

2 TIMOTHY

THE SCOOP ON GOD



TEACH IT HIGH SCHOOL 1 SESSION 2

1. Materials

For this session each student will need—

- the 2 Timothy Scripture sheets
- the student journal page for Session 2
- his or her own Bible, pen, and notebook

You'll also need—

- a whiteboard and markers
- colored pencils (at least one color per student)
- kitchen items for the Life Improv game—See Open for a full list and options. One option calls for spaghetti noodles that will need to be cooked ahead of time.

2. Session Intro

GOALS OF SESSION 2

As students experience this session, they will—

- learn some facts about God that may be new to them.
- see that God gives several provisions that can help them survive their everyday challenges.
- be challenged to let these provisions change the way they do life.

PRAYER

Spend some time with the group praying that their hearts will be softened to the truth they're about to explore.

OPEN

Life Improv

Choose one of the following relay combos below before your session.

- a big bowl of cooked spaghetti noodles, smaller bowls (one for each team), hot drink stir sticks, a large serving ladle or
- a bucket of water, cups (one for each team), small plastic spoons (the smaller the better), a pitcher that will fit inside the bucket or
- a bowl of flour (or cake mix or similar powder), a handled strainer, smaller bowls, a one-cup measuring cup

You'll notice each option contains a small tool (stir sticks, small plastic spoons, handled strainer), along with a larger tool (large serving ladle, pitcher, one-cup measuring cup).

Divide the group into teams. If your group is fewer than 12 students, divide the group into two or three teams. If you have more than 12, see the following Large-Group Option.

Lead the group in the following relay game. (We'll use spaghetti as an example.) Set a big bowl of cooked spaghetti on a table, and place one small bowl for each team near the bigger bowl. Place the large serving ladle beside the big bowl of spaghetti. On "go" the first member of each team will go to the big bowl, and using two stir sticks, move

spaghetti (as much as he or she can get on one attempt) into the smaller bowl. Then that player runs the stir sticks to the next team member. Players take turns until time is called after four or five minutes. The team with the most spaghetti in the smaller bowl wins the relay.

Here's the point: The students will be using an inadequate tool to move a substance from the bigger bowl to the smaller bowl while a perfectly adequate tool sits in plain open sight. You could change the nature of the game by letting one team use the adequate tool and the other team the inadequate tool.

After declaring a winner, use the following postgame interview questions to prompt discussion:

What was frustrating about this game?

What would have made this less frustrating?

Point out that using the perfectly adequate tool would have made the exercise much easier. This question would be particularly pertinent to the team using the inadequate tool if you let a team use the adequate tool.


Explain that this is probably how God sometimes sees us. He's given us everything we need to live out our faith successfully, and he watches us use everything *but* his gifts to handle the unexpected challenges of life. In this session we'll see in 2 Timothy some of his more than adequate tools.

3. Digging In

Getting the Scoop on God

Explain that whenever we study Scripture—from a single verse to a whole book—we should see if it tells us anything about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. After all they're the main characters of the Bible, not the people. The purpose of this session is to see what we can learn about God from Paul's letter.

Tell your students—

- 1. Let's come up with a symbol we can use to designate God, such as a cloud.** 
- 2. Read 2 Timothy 1:1-10 using your Scripture sheets. Mark in colored pencil every mention of God (but not Jesus—you'll be looking for him in the next session).**
- 3. Paul's references to Lord generally refer to Jesus.** (You can also let them put this together for themselves.)

When most have finished, work as a group to uncover as much detail as possible about God. Record the info on the whiteboard, and ask students to do the same on the journal pages. The board will begin to look something like this:

The Scoop on God

- He wills people to be apostles (v. 1).
- He gives grace, mercy, and peace (v. 2).
- He is the Father (v. 2).
- He gives gifts (v. 6).
- He gives a spirit of power, love, self-discipline, not timidity (v. 7).
- He gives power, which enables us to withstand suffering (v. 8).
- He saves us and calls us to a holy life because of his own purpose and grace (v. 9).

LARGE-GROUP OPTION

Divide eight volunteers into two teams of four. Have these two teams compete against each other, and divide the rest of your group into fans for each team. After the relay, interview the teams using the postgame interview questions.



