



## TEACH IT TALK SESSION 1

This talk guide is just that: a guide. It's not intended to be a manuscript to read aloud. It's here to give you ideas, structure, and stories to blend with your personal study (Prep It) as you prepare your talk.

The content complements the other Teach It guides and allows you to speak on the same topic the students are studying in other settings (like small groups) without too much overlap.

### 1. Materials (Optional)

- Movie trailer: *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*
- An 8-foot table

### 2. Optional Openings

#### MOVIE TRAILER

To locate the trailer for *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* on the DVD, choose Special Features, then Theatrical Trailers. Select Final Trailer, and play it in its entirety (total time: 2:43). Or select and show Teaser One until 1:03. You can also find these trailers online.

The clip's key lines are "Fate has chosen him. A fellowship will protect him. Evil will hunt him." These words could also be the subtitle for the book of 2 Timothy, as a key Scripture used in this talk will demonstrate. Be sure to connect the phrase "A fellowship will protect him" with what God has given us to overcome the evil around us: power, love, and self-discipline.

#### QUOTATIONS

Share these quotations to introduce the concept that God can and will call us to things that we couldn't imagine accomplishing on our own.

**I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much.**  
—**Mother Teresa (1910-1997, humanitarian and missionary, founder of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India)**

**I myself do nothing. The Holy Spirit accomplishes all through me.**  
—**William Blake (1757-1827, English illustrator and poet)**

**Next to faith this is the highest art—to be content with the calling in which God has placed you.**  
—**Martin Luther (1483-1546, German monk, theologian, and Protestant Reformation leader)**

**God places the heaviest burden on those who can carry its weight.**  
—**Reggie White (1961-2004, NFL football player, ordained minister)**

#### VISUAL/INTERACTIVE

Before your students gather, set up an 8-foot table in the front of the room or onstage. Begin the talk by asking how many students think the heavy table can be lifted using fingertips only. Then ask 10 volunteers to come and space themselves at equal distances around the table. Have them place their fingertips underneath the edge of the

table. (Emphasize that they should only use their fingertips.) On the count of three, tell them to lift the table using fingertip power only.

Connect this illustration with the point that God gives us everything we need to do the things that appear impossible. Transition into your talk by saying something like—

**It's easy to forget that God gives us everything we need to do the things that appear impossible. And quite often the everything is made of people who've been around us all along.**

### PERSONAL STORY

Tell a story about a time when you (or someone else) were entrusted with something of great value. The story can have a good or a bad outcome. Here's one that ended tragically:

**When my mom was a teenager, she once was given the responsibility of feeding the family canary. I say *once* because under her care the canary went straight to canary heaven. Mom was diligent to check the bird's food tray every day. And every time she checked, the tray was full. *This is easy*, she thought. The bird hardly ever needed a refill. What she didn't know is that after birdseed is eaten, it leaves a shell that *looks* like seed. The canary died of starvation. It had a tray of shells, but no food.**

Continue with—

**God entrusts us with responsibilities that we may not think we can handle. Imagine what it would be like if you were suddenly asked to report to duty tomorrow as the CEO of a huge company. You'd be clueless. You'd be sitting there, straightening files, sharpening pencils, and hoping no one would ask you a question. But then someone asks you something, and strangely, you know how to answer it. Then another question comes, and you know it. Then another. And suddenly you realize that you have the know-how to do exactly what you need to do.**

God gives us what we need to do hard things—even seemingly impossible things.

### 3. Digging In

Continue with—

**Remember a time when you were chosen to be on a team? Maybe it was when you were on the playground as a kid. Or the first time you tried out for a sports team. Remember the feeling you had when you were finally chosen? A feeling of acceptance. A feeling that somebody thought you were capable of performing. A feeling of relief.**

**Or do you remember the first time you received applause for performing? Maybe it was a recital or a band contest—or in your living room when your mom made you play the piano in front of visiting relatives. Do you remember a feeling of accomplishment? Think about how far you have come from the first time you put your fingers on a keyboard or the strings of a guitar or a set of drumsticks. You probably never thought you'd get to the point of playing well enough for applause.**

#### OPTIONAL MIX-INS

You may want to point out a few expositional points about 2 Timothy:

*-Within a few years of Jesus' ministry on earth, several church leaders began to write letters to churches and believers, helping them apply the message of the gospel.*

*-These letters later came to make up most of the New Testament. One of these letters is 2 Timothy.*

*-Paul wrote 2 Timothy to a guy named Timothy. Paul was nearing the end of his life and ministry, and Timothy was just starting out.*

#### PERSONAL STORY OPTION

Tell a personal story about when something similar happened to you. Here's an example:

I've always been a fearful person, especially when it came to snow skiing. I like to ski, but I've not been one to stray off the trail. I guess I might be considered a cautious, careful skier. You never see me off the trail. Over the years I've improved and have taken some lessons, even from one of the top ski instructors in the country (as rated by a national ski magazine). Instructors have often encouraged me and told me that I'm a way more capable skier than I think I am—that I should go after more challenging slopes and terrain. I appreciated that, but I was happy to stick with my easy, moderate runs, guaranteeing I'd make it home with all my bones intact.

