

2 TIMOTHY

MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL



TEACH IT MIDDLE SCHOOL 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 three colors per student)
- “would you rather” cards, printed out or made into a digital slide presentation (You'll find these at the end of the Teach It guide for this session.)

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

Before the session print or prepare digital slides of the “would you rather” cards located at the end of this Teach It guide. Have each student choose a card and answer the question, or project the cards and have the entire group respond to each question.

If you prefer not to use the cards, simply ask the following questions.

Would you rather...

- **Work 9 to 5 with easy tasks or make up your own schedule with harder tasks?**
- **Work in a big office building or out of a hut in a foreign country?**
- **Make lots of money with no time off or make minimum wage with eight weeks of paid vacation?**
- **Work for your best friend or work for a parent?**
- **Work from your home or work from an office with a great view?**
- **Be a youth pastor in a big city or be a youth pastor in a small town?**
- **Work with a team or work by yourself?**

- Work at a job with lots of travel or work at a job with no travel?
- Be a door-to-door salesman or a telemarketer?
- Live on a small salary while you work but have a great retirement plan or make a large salary with no retirement plan?
- Be a dancer or a choreographer (the person who makes up the dance)?
- Be a mediocre professional football player or a great high school football coach?
- Sell ice cream at Walt Disney World or sell clothing at Hollister?
- Be a famous singer/band member or lead worship at a local church?
- Have someone work for you who couldn't spell or someone who couldn't add?
- Have someone work for you who is always late or someone who always leaves early?
- Be a teacher or a preacher?
- Have someone work for you who talks too much or who never speaks to you?
- Have someone work for you who is lazy or who is bossy?

Finish with the following questions.

Would you rather stay comfortable and hope to be used by God or be uncomfortable and definitely be used by God?

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

What are your fears about working for God?

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 your students—

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 the group has finished, ask them to list in the space provided on the journal pages what they learned 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.

ACTIONS/INSTRUCTIONS

- 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 board. Label one OUR GROUP and the other JUST ME. Ask your group members to circle the one thing on the Actions/Instructions list 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—

What changes do we, as a group, need to make 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 the one item on the Actions/Instructions list that they're nowhere near living up to, something that they haven't obeyed. Then ask volunteers to share what they circled. Write this info in the Just Me column on the board.

As you lead this part of the discussion, share that we often try to have it both ways in the church: 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

Find out 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 actions and instructions in hopes of developing godly habits, they will be *doing* God's will.

Tell the group that Scripture is full of situations in which young leaders like Timothy wrestled with God’s will or calling on their lives. For the next few minutes, they’re going to look at two 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 Scripture passages listed under Cross-Checking and answering the questions in the chart.

Possible observations are printed here for your reference:

	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 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>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 am with you.</i>

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

What common denominators did you see in 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 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?

6. Wrapping It Up

Career Advancement

Close the session by brainstorming how the group might get more involved in God’s kingdom work. Have them write out their *how* at the bottom of the student journal page. Let the ideas come from the group. But if you need to prime the pump, here are some suggestions:

- As a group, adopt a child from Compassion International.
- Volunteer at an after-school program.
- Help at a food pantry or homeless shelter. (These may be age-restricted.)
- Visit a nursing home.



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?

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or

make up your own schedule with harder tasks?

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or

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or

out of a hut in a foreign country?

Would you rather...

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Would you rather...

Make lots of money with no time off

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make minimum wage with eight weeks of paid vacation?

Would you rather...

Live on a small salary while you work but have a great retirement plan

or

make a large salary with no retirement plan?

Would you rather...

Work for your best friend

or

work for a parent?

Would you rather...

Be a dancer

or

a choreographer (the person who makes up the dance)?

Would you rather...

Work from your home

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Would you rather...

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a great high school football coach?

Would you rather...

Be a youth pastor in a big city

or

be a youth pastor in a small town?

Would you rather...

Sell ice cream at Walt Disney World

or

sell clothing at Hollister?

Would you rather...

Work with a team

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Would you rather...

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lead worship at a local church?

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