**1. Motivate**

When have you seen a person’s mannerisms resemble someone influential in his or her life?

* a student grows a goatee and smokes a pipe like his favorite professor
* a child starts quoting political preferences like that of his parent
* young people dress like a favorite performer
* when people buy and wear jerseys with the number and name of a famous sports personality
* people dress and speak like the more popular people in their peer group
* people who belong to motorcycle clubs dress and groom alike
* young professionals will dress up to go to work

**2. Transition**

Consider how your mannerisms, attitudes, and actions influence those whom you mentor.

* When we mentor and shape someone’s life, our goal is to lead those we disciple to a place of spiritual maturity.

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_j6212g7e> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/bdcjk3aj>

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Mentoring through Partnership and Observation

Listen for a new opportunity.

Acts 16:1-5 (NIV) He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. 2 The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. 3 Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

Why do you think Paul chose Timothy as his companion on his missionary journeys? What qualities or characteristics do you see in Timothy that might have made him an ideal choice?

* Mother a Jewess
* also a Christian
* Father a Greek
* probably multilingual, multi-cultural
* had a good reputation in the local churches

According to the passage, the churches in the region were strengthened in their faith daily. What do you think contributed to this growth and strengthening of the churches?

* teaching and preaching of Paul and Silas, testimony of young Timothy
* they made known the decisions of the Jerusalem Council
* this made it easier for Gentiles to become Christians – no longer forced to also adhere to Jewish laws (circumcision, various sacrifices)

How can we apply these principles in the ministries of our churches today?

* focus on preaching the truth of the Gospel
* allow God to change the behavior and lifestyle once they become Christians
* realize a person’s repentance and faith in Christ are the main thing
* God’s Holy Spirit will deal with cleaning up people’s lives

Paul was known for adapting his approach to different cultures and contexts. How can we follow his example in our interactions with people from different backgrounds, cultures, and belief systems?

* be aware of people’s attitudes and lifestyles
* don’t preach at or demean their backgrounds or cultures
* focus on demonstrating the love of Christ
* keep the main thing the main thing – the need to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior
* God will work in their lives to change what needs to be changed

3.2 Mature Disciples Disciple Others

Listen for how to replicate a ministry.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV) You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

What words and phrases suggest the deep relationship between Paul and Timothy?

* calls him “my son”
* reminds him of all the teaching he has heard Paul give
* suggests that Paul’s teachings are worth Timothy’s teaching to others

Paul tells Timothy to “be strong.” What does Paul mean by being “strong” spiritually?

* endure hardships
* don’t let opposition get to you
* when people in the church complain don’t get discouraged
* resist temptations
* grow stronger spiritually …
* work at your ministry skills … counseling, teaching, preaching

The source of Timothy’s strength was to be the “grace that is in Christ Jesus.” Why was it essential for him (or us today) to find strength in grace? What does that mean?

* grace is the blessings God gives that we don’t deserve (unmerited favor)
* we don’t deserve God’s help to be strong, but He gives it anyway
* we don’t have the strength, we cannot conjure it up
* our strength is human and is insufficient for the spiritual opposition to be faced
* humanism says that you can do anything you put your mind to
* reality is that we need the indwelling presence of God’s Holy Spirit to empower and guide us

What was Paul’s plan for ensuring the spread of the gospel?

* Timothy was to disciple people in the church
* teach them spiritual Truth
* train them to be teachers also
* teach them how to train others to be teachers
* Timothy was to replicate himself, in a sense

What is the point of training others … why is this not just “passing the buck?”

* it’s the principle of multiplication or exponential growth
* if I can train two people to live for Jesus and they in turn can each train two and so on, we end up doubling the kingdom in every cycle
* in 10 cycles/repetitions of this process, one person on fire for God can grow to more than 1000 such people (210 = 1024)

Consider the following qualities a believer should have to be a disciple maker. Why are these important qualities?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Quality | Why important? |
| * Friendly, personable * Good knowledge of scripture * Good communicator * Able to focus on what’s really important * A good role model, an exemplary life * Filled with the holy spirit * Willing to follow directions of those in leadership | * attract others, not put them off * good foundation, able to share with authority of God’s Word * must be able to share, get across spiritual principles * not easily sidetracked, has correct priorities * genuine, not a fake, a credible Christian * led by the Spirit, empowered by the Spirit, depends on the Spirit for strength * not a “Lone Ranger”, works well in a team situation |

3.3 Ongoing and Growing Walk with Christ

Listen for a sober “heads up” from Paul.

2 Timothy 3:10-12 (NIV) You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11 persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

What words and phrases tell us how Paul modeled the kind of life he desired for Timothy?

* teaching
* lifestyle
* purpose
* faith
* patience
* love
* endurance
* persecutions
* sufferings

Why would a maturing spirituality not only involve avoiding bad influences from your past, but instead, continuing to follow good examples of godliness?

* suppose you do away with some influences in your life
* then a sort of “power vacuum” occurs
* we will be influenced by someone or something
* even the idea of repentance requires not just turning around, turning away from sin
* it also involves heading in the other direction … following those good examples

Paul is reminding Timothy of what he (Timothy) had learned from him (Paul). What kinds of folks were a positive influence on your life as a young person?

* parents, grandparents
* youth worker
* pastor
* camp counselor
* older sibling

What was it about them that caused you to want to follow their example?

* positive, rarely critical
* always enthusiastic about the Lord
* quick to share what God was doing in their lives
* always ready to pray for you, with you
* obviously knowledgeable about the Scriptures

The passage states that "all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (verse 12). How do you reconcile this truth with the modern idea of a comfortable and prosperous Christian life?

* don’t be surprised when people treat you badly because of your relationship to Christ
* Paul assured Timothy that the Lord rescued him
* we too often expect (or are told) that following Jesus will solve all our problems
* certainly we have the assurance of eternal life and God’s presence in our lives
* we can have spiritual peace, knowing the forgiveness of sins
* at the same time an ungodly world will mistreat those who follow the way of life they hate and/or reject

What can we learn from his example about responding to adversity and opposition?

* stand firm for God’s Truth
* trust that God will make Himself known, whatever happens
* know that obedience to God is worth the risk

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

A group of people and a dog

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Evaluate.

* Examine your life in light of the qualities listed in 2 Timothy 3:10.
* Thank God for the areas where you see growth and ask Him for wisdom and strength in growing in other areas.

Mutually support.

* Meet with another believer and discuss together the qualities listed in 2 Timothy 3:10.
* Help each other evaluate your progress and work together in helping each other grow.

Mentor.

* Now that this six-session study on mentoring is complete, find someone you can disciple.
* Walk alongside this individual, mentoring and discipling even as Paul did with Timothy.

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Description automatically generatedCartoon of a person in a trench coat

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Description automatically generated Double Puzzle

I’m back from my secret assignment in Tiusnga Isey. While there a street vendor passed me the message blank you see below. A streetcar conductor slipped the key (at the left) into my pocket without me knowing it. The persecuted church there wants you to know this important principle. Unscramble the clue words taken from the Bible passage noted above. Use the numbers to fill in the blanks of the message. Technical help and further fun Family Activities can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/bdcjk3aj>