One day as I was skiing, a heavy fog quickly settled in—the kind of fog that's like soup. I could hardly see the end of my skis. I knew how to get home, so I launched out on the trail I thought would get me there—an easy run, no problem. At some point I noticed the trail was getting steeper than I expected. That's when I stopped to ask directions of another skier in the fog. I waited a second or two after I asked. No answer. So I asked again. No answer. I waited a couple more minutes. It's then that I realized I was talking to a tree. I was that lost. And the fog was that thick.

I finally worked my way down to the bottom. It was tougher than I expected, but I made it. When I got my bearings I realized I didn't come down the mountain as I had intended. Instead I had just skied a black-diamond run, one of the hardest runs on the mountain. My ski instructor had been right. I should have listened.

Continue with—

Following Christ can be a lot like that. Some of us here are just getting started in this journey. Some of us aren't sure we even want to take this journey. Sometimes it's hard to imagine having what it takes to follow Christ.

The task can seem huge—impossible, going by our human abilities. But God has been planning this moment since the beginning of time. Paul encouraged Timothy that he wasn't alone in this effort in 2 Timothy 1:3-7:

I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:3-7)

Paul said that Tim had been given a “spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline” (v. 7)—and Tim had also been given the fellowship of good friends, including Paul.

Think about something you're struggling with right now: a temptation, a challenging circumstance, a frustration. What would it look like if you responded to that situation with a spirit of timidity? Would you stand a chance?

#### 4. Taking It Inward

Continue—

Now picture responding to that situation with the things God has given you. Picture responding through a spirit of power. Not just any power—but power from God.

The Greek word for power Paul used here is *dunamis*. Raise your hand if that word *dunamis* sounds familiar. It's where we get the word *dynamite*. *Dunamis...dynamite*. That's the kind of

power God is talking about. Think about tapping into a power like dynamite in order to live boldly as a Christian...or beat depression...or shake off temptation...or overcome whatever challenges you have at home.

Paul also said Timothy had been given a spirit of love. Picture responding to your circumstances—whatever situation you're in—with a spirit of love. Ask yourself, *How would love respond to this? How could love change the situation?* Picture responding with a spirit of love to an antagonistic coworker or to a classmate who puts you down for believing in Jesus or to a friend who colossally let you down.

Paul also said Timothy had been given a spirit of self-discipline. Believe it or not, you and I are given that same spirit. You can also translate *self-discipline* as sound judgment. *The Message* translation of the Bible uses the word *sensible*.

Picture yourself using—or even *having*—common sense in a hard situation you're facing. Having common sense sometimes means removing your emotions and letting “right” rule the day, not just “want.” In other words, under the Spirit's guidance, we start to know and do what's right, not just what we want to do. Think about using a spirit of self-discipline to resist sexual temptation (or *any* temptation for that matter)...or to make wise, godly decisions...or to stay on top of your school work. Many of those temptations present themselves to us as “got to have it or I'll miss out” options. When in reality there's nothing to miss out on except some short-term fix. When you remove the emotion or the sexual energy, you see that the “got to have it” pressure is just crazy. Your sensibilities take over and you're able to walk away, undamaged.

Finally, grab hold of the fact that you don't have to face the situation alone. Timothy had Paul. Shaggy had Scooby. The Lone Ranger had Tonto. Luke Skywalker had Obi Wan Kenobi. *You* have God's Spirit, who lives in you. And if you have a hard time picturing that, picture God's Spirit living in the people around you. They're here to help you, too.

Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 1:13-14—

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

## 5. Wrapping It Up

Finish with—

**God calls us to something bigger than ourselves. But know this: God is applauding for us. He wants us to win. He's given us everything we need to ensure success. He's entrusted us with the gospel—to live it, to spread it. And he's given us everything we need to ensure that we succeed.**

**Will we use what he's given us? Will we rely on our Pauls for the help we need? One of our first points of contact to experience the power God spoke of comes in the form of people God has placed around us—people who can do what Paul did to Timothy: speak life into us, remind us of what's inside us, and encourage us to be bold.**

Close by asking students to focus on one of the spirits God has given to believers: power, love, or self-discipline. Ask—

**Which of these do you need most right now?**

Give students time to pray alone or with a mentor or friend.