul had written to Timothy about “the last days”.

3. Just for starters question

Ask your students in groups, to discuss the following questions:

Imagine that the world was going to end. How would the last few days on earth be like? What would you do if you knew the world was going to end?

4. Recap on 2 Timothy 2:22-26

Ask your students to remember and reflect on what they have learnt in the previous lesson.

Can you recall what Paul wrote to Timothy regarding being a servant of the Lord, a worker approved by God? What was Timothy to flee from and what should he pursue? How was he to respond to his opponents who were teaching false teaching? How do these truths relate to us today?

5. Reading through the passage: 2 Timothy 3:1-9

Get the students to read 2 Timothy 3:1-9 together:

6. Looking into the passage:

Q1. According to Paul, what would life in the last days be like? (v1)

In the last days there would be times of **difficulty**.

Q2. According to Paul, times would be hard because of how people who lived in the last days would be like. List down Paul's descriptions. (vv2-5)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| - <u>lovers of self</u> | - <u>disobedient to their</u> |
| - <u>lovers of money</u> | <u>parents</u> |
| - <u>proud</u> | - <u>ungrateful</u> |
| - <u>arrogant</u> | - <u>unholy</u> |
| - <u>abusive</u> | - <u>heartless</u> |
| | - <u>unappeasable</u> |

- slanderous
- without self-control
- brutal
- not loving good
- treacherous
- reckless
- swollen with conceit
- lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God
- having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power

Q3. How was Timothy to respond to them? (v5)

He was to **avoid** them.

That is, not that he was to avoid interacting, meeting or speaking with them completely, but rather, he was to avoid being in **fellowship** with them.

Q4. While Paul gave a general description of how people who lived without God in the last days would be like, he highlighted once again those who were false teachers, comparing them to the example of Jannes and Jambres in vv6-8. What were these false teachers like and what did Paul say they would do?

- They would **creep** into households to mislead women with **false** teachings.
- They misled the **weak women** burdened with **sins** and led astray by **various passions**.
- They **opposed** the **truth**.

Q5. Why were these false teachers like how Paul described them? (v8)

Like Jannes and Jambres, they had **corrupted** minds and disqualified regarding the **faith**.

Q6. Would deception by the false teachers last forever? (v9)

YES/**NO**. This is because their folly or false teachings will be made known to all when Jesus returns.

7. Thinking it through:

Ask your students to think through the questions in this section.

Paul warned Timothy that living in the last days as a Christian wasn't going to be easy. Things were not going to get better. Society would continue to be steeped in sinfulness and false teachers would continue to go about deceiving whilst being deceived themselves.

How should this shape our perspective of the world around us? How should this affect the way we live and what we set our hopes on? What should we be doing as God's people living in these last days?

- This world isn't going to get better. In fact, from the descriptions which Paul gives us of people who live in the last days, we can think of many instances today where people are evil in their conduct, speech and thinking. Crimes and atrocities which are unthinkable happen around the world daily. There is violence, wickedness and evil everywhere we turn.
- As God's people, we are called to live as people who have been saved and ransomed by the blood of Jesus, set apart to live holy lives. We must be on our guard, and not be caught up in the ways of the world which is in active rebellion against God. We must be especially on guard against false teachers who will seek to lead us away from the truth and away from Jesus. We must live in anticipation of Jesus' return, being prepared for his coming. Our hopes must be set, not on the things of this world, but on Jesus, our true King and Saviour.

8. Responding to God's Word: Group prayer time.

You may like to pray along some of these points:

- a) *Thank God that he has saved us and called us to be His people through His Son, Jesus Christ.*
- b) *Pray that God will strengthen us to live as his people in the last days.*
- c) *Pray that God will keep us living godly lives even in an ungodly and evil world.*
- d) *Pray that God will guard us against false teachers and those who seek to lead us away from Christ.*
- e) *Pray that we will not lose heart but keep looking forward to Jesus' return.*

9. Digging deeper:

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

How did the Apostle Peter encourage the Christians he wrote to on the way they should live while awaiting Jesus' imminent return? How were they to treat each other as God's people and remain faithful to God till the end?

