



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

Date: 10.19.25 | Paul's Letters to His Children of the Faith - 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus
Scripture: 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- God values all people and calls Christians to live on mission for the sake of reaching the lost with the gospel.
- God continues to work in the world, and people are invited to join Him in His work.
- We are to be involved in reaching the nations through prayer, giving resources, acting with love, and sharing the gospel.
- The church is a fellowship of believers, and we are called to meet together regularly.
- The church is not a place or a building, but rather a community of people who belong to the family of God.

HIGH SCHOOL:

- God values all people---born and unborn, young and old, male and female, all ethnicities, those of opposing faiths---and calls Christians to live on mission for the sake of reaching the lost through prayer, giving resources, acting with love, and sharing the gospel.
- God continues to work in the world, and as we join Him in His work, He uses people to accomplish His eternal purposes.
- We demonstrate honor for God when we respect the earthly authorities God has placed in our lives.
- The church is a community of believers called to gather regularly to study Scripture, pray, worship, serve, encourage one another, and proclaim the gospel to the world.
- The church is called to train and equip its members for works of ministry.



MEMORY VERSE

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. - Romans 1:16a

16 F l a n a o t g, f i i t p o G f s t e w b, - use this first letter memorization tool that aids in remembering text by using the first letter of each word as a cue.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Ask students:

Who has helped you grow in your faith or life?

What's one thing they've taught you?

How would you describe your relationship with them?

Debrief:

Share how Paul acted as a spiritual mentor to Timothy and Titus — helping them grow in leadership and faith.

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

The book of Acts closes with Paul awaiting trial before the emperor in Rome. Early church tradition tells us that Paul was released from his first imprisonment around AD 60–62, resumed missionary work through Asia Minor, Crete, Greece, and possibly Spain, and was later arrested again and executed under Nero around AD 67–68. Between these imprisonments, Paul wrote three personal letters to two of his trusted coworkers—Timothy and Titus—to guide them in shepherding the churches he loved. These letters, known as the Pastoral Epistles, focus on sound doctrine, godly living, faithful leadership, and endurance in ministry. Through them, Paul reveals his deep pastoral heart and unwavering commitment to the gospel, even as he faced his own death.

Timothy was from Lystra in the province of Galatia ([Acts 16:1-3](#)). His mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, taught him the Old Testament Scriptures ([2 Timothy 1:5](#)), and he came to faith through Paul's ministry—becoming his disciple, traveling companion, and “son in the faith.” Timothy later became pastor of the church in Ephesus, a congregation Paul himself had founded and nurtured during his missionary journeys ([Acts 19](#)). Titus, a Gentile believer and trusted coworker, was left on the island of Crete to establish new churches there ([Titus 1:5](#)). His task was to raise mature leaders and instruct believers to live out their faith in a pagan culture. Both men faced immense pressure as young pastors leading congregations in difficult places, but Paul reminded them that the gospel they preached carried the power to transform hearts, build the church, and sustain them through hardship.

Paul's first letter to [Timothy](#), written around AD 63–65, addresses false teaching in Ephesus ([Acts 20:30](#); [1 Timothy 1:3-7](#); [6:3-5](#)) and gives practical instructions on how believers should conduct themselves in “the household of God” ([1 Timothy 3:15](#)). Paul's main focus was to

protect the truth of the gospel and to build a church that reflected Christ's character. He urged the church to pray for all people and to live peaceful, godly lives ([1 Timothy 2:1-2](#)), emphasizing that their worship should keep the focus on God rather than on self ([1 Timothy 2:8](#)). He described the qualifications of elders and deacons, insisting that church leaders must be people of integrity who model humility and faithfulness. Paul also warned that the love of money—not money itself—is the root of all evil ([1 Timothy 6:9-10](#)) and reminded believers that true wealth is found in godliness and contentment, not in material gain. True prosperity comes through knowing Christ, serving others, and walking daily in faith. The message of [1 Timothy](#) is clear: sound doctrine and godly living are inseparable, and both must flow from the transforming power of the gospel. “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,” Paul declared ([1 Timothy 1:15](#)), and this truth must remain the heart of every ministry.

