

Lesson B4.7 - Be a Good Leader



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: 1 Timothy 4:6-16

► Bible Characters: Paul, Timothy

Timothy was a young Christian who was going to become a pastor. So the Apostle Paul decided to give him some advice. In Paul's letter, Paul tells Timothy that just as physical training is important, so is training in godliness. He wanted Timothy to study the Bible and set a good example.

Brief Bible Background

► Today's Lesson is from the New Testament

► Scripture Section: Letters

In addition to the letters written by the Apostle Paul to specific places or people, other more general letters (called "epistles") were written by a few of the apostles to be read by congregations at large, to teach people how faith guides our everyday lives.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids. The words are sung to the tune, "The Wheels on the Bus." No accompaniment needed.

We're all gathered here to thank you, Lord, thank you Lord, thank you Lord! We're all gathered here to thank you Lord, for all you do!

We're all praying that you'll teach us Lord, teach us Lord, teach us Lord! We're all praying that you'll teach us Lord, more about you!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Do you ever feel too young, or too small, to do anything important for God? Lots of people have felt that way--even Bible people! But no matter a person's age or status, they can still **be a good leader**!

- Can you name some good leaders from history? What did they do that was helpful? (Call on volunteers)
- How can a young person like you **be a good leader** at school, at church, on a team, etc?

In today's Bible story, the apostle Paul tells a young man named Timothy that he, too, can **be a good leader**. Paul has good advice for Timothy, and lots of encouragement. What did Paul say? Let's find out!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: There was once a young man named Timothy. He was new in the ministry and was going to become a pastor. So Paul decided to give him some fatherly advice.

Read the caption: “You have been trained to be a Christian leader,” Paul said to Timothy. “Share what you have learned with your church.”

- *Look at Timothy. What do you notice about him? [He looks very young. He is sitting behind Paul’s desk and being trained by Paul.]*
- *How is Timothy reacting to Paul’s words? [He is smiling. He wants to learn.]*

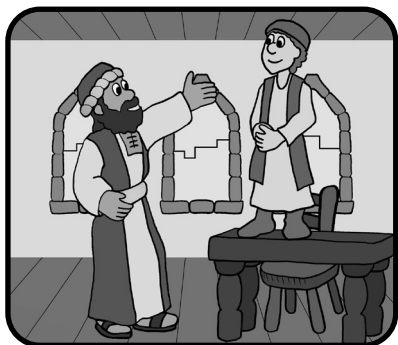


Picture 2

Tell the children: Paul didn’t want Timothy to listen to silly, useless, or harmful ideas. Instead, he thought Timothy should train himself in the Christian faith.

Read the caption: “Physical training makes you strong on the outside,” Paul said. “Becoming godly on the inside is even more important.”

- *Why is there a strong man in the thought bubble? [Paul is helping Timothy understand how to become strong on the inside, not just the outside.]*
- *How might Timothy become strong on the inside? [By praying, learning about Jesus, going to church, talking to older Christians who can teach him, etc.]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: Paul knew Timothy would work hard, and he wanted him to look to the living God for guidance and hope.

Read the caption: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Instead, set an example by how you talk and behave.”

- *Why is Timothy standing on the table? [Because if he sets a good example, even though he’s small, he will stand tall in God’s eyes.]*
- *How can Timothy set an example while he is still young? [He can look to God, speak kindly, treat people well, listen to his teachers, and try to do what is right.]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: Paul travelled to many different churches. He would visit Timothy soon, but in the meantime, there were plenty of things for Timothy to do!

Read the caption: “Until I come there, spend time reading the Bible. Preach to the people and teach them. Use your gifts,” Paul said.

- *What is Timothy holding? [A Bible.]*
- *Why does Paul want Timothy to spend time reading the Bible? [Because if he is going to preach and teach, he needs to know what God says and wants.]*

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*Long ago, Paul wrote a note
to a young man, Timothy.
Paul gave him some good advice
on what leadership should be:*

*“Turn away from godless myths.
Listen not to old wives’ tales.*

*“Put your hope in God alone,
for his guidance never fails.*

*“Yes, I know that you are young,
but you still have much to do.*

*“Speak and live in purity,
and to Jesus Christ, stay true!”*

h. Young Children’s Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the “craft” for the day.)

Activity: Common & Compliment**Materials Needed:**

Piece of paper, marker

Instructions:

On a piece of paper, write “The Leader” in large letters. Choose a volunteer to hold this sign. Invite kids to sit in a circle. The Leader will look around the circle and notice someone who has something in common with himself or herself. It can be the same color hair, a similarly colored shirt, etc. After noting the common thing out loud, the Leader will give that person one compliment. For example, “Josie and I both have red shirts. Josie is also a good artist.” The Leader will then pass the sign to the person he or she just complimented. That person will become the new Leader and the game will continue. Be sure that everyone gets a chance to be chosen to receive a commonality and a compliment.

*A good leader gets to know other people, focuses on what they have in common, and notices strengths.
When we build each other up, we can help others become their best selves. They may become leaders too!*

**g. Song (optional)**

You can hear the tune and find motions to this song on YouTube, Vimeo, or online children’s music sites.

What a Mighty God We Serve

What a mighty God we serve.

What a mighty God we serve.

Angels bow before Him.

Heaven and earth adore Him.

What a mighty God we serve.

What a mighty God we serve.

What a mighty God we serve.

Angels bow before Him.

Heaven and earth adore Him.

What a mighty God we serve.

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

- **Start: A young man named Timothy was going to become a pastor. Paul decided to give him some advice. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*O God, we praise you and we know,
you care for us and help us grow.*

*We thank you for our friends today
With whom we learn, and laugh and play.*

*Please help our world to know your Son,
Who loves us--each and every one. Amen.*