- The Apostle Peter wrote to the believers of his time reminding them that Jesus would return. But how were they to prepare for it? How can we be prepared for Jesus' return? He didn't ask them to hide up in a mountain somewhere to wait, but rather, they were to love one another with a love that covers a multitude of sins.
- This love is the love they had first received from God, which was shown to them in Christ Jesus. They were to be kind and hospitable to others. And they were to use their God-given gifts to serve others, because in doing so, they were serving God. This is how all of God's people, including us, are to live while we wait for Jesus' return!

10. Closing prayer

Lesson 15: Holding Fast to the Truth (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

1. Opening prayer

2. Game: True or False?

This game can be played by groups of all sizes

Instructions:

- In their groups, get your students to sit facing one another in a circle.
- Before the game begins, ask each of them to think about 1 true statement about themselves and make up 1 false statement about themselves.
- When the game begins, each person within their respective groups takes turns to state the 2 statements they have come up with, and the group needs to guess which statement is true.
- This game will be played until all members in the group have shared their 2 statements.

Objective of the activity:

This game helps us to think about how to differentiate what is true from what is false. But it's merely guesswork. In today's lesson, we see what Paul wrote to Timothy on what he needed to hold on to in order to know and discern the truth.

3. Just for starters question

Ask your students to discuss the following questions:

When you want to verify if something is true or false, what do you do? What are the sources you will look to in order to check if what was said is right or wrong, true or false?

4. Recap on 2 Timothy 3:1-9

Ask your students to remember and reflect on what they have learnt in the previous lesson.

What would living in the last days be like as followers of Jesus? How would society or people be like? What should we watch out for and avoid?

5. Reading through the passage: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Get the students to read 2 Timothy 3:10-17 together.

6. Looking into the passage:

In vs 10-11, Paul reminded Timothy of how he had lived a godly life and how he endured suffering and persecution for the sake of the Gospel.

Q1. Paul reiterated how life would be like in the last days in vv12-13. Complete the following sentence:

All who desire to live a **godly** life in Christ Jesus will be **persecuted**, while **evil people** and **impostors** will go from **bad to worse**, deceiving **others** and being deceived **themselves**.

Q2. What was Paul's advice to Timothy about living in the last days? (v14)

Paul advised him to **continue** in what he had **learned** and have firmly **believed**, knowing from whom he learned it. Timothy was to continue to hold fast to the **faith** which he had been taught.

Q3. What was the foundation of Timothy's faith? (v15)

Timothy had been acquainted with the **sacred writings** since he was a child.

This meant that Timothy had been taught the **Scriptures** since he was young.

Q4. Why were the "sacred writings" (the Scriptures) so important? (v15)

The sacred writings are able to make a person wise for **salvation** through **faith** in Christ Jesus.

This means that God's Word tells us how we can be **saved** through **trusting** in Jesus.

Q5. According to Paul, why could the Scriptures be trusted? (v16)

This is because all Scripture is breathed out by **God**.

The Scripture is **God's Word** given to us.

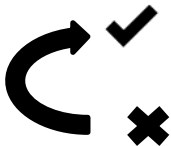
Q6. Paul mentioned four functions of the Scriptures. Fill in the blanks with the help of the four diagrams below:



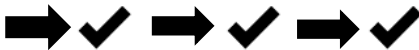
i. **Teaching** = Instructing someone on how to go the **right** way.



ii. **Reproof** = Warning someone that they have gone the **wrong** way.



iii. **Correcting** = Instructing someone on how to **return** from the wrong way back to the right way.



iv. **Training** = Instructing someone on how to **keep going** the right way.

Q7. What was the outcome of holding fast to the Scriptures? (v17)

The man of God will be **complete**, equipped for every **good work** God has for him to do.

