

2 TIMOTHY

MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL



TEACH IT HIGH SCHOOL 2 SESSION 10

1. Materials

For this session each student will need—

- the 2 Timothy Scripture sheets
- the student journal page for Session 10
- his or her Bible, pen, and notebook

You'll also need—

- a whiteboard and markers
- colored pencils (at least two colors per student)

2. Session Intro

GOALS OF SESSION 10

As students experience this session, they will—

- discover a prescription for becoming useful and used in God's kingdom work.
- evaluate themselves and their student ministry in light of the qualities God looks for in people to accomplish his tasks.
- be challenged to pattern their lives after God's standards for leadership.

PRAYER

Pray together that this last session in 2 Timothy will serve as a launchpad for students to live out everything they've learned from this book of the Bible.

OPEN

Job Opportunity

Start with these questions.

What are some ways that God uses people? What have you seen in modern times (as opposed to biblical times)?

Responses might include: evangelism with Billy Graham, serving the poor with Mother Teresa, helping children through Compassion International.

If you had an opportunity to be used by God but didn't know what the task or duty was, would you take the opportunity?

Let the students kick around the pros and cons of saying yes, as well as the pros and cons of saying no.

Then transition into the study by saying something such as—




Lots of us say we'd like to be used by God, but we might be surprised at how many opportunities we miss because we're either not ready or not looking.

3. Digging In

Job Description

Point out that one of the main purposes of Paul's letter to Timothy was to pass the baton to the younger guy so that he could continue Paul's work of sharing the gospel. We, too, are carrying on Paul's kingdom work in the place and time we're living in. That's why Paul's message isn't just for Timothy—it's for us.

Tell the group—

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:15-26 from your Scripture sheets.
2. Mark with separate colors each mention of (1) any actions of God's workmen and (2) any instructions Paul gives Timothy as God's workman.
3. Let's decide on some symbols to use to designate a workman, such as a hard hat, saw, hammer,    or more.

You may want to explain that Paul's main purpose in this passage is to encourage Timothy to be a person God can use. Therefore, *whatever Paul says to Timothy*—descriptions, actions, or instructions—should be marked.

As your students work someone may ask about the meaning of the word *ignoble* (2 Timothy 2:20, NIV). This word is the opposite of *noble*, which Webster's defines as "possessing outstanding qualities" or "possessing very high or excellent qualities." *Ignoble* could be defined as being of low character.

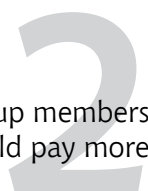
When they have finished ask students to list in the space provided on the journal page what they learn about God's workmen. Challenge them to make their lists as detailed as possible. Then have them check their lists as you read the following info:

Descriptions	Actions/Instructions
<p><i>If a person has cleansed himself or herself from dishonorable purposes, THEN that person... (v. 21)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -is ready to be an instrument for noble purposes (v. 21). -is made holy (v. 21). -is now useful to the Master (v. 21). -is prepared to do any good work (v. 21). -isn't quarrelsome (v. 24). -is kind to all (v. 24). -is able to teach (v. 24). -isn't resentful when wronged (v. 24). -is able to gently instruct those who oppose him or her (v. 25). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved (v. 15). -Live as a workman who does not need to be ashamed (v. 15). -Handle God's Word of truth correctly (v. 15). -Avoid godless chatter (v. 16). -Flee from the evil desires of youth (v. 22). -Pursue righteousness (v. 22). -Pursue faith, love, peace with others who call on the Lord out of a pure heart—a youth group perhaps? (v. 22). -Avoid foolish and stupid arguments (v. 23). -Don't quarrel (v. 24). -Be kind to everyone (v. 24).

4. Taking It Inward

Employee Evaluation

Now make two columns on the whiteboard. Label one Our Group and the other Just Me. Ask your group members to circle three things on the Descriptions list on the journal page that they think your youth group should pay more attention to. As they share what they circled and why, record their opinions in the Our Group column.



Then ask them to circle three things on the Actions/Instructions list that convict them regarding the youth group. Again, ask them to share what they circled and why. Put this info in the Our Group column. Then ask—

What changes do we, as a group, need to make so that these descriptions actually describe us?

What can we do to be more obedient to these instructions?

Now it's time to get personal. Have your students do the same exercises with themselves in mind. Ask them to circle three Descriptions that they're nowhere near living up to and three Actions/Instructions that they haven't obeyed. Then ask for volunteers to share what they circled. Write this info in the Just Me column on the whiteboard.

