The Bible helps us know God

Grades 1–5 • 60 minutes • 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Luke 24:27

What children are learning

Timothy began learning Scripture as a child. The Bible can help children trust Jesus, too. They'll find Mark 1:17 with you and hear Jesus invite two fishermen to follow him.

Before class

For you. Mark 2 Timothy 3:14–17 for today's reading and Psalm 119:105 for the memory verse. Find Mark 1:17 in advance so you can help the children look it up during the activity.

Print before class. Print pages 5 and 7 for each child. Keep an extra copy of page 7 to demonstrate. Print one family page (page 6) per household.

For the table. One Bible with a table of contents, page 7 for each child and for you, and pencils or crayons for page 5.

Words children may ask about. Scripture: the writings in the Bible. Bible reference: the book name, chapter number, and verse number that help us find a passage.

Teach with care. A welcoming response to questions helps beginners feel at home with the Bible. The Old Testament prepares for Jesus; the New Testament tells of Jesus and his church.

A note for the teacher. This outline is here to help you prepare and teach. As you teach, feel free to adjust the pace, change an activity, or spend more time on a child's question as the Holy Spirit leads you.

When the children arrive, begin on page 2. Teach pages 2–4 in order.

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0–5 min · Welcome the children

Begin. Hold up a closed Bible. “Suppose you want to find the part about Jesus calling fishermen. Where would you start looking?” Let someone show you where they would look.

5–10 min · Worship and opening prayer

Worship together. Sing a familiar song of praise. If you are leading without music, invite each child to finish “God, thank you for…” aloud or quietly.

Pray. God, help us listen as we open the Bible. We want to know Jesus better. Amen.

10–23 min · Open the Bible together

Lead into the reading. Timothy learned from the Bible when he was a child. Paul wrote him a letter much later. Listen for what Paul says those early lessons helped Timothy do.

Read aloud. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 aloud from your Bible. Pause briefly before you ask the first question.

Background for you. These notes draw on 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Luke 24:27. Use a detail if the children need help making sense of the reading.

Timothy learned the Scriptures when he was young. Later, Paul reminded him to keep learning and trusting what God had taught him. Children can learn God's Word too.

The Bible includes history, songs, letters, and more. God worked through human writers. Scripture teaches truth, shows when we are wrong, and helps us learn to live God's way.

After Jesus rose, he walked with two travelers who were puzzled by what had happened. He helped them understand what Scripture said about him. We can ask for help with our questions too.

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23–31 min · Talk about what you heard

Ask. When did Timothy start learning the Scriptures?

Listen for. When he was little!

Keep talking. Paul says the Scriptures can make us wise about being saved through faith in Jesus. What’s something you’d like to learn about Jesus?

Connect to Jesus. When Jesus had risen from the dead, he helped two travelers see what the Scriptures said about him. When we read the Bible, we can look for what it tells us about Jesus, too.

31–47 min · Bible address guide

Give out the materials. Give each child page 7. Keep the class Bible open to the contents page where children can see it.

Try it together. Read Book, Chapter, and Verse from page 7. Invite one child to find Mark in the contents, a second to look for the big 1, and a third to find the little 17. Bring the Bible around so everybody can see. Read Mark 1:17. Ask, “Who is speaking? What does Jesus invite the fishermen to do?”

For younger children. Help a child match the 1 on page 7 with the big 1 in your Bible. You can do the page turning.

For older children. Let a child guide you to Mark 1:17 while you turn the pages. Ask which part would help someone who has never opened a Bible before.

Tidy up. Keep the pencils or crayons out for page 5. Ask children to set their finished work beside them.

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47–51 min · Give children a moment to respond

Offer the student page. Give out page 5 and read the two boxes aloud. Each child can choose one. Listen to a few ideas while they work. A child can take the page home to finish.

51–55 min · Remember a verse

Read and echo. Pretend to hold a lamp low beside your feet. What does the light help you see? In Psalm 119:105, what guides us that way?

55–60 min · Take it into the week

Ask. If you opened your Bible tomorrow, what would you like someone to help you find?

Pray together. Lead the children in a prayer about what they learned today.

Example prayer. God, help us understand your Word and know Jesus more.

At the door. Send home each child’s work. Give one Family Connection page to each household.