7. **Thinking it through:**

Ask your students to ponder over these questions and what they have learnt.

As followers of Jesus, living in these last days isn't going to be easy at all. That's what Paul told Timothy. How then can we who trust in Jesus continue in the truth? Paul told Timothy to continue to hold fast to the Scriptures, God's very words which were able to save him by pointing him to Christ and would equip him for every good work.

So, let's ask ourselves the honest question: Is God's Word a part of our lives at all? Do we search the Scriptures for truth and guidance on how to live our lives? Are we listening to what God is saying to us through the pages of the Bible? Or do we look for truth and guidance elsewhere?

- The sad truth is, Bible reading is a non-essential or of secondary priority to all of us in our daily lives. Some of us find it a chore to read the Scriptures. But we fail to understand that the Scriptures are God's spoken word to us! We don't have to go around hoping to "hear" God's voice through various other means, God's instructions and guidance to us are clearly stated in the Bible. We fail to see that it is the Scriptures which point us to Jesus, helps us to know who He is and tells us of his saving death and resurrection. It equips us to be God's servants.

What can we do to make reading God's Word a priority in our lives?

- Well, it starts firstly by changing your mindset about reading God's Word. Come to God in prayer, ask him to help you to understand his Word as you read it. Pray for discipline to help you make reading the Bible a daily habit.

- It's hard to read the Scriptures on your own sometimes. How about getting a Bible reading devotional resource which can help you in your reading along the way? And meet in groups to study God's Word together (just like you are doing now!). Hearing God's voice in the Scriptures is not a chore, but a joy.

8. Responding to God's Word: Group prayer time.

You may like to pray along some of these points:

- a) Thank God for the Scriptures, his Word to us.*
- b) Thank God that the Scriptures are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*
- c) Pray that God will help us hear him speak to us through the reading of his Word.*
- d) Pray that as we read God's Word, we will be equipped for the work he has set for us to do.*

9. Digging deeper:

Read Psalm 119:97-104.

Spend some time reflecting on Psalm 119:97-104.

What does the Psalm teach us about God's Word? What can we learn from the words of this Psalm?

- This Psalmist expresses his love for God's law, his Word! It is through God's Word that he gains insight and wisdom. It helps him to discern what is evil, and to pursue what is right and pleasing to God. What about us? Is His word like honey to our lips? Do we truly rejoice in hearing God speak through the Scriptures?

10. Closing prayer

Lesson 16: Charge to the Faithful (2 Timothy 4:1-8)

1. Opening prayer

2. Activity: Follow the leader

This game can be carried out in groups of all sizes

Instructions:

- Before the start of the game, ask a student volunteer to be the “guesser” for the first round.
- The “guesser” will leave the room.
- A “leader” who is also another student volunteer will start doing a series of actions that everyone else in the room must follow. (It must not be too conspicuous who the leader is).
- The “guesser” will re-enter the room and must try to spot who the “leader” is within a stipulated time frame.
- If the “guesser” manages to do so, he wins the round.
- This game can be played for several rounds with different students taking turns to be the “guesser” and the “leader”.

Objective of the game:

This game of leadership leads into today’s lesson. Paul as a teacher and leader, charges Timothy to continue to lead faithfully.

3. Just for starters question

Ask your students in groups, to discuss the following questions:

What would your final advice, words or instructions be to someone whom you have trained as a leader? (Imagine that you may never see him or her again.) What would you want this person to remember? Why?

4. Recap on 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Ask your students to remember and reflect on what they have learnt in the previous lesson.

What did Paul remind Timothy to hold fast to? Why were the Scriptures so pivotal? Can you recall what Paul had to say about the nature and functions of Scripture?

5. Reading through the passage: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Get the students to read 2 Timothy 4:1-8 together.

6. Looking into the passage:

Q1. Paul presented his charge to Timothy. How did he do so? (v1)
He charged Timothy in the presence of **God** and of **Christ Jesus**, who is to **judge** the living and the dead, and by his **appearing** (return) and his **kingdom**.