Paul's letter to [Titus](#), written between AD 64 and 65, serves as a church operations manual—laying out God's design for leadership, discipleship, and witness. Titus was to “set in order what was left unfinished” ([Titus 1:5](#)) by appointing elders of integrity who held firmly to the trustworthy word of truth ([Titus 1:9](#)). Paul emphasized that church leaders should live above reproach, with lives that match their message. In [Titus 2](#), Paul instructed believers of every age to model good works, self-control, and sound doctrine so that “in all things they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior” ([Titus 2:10](#)). In [Titus 3](#), he urged Christians to be ready for every good work, to show gentleness and humility, and to avoid quarrels and divisive arguments ([Titus 3:1-8](#)). Throughout the letter, Paul made it clear that good works are not the basis of salvation, but the evidence of it. “He saved us,” Paul wrote, “not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy” ([Titus 3:5](#)). The grace of God trains believers to live godly lives in an ungodly world and to demonstrate the beauty of the gospel in how they treat others. Because Jesus redeemed us through His death and resurrection, the church must reflect His grace through purity, unity, and integrity. We do what is good because of the goodness God has already shown us in Christ.

Paul's final letter, [2 Timothy](#), written around AD 67, came from a cold Roman dungeon as he awaited execution under Nero. Unlike his earlier house arrest, Paul was now treated like a criminal, chained and abandoned by many who once stood with him. Yet even in prison, Paul's faith burned brightly. He wrote to encourage Timothy to remain strong in the Lord, to guard the truth, and to carry on the work of the gospel. He urged him not to be ashamed of the message or of Paul's imprisonment but to “share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God” ([2 Timothy 1:8](#)). Paul reminded Timothy that God had called him to ministry not through fear, but through “a spirit of power and love and self-control” ([2 Timothy 1:7](#)). He called Timothy to endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ Jesus ([2 Timothy 2:3](#)), to avoid foolish arguments, and to rightly handle the word of truth ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)). Paul warned that in the last days people would turn away from truth and pursue their own desires, but Timothy must continue in what he had learned from the Scriptures, which are “able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” ([2 Timothy 3:15](#)). As his life neared its end, Paul reflected with confidence: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” ([2 Timothy 4:7](#)). His final recorded words—“The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you” ([2 Timothy 4:22](#))—capture the essence of a life anchored in grace and unwavering hope in Christ.

Together, these pastoral letters reveal Paul's heart for the church and his vision for a gospel-centered ministry. They teach that the church must stand firmly on the truth, live with integrity, and demonstrate God's grace to a watching world. Believers are called to live godly lives so that their witness has integrity, to do what is good as evidence of genuine faith, to pray for all people, including those in authority (*1 Timothy 2:1-2*), to guard the truth of Scripture against false teaching, and to endure hardship knowing that Christ is worth every trial. Christians hold dual citizenship: we belong to heaven as children of God (*Philippians 3:20*), yet we live as responsible citizens on earth, showing the world what the grace of God looks like in everyday life. The Pastoral Letters remind us that sound doctrine, good works, and perseverance all flow from the gospel. Jesus Christ came to save sinners, transform hearts, and build His church. Like Timothy and Titus, we are called to shepherd others with truth, integrity, and grace, proclaiming that "the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people" (*Titus 2:11*).

Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus remind believers that the gospel is not only a message to believe but a life to live. The truth of Jesus' death and resurrection should shape every aspect of who we are—our integrity, our relationships, our leadership, and our endurance when life becomes difficult. Like Timothy, we are called to stand firm in truth, even when the world around us is full of confusion and compromise. Like Titus, we are called to live in such a way that our good works reflect God's grace and make His truth attractive to others. And like Paul, we are called to finish our race with faith, trusting that God's grace is enough to sustain us through every trial. In a culture that often values comfort, wealth, or reputation, these letters remind us that true success is found in faithful obedience to Christ. The gospel transforms not just what we believe, but how we live, how we lead, and how we love—so that in all things, Jesus Christ is seen as preeminent and worthy of our whole lives.

LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



TELL THE STORY - 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus

After Paul's many missionary journeys, the book of Acts concludes with him in Rome, awaiting an audience with the emperor. Paul had been arrested because he preached about Jesus, but he never stopped sharing the gospel wherever he went. Many early Christians believed that Paul was eventually released from prison around AD 62. Afterward, he kept traveling to different places to encourage the churches he had started. Later, however, he was arrested again and imprisoned in a dark Roman dungeon. During this time, before he died for his faith, Paul wrote some very special letters to two young pastors he loved—Timothy and Titus.

These letters are called the Pastoral Letters because Paul was writing to pastors to help them lead God's people well. The letters are 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus. In them, Paul offered guidance on how the church should live, how leaders should serve, and how all believers should maintain their focus on Jesus and His truth.

Timothy was a young man from a town called Lystra. His mom and grandma had taught him about God from the Scriptures when he was little ([2 Timothy 1:5](#)). When Paul came through on one of his missionary trips, Timothy believed in Jesus and started traveling with Paul to help share the good news with others. Later, Paul asked Timothy to stay in Ephesus to be the pastor there. Ephesus was a big city where many people worshiped false gods, so it was hard to be a Christian there. Paul wanted Timothy to know how to help the church stay strong in their faith.

In **1 Timothy**, Paul reminded Timothy that false teachers would try to confuse the believers, but the church must continue to teach the truth about Jesus ([1 Timothy 1:3-7](#)). He instructed Timothy that church leaders should conduct themselves in a manner that honors God and sets a good example ([1 Timothy 3:1-13](#)). Paul encouraged everyone to pray for others, even for kings and rulers ([1 Timothy 2:1-2](#)), and to ensure their hearts were focused on God rather than money or possessions ([1 Timothy 6:9-10](#)). Paul said that real treasure is found in knowing Jesus and living a godly life. The main idea of 1 Timothy is that God's people should live in truth, love, and faith—because **Jesus came into the world to save sinners** ([1 Timothy 1:15](#)).

Paul also wrote a letter to **Titus**, another one of his helpers, who was serving on an island called **Crete**. The people there needed to know how to live as followers of Jesus in a place where most didn't believe in Him. Paul instructed Titus to help select good leaders for the churches, who would teach and live according to God's truth ([Titus 1:5-9](#)). He also told him to remind the believers that God's grace teaches us to say "no" to sin and to live in a way that pleases Him ([Titus 2:11-12](#)). Paul wanted everyone to know that good works don't save us—but when we truly know Jesus, our hearts change, and we want to do good things because of His love ([Titus 3:5-8](#)).

Later, while Paul was back in prison in Rome, he wrote **2 Timothy**, his final letter before his death. It was written from a cold, dark cell, but Paul's heart was full of faith and hope. He told Timothy not to be afraid or ashamed of the gospel, but to be brave and strong because of God's power (*2 Timothy 1:7-8*). Paul reminded Timothy to continue teaching the Bible faithfully and to persevere even when things became difficult (*2 Timothy 2:1-3, 3:14-17*). As Paul's life was coming to an end, he looked back and said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (*2 Timothy 4:7*). His final words were a blessing of grace: "The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit" (*2 Timothy 4:22*).

Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus are filled with lessons that remain relevant to us today. They remind us to pray for others, to live with kindness and honesty, and to do what is good—not to earn God's love, but because we already have it through Jesus. They also remind us to stay close to God's Word so that we know what is true and can help others follow Him as well.

Just like Timothy and Titus, we can be faithful followers of Jesus who live for Him every day. We can show others what God is like by the way we love, forgive, and serve. And when life gets hard, we can remember what Paul said—that God's grace gives us the strength to keep going. The gospel changes our hearts and gives our lives purpose. We can finish strong for Jesus, just like Paul did, knowing that one day we'll be with Him forever.