As you lead this part of the discussion, share that often in the church, we try to have it both ways: We want to be used by God to do great things, but we're not willing to give up our quarrels or our godless chatter—or we don't want to flee evil desires or do what it takes to live holy lives.

Ask the group—

Do we want to be used by God to do great things?

Your group may discuss fears and hesitations, but hopefully their answer will be yes.

**Then are we willing to... (stop quarreling, be more kind to each other, pursue righteousness)?
Complete the phrase with the action or phrase your group struggles with most.**

5. Cross-Checking



On the Job Training

Ask if anyone has ever asked the question “What’s God’s will for my life?” They may not realize it, but 2 Timothy 2:15-26 has just given them a great prescription for knowing and doing God’s will. If for the next several days the students commit to *doing* these descriptions, actions, and instructions in hopes of developing godly habits, they will be *doing* God’s will.

Ask them—

Off the top of your head, name some scenes in Scripture when God called someone to a task.

Responses might include: Noah to build an ark, Abraham to move to a new land, Moses to rescue God’s people, Samson to destroy the Philistines, or many of the prophets, such as Jeremiah.

Did most of the “call-ees” answer God’s call willingly or was there some resistance?

Depending on their responses, it might be a mixture of both.

Tell the group that Scripture is full of situations in which young leaders, including Timothy, wrestled with God’s will or calling on their lives. For the next few minutes, the students will look at three of these situations in solitude. Explain—

1. Find places where you can get alone with God.

2. Take your Bibles, pens, and journal pages.

3. You’ll be reading the passages under Cross-Checking and answering the questions in the chart.

Possible observations are printed here for your reference:

	Moses Exodus 3:4-12	Gideon Judges 6:1-6, 11-16	Jeremiah Jeremiah 1:1-8
What mission was God bringing to this potential leader?	<i>The mission was to rescue God's people from slavery and bring them to a new land.</i>	<i>The mission was to save Israel out of evil Midian's hand.</i>	<i>The mission was to be a prophet to the nations.</i>
What was the leader's response?	<i>Who am I?</i>	<i>How can I do this? I'm the weakest one in the weakest clan.</i>	<i>I don't know how to speak; I'm only a child.</i>
What did God say back to the leader?	<i>I will be with you.</i>	<i>I will be with you.</i>	<i>I am with you.</i>

Call the group back together, and prompt a discussion of these passages using the following questions.

What common denominators did you see in all three of these situations?

- God came up with the plan (not the person in the passage).
- God chose a humble person to carry out the task.
- The potential leader always felt inadequate for the job.
- God never disagreed with the person about his shortcomings or inadequacies.
- God always assured the person of his presence. Evidently, that was enough.

How do these three situations line up with the leadership qualities we've seen in 2 Timothy?

This is a challenging question, and it may be tough to make a connection. But here's the deal: If we have the leadership qualities outlined in 2 Timothy, we will be humble and obedient— traits that appear to be two of God's faves. Humility can certainly trigger the response, "Who me? How can I?" Obedience causes us to move forward when God says, "I will be with you."

What can this teach us about being useful to God?

- A feeling of inadequacy for a task may be the first sign that God wants us.
- We don't need to worry about coming up with a plan; God will supply the plan.

Describe a time when you felt led to do something but also felt woefully inadequate to do the task.

Responses could range from personal size, such as talking about your faith with a friend, to industrial size, such as launching a ministry or a program.

What did you do?

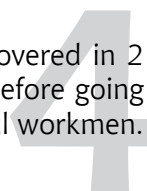
6. Wrapping It Up

Career Advancement

Close the session by brainstorming how the group might get more involved in God's kingdom work. Let the ideas come from the group. But if you need to prime the pump a bit, here are some suggestions:

- We could start a campus Bible club.
- We could host a neighborhood Bible school.
- We could help at a food pantry or homeless shelter.
- We could adopt an inner-city classroom.

After they've tossed around four or five ideas, remind the group of the leadership qualities they uncovered in 2 Timothy (see their lists under Digging In). Point out that if their project is to have God-sized impact, before going any further, they must commit to living out the qualities, actions, and instructions God laid out for useful workmen. If they aren't willing to aim for these character qualities, they won't experience God-sized impact.



FINAL THOUGHTS

Because this is your final session in 2 Timothy, spend a few minutes helping your students reflect on their study experience using one or more of these options:

1. Have your students look over their marked-up Scripture sheets. Ask them to share a specific Wow! moment or express a truth that they never want to forget.
2. Ask them to look over their journal pages and share a favorite session or meaningful exercise.
3. Ask them to share their big takeaway from 2 Timothy. What's the one thing they'll never forget from this book or the one change they have made as a result of this study?