Q2. What was Paul's charge to Timothy? (v2)

Paul's charge to Timothy was this:

- **preach** the word
- be **ready** in season and out of season
- reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete **patience** and **teaching**.

Q3. How was Timothy's conduct to contrast with worldly society who lived in the last days?

Complete the table below: (vv3-5)

Society in the last days	Timothy
Will not endure sound teaching.	Always be sober-minded .
Will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.	Endure suffering for the gospel. Do the work of an evangelist

Will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.	Fulfill his ministry.
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From vv6-8 Paul summed up his charge to Timothy by telling him how he himself had been faithful in the ministry God had called him to.

Q4. Why did Paul give this charge to Timothy? (v6)

This was because he was already being poured out as a **drink offering**, and the time of his **departure** has come.

This means that Paul had rendered whole-hearted **service** to Christ, and he was about to face his **death**.

Q5. How did Paul sum up his life journey? (v7)

He had:

- **fought** the good fight
- finished the **race**
- **kept** the faith

Q6. What was Paul looking forward to at the end of his life? (v8)

He was looking forward to the **crown of righteousness**, which the **Lord**, the righteous judge, will award to him on that day when he returns.

Q7. Who else is this eternal reward for? (v8)

It is for all who **love** Jesus' **appearing** (return).

This reward is for all who **trust** in Jesus, submit to him as saviour and **Lord**, and look forward to his coming again.

7. Thinking it through:

Ask your students to think through the questions in this section.

When Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, he was already at the end of his life's journey. He had given his life in whole-hearted service to Christ, and now, he was charging Timothy to carry on the faithful ministry work that had been started. How does Paul's charge to Timothy apply to us today? How can we seek to continue to serve God faithfully in a sinless and godless society?

- Paul charged Timothy to continue to declare God's word faithfully, to continue sharing the Gospel and to hold on to the truth from the Scriptures. These are things that we too, must seek to put to practice. Our foundation in the faith must be based on the Gospel and on Scripture which spell out to us the truth about God.
- We must be seeking to declare God's Word faithfully wherever we are without fear even though the world may respond in a hostile way towards us. We must be prepared to endure suffering and hardship for the sake of the Gospel. The Good News of Jesus should not be kept to ourselves but shared with those around us, so that others can hear the message of salvation and turn to faith and repentance.

Paul encouraged Timothy through his own life and ministry. How can we seek to be like Paul, and to remain faithful to Christ till the end?

- Paul's life had been radically transformed by Christ. He described himself as the "worst sinner" who was saved by God's grace through Jesus. Even as he endured hardships for

the sake of the Gospel, he did not shrink back but fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith.

- What kept him going also was the eternal reward that God had in store for him. This was Paul's motivation. And this too should be our motivation to finish this earthly race, being found faithful to Christ.
- Any other form of earthly "motivations" aside from the Gospel will not enable us to endure. Hence as we run this race on earth, we need to keep looking back to the cross, being reminded of what Jesus has done for us to save us, and we need to look forward to the eternal joy which awaits us when Jesus comes again.

8. Responding to God's Word: Group prayer time.

You may like to pray along some of these points:

- a) Thank God that he has saved us and called us to be His people through His Son, Jesus Christ.*
- b) Pray that God will strengthen us to live and serve Him faithfully as his people in the last days.*
- c) Pray that God will help us to fight the good fight, finish the race and keep the faith.*
- d) Pray that we will not lose heart but keep looking forward to Jesus' return.*

9. Digging deeper:

Take some time to reflect over all the past lessons you have learnt from 1&2 Timothy. Note down some of the truths which stand out in your mind and which you desire to take to heart and put to practice.

Think through the past 16 lessons you have carried out with your students. Summarize what has been taught from both 1&2 Timothy. Get them to reflect on some of the truths they have learnt which have stood out for them and which they desire to put to practice.

10. Closing prayer