RETELL THE STORY

Have students re-tell the story as best they can.



SHARE THE GOSPEL

Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus form a powerful portrait of the gospel's beauty, clarity, and transforming power. In 1 Timothy, Paul summarized redemption's message with stunning simplicity: "God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth... there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all" (*1 Timothy 2:4-6*). These verses capture God's heart, plan, and provision for salvation. The gospel begins and ends with God's desire to rescue sinners through His Son. Salvation is not earned through human effort or religious performance—it is received through faith in Jesus, who paid the ransom that reconciles humanity to God. In both letters to Timothy, Paul pointed away from fear and punishment and toward the promise of life in Christ. His ministry centered not on threats of judgment but on the warmth of God's love, freely given through grace. "The promise of life" (*2 Timothy 1:1*) is the very heartbeat of the gospel—abundant life now and eternal life forever.

Paul knew that grace, not human achievement, is the foundation of the Christian life. God's love does not depend on our goodness or consistency; it rests entirely on His mercy. This truth frees believers from striving to earn what has already been given through Jesus. Yet Paul also reminded Timothy that the gospel cannot flourish apart from God's Word. Only by holding fast to Scripture and depending on the Holy Spirit can believers grow in truth, wisdom, and strength (*2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; John 16:13*). To Titus, Paul emphasized another dimension of the gospel—its transforming grace and sustaining hope. “The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,” he wrote, teaching us to live holy and godly lives as we look for “the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (*Titus 2:11-13*). Grace is both the means and the mark of salvation: it saves us through Christ's sacrifice and shapes us to live in readiness for His return. The gospel Paul proclaimed in these pastoral letters is not merely a set of doctrines—it is the living truth that redeems, renews, and empowers believers to walk in godliness as they wait for their blessed hope, the return of Christ Himself.

QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

Who were the two pastors Paul wrote letters to, and what were their jobs? (*1 Timothy 1:3; Titus 1:5*)

Why did Paul write these letters to Timothy and Titus? (*1 Timothy 3:14-15; Titus 2:11-12*)

What did Paul tell Timothy to watch out for in the church at Ephesus? (*1 Timothy 1:3-7; 6:3-5*)

What did Paul say about prayer and worship in the church? (*1 Timothy 2:1-2, 8*)

What warning did Paul give about money, and what really matters most? (*1 Timothy 6:9-10*)

What did Paul tell Titus about how church leaders should live? (*Titus 1:7-9*)

According to Paul, why should believers do good works? (*Titus 3:4-8*)

What did Paul tell Timothy in his last letter before he died? (*2 Timothy 4:7-8, 22*)

Paul told Timothy and Titus to teach the truth and not be afraid. How can you stand up for what's right and speak truth even when others don't? *(2 Timothy 1:7-8)*

Paul said that church leaders should live in a way that honors God. What are some ways you can show others that you love and follow Jesus in your actions? *(Titus 2:7-8)*

Paul instructed us to pray for everyone, including leaders and those in authority. Who can you pray for this week, even if they don't think the same way you do? *(1 Timothy 2:1-2)*

Paul warned that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. What does it mean to be thankful for what you have instead of always wanting more? *(1 Timothy 6:6-10)*

Paul finished his life strong in faith. What does it look like for you to "finish strong" in your faith this week—at school, at home, or with friends? *(2 Timothy 4:7)*

What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

What does the story teach me about myself?

Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?

Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

How does this story help me live on mission?

PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank You for giving us the Bible and for the letters Paul wrote to help us follow You. Help us to stand firm in our faith, live with integrity, and show Your goodness to others every day.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of His children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for His children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves His children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time; He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps His promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share His glory with another. All glory rightfully belongs to Him.

JUST - God is fair in all His actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward His children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. Nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of His children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for His children.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give Him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure. He controls all things.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.

List taken from Jen Wilkin Bible studies



Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is God inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

LOOK OUTWARD



- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD



- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?