

## 2 TIMOTHY

### THE SCOOP ON GOD



## TEACH IT MIDDLE SCHOOL 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.
- cheap carabiners (a hook with a clasp) and 3x5 cards for each student, a hole punch, and a few permanent markers for students to share

### 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 before the 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).

Lead the group in the following relay game. (We'll use spaghetti as an example.) Divide the group into teams. 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 use two stir sticks to 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 view. You could change 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 it less frustrating?**

*Point out that using the adequate tool would have made it much easier.*


Explain that this is probably how God sometimes sees us. He's given us everything we need to live the Christian life successfully, but he watches us use everything *but* his gifts to handle life's unexpected challenges. In this session we'll see in 2 Timothy some of his perfectly adequate—no, make that perfectly awesome—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 the group—

- 1. Let's come up with a symbol we can use to designate God, such as a cloud.** 
- 2. You are going to 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.)

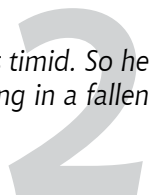
When most have finished, work as a group to uncover as much detail as possible about God. Record the info on the whiteboard, and ask students to do the same on the journal pages. The board will begin to look something like this:

#### 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).

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 or against 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 them 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*

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. Ask *What?* and *Who?* Circle anything that shows *what* God has done for *whom*.**

While your students are looking for this, 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.

<b>What God has done...</b>	<b>...for whom?</b>
<i>He has given a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline...</i>	<i>...to us (v. 7).</i>
<i>He has saved...</i>	<i>...us (v. 9).</i>
<i>He has called to a holy life...</i>	<i>...us (v. 9).</i>

Then ask—

**Two more things. Do you see *why* and *when* he did all this?**

- Why: He did this because of his own purpose and grace (v. 9).*
- When: He did this before the beginning of time (v. 9).*

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 Psalm 118:1-8 from your Bibles.**

**2. Jot down 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?* Give students a minute to ponder those questions. Then explain the following:

**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 can help you in each situation. Write yourself a reminder under My Reminder on the journal page—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:** *I get a lot of peer pressure to cuss.*

**Reminder:** *Because God is my refuge, I can stand up against the pressure.*

After a few minutes ask volunteers to discuss some of the reminders they created. 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*

Distribute a carabiner and 3x5 card to each student. Ask them to write their reminder with a permanent marker on the card and to attach it to the carabiner. Then encourage them to clip their "gear" to a backpack or something similar where they'll see it every day. Share with your students that God has given us the right utensils to survive challenges—just as the opening relay illustrated.

Before closing with prayer have the group vote on the best reminder phrase. Challenge them to keep this message front and center for the next week by texting it to someone in the group.