**1. Motivate**

When have you really enjoyed learning something?

* how to cook
* how to sew
* took a class in woodcarving
* went to a conference on using a graphing calculator
* went to a music teacher’s conference
* went to a workshop on using technology in teaching
* took a painting class at a Disney resort
* when we took classes for the Campus Crusade “I Found It” outreach program
* went to a Bible Study teachers’ conference

**2. Transition**

Over a lifetime we have many learning opportunities.

* God’s Word is the most important thing to learn
* Regular study of God’s Word keeps us firmly grounded.

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_nxzheopw> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/477pm24c>

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Diligent to Study God’s Word

Listen for a warning and an exhortation.

2 Timothy 2:14-15 (NIV) Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

What instruction was given to Timothy in verse 14? What were they to avoid in dealing with others who heard their instruction?

* repeated reminding his congregation of important facts
* worn the people against worthless “hair splitting” debates
* quarrelling, arguing, and nit-picking does much harm

What are the results of quarreling about words and involvement in godless chatter?

* it is of no value
* it ruins those who listen
* such people end up being more and more ungodly
* the teaching spreads like a disease
* they end up wandering away from the truth
* destroys people’s faith

What are some of the hottest topics of arguments in churches today?

* the color of the carpet/walls/pew cushions
* should the piano be on the right or the left on the platform (should it even be on the platform?)
* there are too many/not enough worship choruses
* we have too many/not enough called staff
* the instruments play too loud/soft – and why do we need drums on the platform?
* the music director always has the same people do special music
* the sermons are too negative/long/boring/personal/ …

What are some of the motives behind these arguments?

* people want things to go the way they like them to go
* no one else is going to tell me how I should sing/teach/dress
* arrogance
* defiance
* selfishness

Instead of getting involved in these arguments and motives, what did Paul tell Timothy to strive for? With what attitude were faithful teachers to approach their work?

* present yourself to God as an approved workman
* correctly handle the Word of Truth
* build on the solid foundation of God’s Word, God’s Truth
* turn from wickedness, point others in the same direction

How do you think that properly handling (dividing) God’s Word makes us useful?

* it is the Truth in God’s word that really changes people (as applied by the Holy Spirit)
* recall the parable of the sower … the seed took root on good ground … we may need to prepare the ground
* you must study God’s Word to know what to communicate
* when we are reading and heading God’s Word in our own lives, we will be more useful because we are obeying and applying it

How do we *become* workmen approved by God?

* live according to the teachings of God’s Word
* communicate not your own opinions, but the Truth of God’s Word
* immerse yourself in that Truth … reading, thinking about, applying God’s Word to your own life
* don’t pursue the approval of other people above the approval of God
* keep the main thing, the main thing … involvement in ministry, not in arguing the minutia of how someone or other ought to live their own life

3.2 Grounded in Truth

Listen for consequences of empty speech.

2 Timothy 2:16-19 (NIV) Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

Paul told Timothy to avoid “godless chatter.” What is the danger of engaging in such talk?

* involvement in such talk causes increase in ungodliness
* that kind of conversation spreads and poisons others
* Paul uses the phrase “destroy the faith of some”
* discourage people who end up walking away from a close relationship with God

On what can true believers depend if they are to be known as the people of God who are striving to honor the name of Christ through righteous living?

* God’s Word is a solid foundation that stands firm
* if we build/base our live on God’s Truth, our lives will withstand the “storms” of life
* you don’t become totally discouraged
* you are assured of God’s powerful presence in your life, no matter what happens
* you learn to trust God in all situations

What do you think our culture gets wrong about God’s Word?

* claim it is just a bunch of stories, many of them myths
* people come to believe they can pick and choose what they are going to believe and what they can reject
* believe the Bible has obvious contradictions
* claim it is not up to date, it’s thousands of years old, not applicable to modern life

What are examples of irreverent and empty speech we should avoid?

* double entendre jokes and stories
* arguments about things that don’t really matter
* being a news junkie – no matter which is your political leaning
* focusing on all the bad things going on – health, young people today, politics
* being in the habit of constantly complaining and finding things wrong

How do you change your daily speech to weed out senseless and godless chatter?

* allow God to clean up your act, put Jesus on the “throne” of your life
* fill your mind with good things … Scripture, godly writings
* avoid entertainment full of ungodly language and situations
* don’t hang out with folks who have vocabulary full of expletives
* avoid folks who are constantly complaining and gossiping about others

3.3 Benefit God’s Kingdom

Listen for benefits of obeying biblical teaching.

2 Timothy 2:22-26 (NIV) Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

According to verse 22, how should a servant of the Lord approach those who need to hear the gospel?

* kindness
* good teaching practices
* gently instruct
* trust God’s Holy Spirit to persuade/convict/convince hearers to repentance

What gift from God comes to those who accept the knowledge of the truth?

* escape the trap of the devil
* set free from guilt of sin
* be being set free from the power of sin

How will your life change because of regularly (more than once a week at church) studying God’s Word?

* made aware of God’s working in the lives of individuals
* realize God’s accomplishing His purposes despite the failures of people
* learn of God’s love
* discover God’s power to change lives, to meet needs, to protect, to direct
* learn God’s goals for those who trust Him
* discover glimpses of some of God’s ultimate plans for those who follow Him, and for those who reject Him

How does the Word of God impact your pursuit of godliness?

* it is how we learn that the very God of the universe wants a personal relationship with each of us
* discover that God likes you and wants to do good things for you
* discover a wonderful purpose for your life
* learn of God’s power, authority, and love
* seems like the Bible speaks specifically to your need, whatever and whenever it is

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

Application

Step 1

* Evaluate your overall disposition toward those who follow the world’s various distortions of God’s Word.
* Ensure that you are demonstrating a gentle spirit rather than a combative attitude.

Step 2

* If you don’t have one, consider purchasing a good study Bible.
* Consult with your pastor or other trusted leader for a good recommendation.

Step 3

* Start studying a book of the Bible more in-depth.
* Perhaps you could ask another believer to study with you for mutual accountability.

Cryptogram Puzzle



One of our operatives in Ikhstan Tswalandhai secreted this coded message into our consulate. He wanted to remind Christians in the West of the value of God’s Word to believers. Use the key on the right to determine the letters represented by the symbols in the message. The “Hello World” sample below shows how the code works. Spiros the Spy is depending on you! Technical help is available at <https://tinyurl.com/477pm24c> along with other Family Activities.