Ask if anyone sees a common thread about God in this passage, and steer the discussion toward the following conclusions:

God knew his followers would suffer because of the gospel—and he knew this suffering could make us timid. So he has given us grace, mercy, peace, and power (everything we need) to overcome the challenges of living in a fallen world.

4. Taking It Inward

Swimming Upstream

The gospel runs counter to our culture. That's why we often experience trials when we follow Jesus. Ask students to write in the chart on the journal pages three challenges or struggles they're facing right now because of their faith. (They should leave the My Reminder column blank for now.)

After a few minutes ask any volunteers to share their struggles. If it's too personal, ask what struggles teens face in general. Here are a few possibilities:

Challenges/Struggles

- They may have family members who aren't believers or are hostile to Christianity.
- They may have friends who aren't Christians; this makes it tough socially and at school.
- They may have workplace pressure or negative attitudes from coworkers.
- They may face pressure to do things with friends that would harm their relationship with Christ.

5. Digging Deeper

What God Did and When He Did It

Divide your group into these four smaller groups:

1. a *What?* group
2. a *Who?* group
3. a *Why?* group
4. a *When?* group

Share—

You may be familiar with the “5 Ws”—the prime questions to ask whenever you want to do more with a Bible passage than just read it: *who, what, when, where, and why*. Take a minute to look again at the info listed about God on your journal pages. Look for the answers to the question assigned to your group:

- 1. *What* group: What has God done?**
- 2. *Who* group: For whom did he do it?**
- 3. *Why* group: Why did he do it?**
- 4. *When* group: When did he do it?**

While your students are looking for answers, write the following headings on the whiteboard. Then ask students to share what they noticed about *what* God did *for whom*, and record this info on the board. Then ask *why* he did it and *when*. Your board will look something like this:

What God has done	For whom?	Why?	When?
<i>given a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline</i>	<i>to us (v. 7)</i>	<i>because of his own purpose and grace (v. 9)</i>	<i>before the beginning of time (v. 9)</i>
<i>saved</i>	<i>us (v. 9)</i>		
<i>called to a holy life</i>	<i>us (v. 9)</i>		

Ask students to share their first impressions of these observations, such as any thoughts or questions they have.

6. Cross-Checking

Open Supply Lines

Your group members will easily admit that struggles and challenges have the potential to make them timid about their faith. But the next exercise should help them build some muscle in the faith department.

Ask your students to—

- 1. Read Romans 8:15-18, 31 from your Bibles.**
- 2. Jot on your journal pages everything you learn about the relationship between our timidity and God's help.**

After a few minutes ask students what they discovered about the relationship between their timidity and God's help. Ask them what promises of God they found most encouraging.

7. Taking It Inward



Cosmic Commotion

Point out that this is all great info about God, but it begs the questions *So what? How is this information useful?*

Ask them to ponder those questions. Then for the next exercise, have them find a place where they can be alone with God. You may want to invite them to move to the various corners of the room, an empty room nearby, or a hallway.

Explain—

Take a few minutes to apply the info you've uncovered about God to the challenges and struggles you listed earlier. Prayerfully consider how these truths about God can help you in each situation. Write yourself a reminder under My Reminder on the journal pages—a statement of resolve you can easily remember based on 2 Timothy 1:1-10. You'll also see additional situations listed on your journal pages. Think about these, too.

You can offer the following if you need to give an example of a statement of resolve and determination:

Challenge: *Classmates, or even teachers, who belittle the Christian faith.*

Reminder: *Because God gave me a spirit of power, I will use that power to stay bold in what I believe.*

After a few minutes call your group back together. Ask volunteers to share some of the reminders they created. As they discuss, help them grasp the fact that these reminders are the tools God gave them to face whatever life throws at them.

8. Wrapping It Up

The Boil Down

Brainstorm ways to keep these truths about God front and center. Boil down this session's information to a brief, forceful, and meaningful phrase that can easily be made into a screensaver, MySpace bulletin, text message, or T-shirt graphic. The key challenge is this: to make God the subject of the phrase as much as possible. Here's an example: *The Scoop on God: He gave. He saved. He called.*

Have the group vote on the best phrase before closing with prayer. Challenge them to keep this message front and center for the next week.