**THE CHURCH IN NEW** **YORK CITY**

**CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON**

**DATE:** January 28, 2018

**SUBJECT: GOD’S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: In Acts—Timothy**

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 15:40-41; 16:1-5; 2Tim. 1:4-7; 3:14-15; 1 Cor. 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 16:10; 1 Tim. 5:23; Phil. 2:19-23; 1 Tim. 1:2; l Thess. 3:2; 2 Tim. 1:13-14; 2 Tim. 1:15; 2 Tim. 2:2; 3:10-11; 2 Tim. 4:13, 21

**AIM:** As God’s called ones we should learn God’s Word and live a godly life while we are young so that we can become useful to the Lord and to His servants when we grow up.

**SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSES:** 1 Timothy 4:12a (Let no one despise your youth, but be a pattern to the believers…); 2 Timothy 3:14 (But you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from which ones you have learned them); 2 Timothy 3:15 (And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus.); 1 Corinthians 16:10b (...; for *Timothy* is working the work of the Lord, even as I am.); Psalms 119:9 (With what should a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your word.)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 69 (Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart); 70 (Thy Word Is a Lamp); 9432 *BSS The Bible, Song 32* (Your Word Is Truth); 9423 *BSS The Bible, Song 23* (How Sweet Thy Word); 65 (We Must Not Forget God’s Word); 66 (God’s Word in My Heart); 6705 (The BIBLE); The Timothy Song

**CRAFT IDEAS:** Weave a geometric “web” using yarn and styrofoam plates as a loom, with notches along the circumference to anchor the yarn as you wrap it around the plate to create a pattern. In the middle of the web, paste a colored paper square with your name. On the outer circle of the web, put names of those around us who are good patterns to us to love the Lord and even those to whom we ourselves may be a good pattern.

**APPROACH:** Who brings you to the children’s meeting? Is it your mom and/or dad? Grandmother? Grandfather? Aunt? A friend? *The point is to see who the children are surrounded by, as Timothy was brought to the Lord by his mother and grandmother.* Today’s story is about a young man named Timothy who also had such people around him who helped him to know the Lord.

**CONTENT:** Timothy was a young man mentioned in the New Testament many times. He lived during the time after the Lord Jesus had already died and resurrected. Timothy was from a city called Lystra in south central Asia Minor. It was a pagan and idolatrous city. But from this city was a family of three generations that loved the Lord Jesus. Timothy’s grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice both believed in the Lord Jesus and were strong in their faith. Timothy’s mother was a Jew and his father was Greek. We do not know much about Timothy’s father who may not have believed in the Lord (Acts 16:1-3), but certainly Timothy’s grandmother and mother had a very positive influence on his life. Their faith in the Lord affected Timothy, and Timothy also believed in the Lord Jesus and became very useful to Him. Timothy also was very useful to the apostle Paul and other Christians laboring for the Lord, and even helped author some of the letters that became books of the Bible. What can we find out about Timothy from the Bible?

**Timothy was raised knowing God’s Word.** After being in Antioch for a while, the apostle Paul wanted to return and visit the churches in the cities where they had announced the word of the Lord to see how they were doing. He chose a brother named Silas to go along with him. He passed through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches there. He also came to Derbe and Lystra (Acts 15:40-41; 16:1). In Lystra, they met a young man named Timothy. Timothy had been raised up with the Scriptures since his very early childhood. Although his father seems to have been an unbelieving Greek (for he never had Timothy circumcised - Acts 16:3), his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, believed in the Lord and in His Word. They imparted their sincere and genuine faith and knowledge of the Lord into Timothy through their way of life and by teaching him God’s Word (2 Tim. 3:15 “And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings…”)

**Timothy was known and respected.** Timothy was known and respected by the brothers in his own local church in Lystra and in the church in Iconium (a city about 18 miles north of Lystra) because of his godly Christian life and testimony. The Bible tells us that Timothy “was well attested to by the brothers in Lystra and Iconium” (Acts 16:2). Paul must have been very impressed by what he saw and heard about Timothy because he wanted Timothy to come along with him for the rest of the journey. Little did Paul know that Timothy would become his closest companion and most useful co-worker for the rest of his life.

**Timothy was not so bold and strong, but he was faithful and diligent.** By his natural disposition it seems that Timothy was not an aggressive, bold, strong person like Paul. He seems to have been somewhat fearful and timid. Paul reminded Timothy that “God has not given us spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness” (2 Tim. 1:7) Even physically, Timothy did not appear to be so strong, since he suffered from “frequent illnesses” (1 Tim. 5:23). We can see that not all the Lord’s servants are bold and daring like Peter and Paul, and not all are physically strong. But all who would serve Him must know His Word and also be proper in their Christian living and testimony.

**Timothy followed and learned from Paul.** Timothy closely followed Paul (2 Tim. 3:10). By being with Paul and listening to him as he spoke God’s Word, he received a rich deposit of the truth within him (2 Tim. 1:13-14; 2:2). He grew to have the same kind of heart as Paul had: He genuinely cared for the saints and the churches and sought after the Lord’s interests. When Paul could not personally visit a church he would send Timothy, for he could trust him to faithfully teach what Paul taught and also to exemplify (or, be a pattern of) the way Paul lived (1 Cor. 4:16-17; 2 Timothy 3:10-11; Philippians 2:19-23). As a spiritual son to Paul, Timothy was approved and served as a child with a father. Paul even called him “God’s fellow worker in the gospel of Christ.” (1 Thess. 3:2)

**Timothy was a faithful servant of God.** When Paul was imprisoned in the later years of his life for his testimony, many of the disciples forsook him, even some of his fellow workers (2 Timothy 1:15; 4:13). But Timothy served with Paul faithfully to the end (2 Tim. 4:13, 21).

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just* ***one*** *or* ***two*** *applications which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

* **While we are young, we can learn and know God’s Word.** From the time he was a baby, Timothy heard God’s Word. You are blessed because you are also hearing God’s Word at a very young age, both at home and in the children’s meeting. There are some things we can all do to help us learn and know God’s Word well: (1) We can listen attentively during our children’s meeting lesson. (2) We can memorize our verses diligently. (3) We can read the Bible (or have our parents read to us). Even if we do not understand everything that we read, that is okay.
* **Timothy learned from the patterns around him.** Many of them were those who were older than him, including his grandmother Lois, his mother Eunice, and Paul who was like a spiritual father to him. They helped him to know God’s word, to have faith in the Lord, and to be useful to the Lord by being a useful co-worker to Paul. Timothy learned from their example. Like Timothy, we can learn from the older ones around us who follow the Lord, including family members. For example, our parents and grandparents may remind us to memorize our verses or to learn good habits like being tidy and responsible.
* **We should be proper in what we do.** Timothy was well respected by others, even though he was young.People knew about him and thought highly of him because he lived and behaved in a way that was proper and faithful. Eventually, Timothy became a pattern himself to the other believers, despite his young age. Even while we are young,we can be a good pattern to those around us, even in the ordinary things we do, like obeying our parents, doing our chores, being respectful to authority and being kind to others.
* **We should remain faithful to the Lord.** There were times when brothers who were laboring together with Paul turned away from him and turned away from the Lord. But Timothy remained faithful. He was young, but he knew what was noble and right. It is not always easy to do the right thing. There might be times when we are tempted to do something sinful because others are pressuring us to do it. We should remain faithful to the Lord and choose to do the right thing.

*Adapted from the Church in New York City Children’s Meeting Lessons: 4/9/95; 2/11/01; 2/11/07; 2/17/13*