

Timothy (1)

Memory Verse: *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity (1 Timothy 4:12 NIV).*

Background Helps:

In our study of the “Personalities around Paul,” we are taking two separate weeks for a consideration of Paul’s dear “son in the faith” and beloved and loyal coworker, Timothy. This first week we will cover Timothy and his association with Paul during the period of Paul’s second and third missionary journeys and his first Roman imprisonment and after Paul’s release from this first imprisonment. Later, we will consider Paul’s second letter to Timothy, written during Paul’s second Roman imprisonment.

The scriptural material concerning Timothy is greater than for any of the other “personalities around Paul” we are studying this quarter. The following points are covered this week:

- Timothy’s family background: 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15; Acts 16:1
- Timothy’s conversion: Acts 14:6-23; 16:1; 2 Timothy 3:10-12; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Timothy 1:2, 18; 6:12; 2 Timothy 1:2
- Timothy’s call to service (replacing John Mark on Paul’s missionary team): Acts 16:2-3; 1 Timothy 1:18; 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6
- Timothy’s missionary service in association with Paul:
 - On his 2nd missionary journey: Acts 17:13-15; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2:17–3:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; Acts 18:5; 2 Corinthians 1:19
 - On his 3rd missionary journey: Acts 19:22; 20:4; Romans 16:21; 1 Corinthians 1:1; 4:17; 2 Corinthians 1:1
 - During Paul’s 1st Roman imprisonment: Philippians 1:1; 2:19-23; Colossians 1:1; Philemon 1:1
 - Between Paul’s two Roman imprisonments: 1 Timothy (whole book)

Lesson Helps:

There are a number of different lesson aims and emphases that you could adopt for your class. Consider prayerfully: What are the needs of my students? Write your lesson aim accordingly. For example:

1. My aim is to teach my students about the influence of Timothy’s mother and grandmother on his early life, so that, as parents (or grandparents), they will train their children (grandchildren) in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. This lesson is geared for parents and grandparents. Notice the special encouragement, in this case, for single parents or a Christian parent married to an unbeliever. After focusing on the verses concerning Timothy’s family background, notice how this young man turned out!

2. My aim is to teach my students about Timothy's call to Christian service, so that they will offer their lives in service to Christ. Study the way in which Timothy was called into Christian service, noticing the roles of Paul, the elders, the church, and Timothy himself. Challenge your students to give heed to God's call on their own lives.
3. My aim is to teach my students about the influence of Paul on Timothy's life, so that they will seek out a spiritual mentor for their own lives. Study the role of Paul in Timothy's conversion, his call to ministry, his training, and his service. Challenge your students to seek out a spiritual mentor, through whose help their own lives can become more fruitful for God.
4. My aim is to teach my students about Timothy's career of missionary service, so that they will not be timid to offer their lives in service to Christ. Trace the course of Timothy's missionary career, especially noticing any references to his timidity along with Paul's confidence in him. Challenge your students to step out in faith to serve the Lord without fear. Use the memory verse, 1 Timothy 4:12.

Assignment:

-  Read about Aquila and Priscilla; Apollos (personalities around Paul).
-  Memorize 1 Corinthians 12:4