

Teaching Plan
EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Date: June 2, 2019
Lesson Title: "Entrusted"
Lesson Passage: 1 Timothy 1:3-17

ABOUT THIS LESSON

Timothy and Titus were young pastors who were carrying on work that Paul had delegated to them, Timothy in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3) and Titus on the island of Crete (Titus 1:5). In the Bible passage for this lesson (1 Tim. 1:3-17), Paul urges Timothy to deal decisively with "peddlers of false teachings"; then he mixes practical advice to his son in the ministry with his own personal testimony.

TEACHING/LEARNING GOALS

- (1) Explain why Paul wanted Timothy to remain in Ephesus.
- (2) Summarize Paul's testimony concerning his experience in Christ.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Display the words, "PASTORAL EPISTLES," then explain: 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus are known as "PASTORAL" epistles because they contain instructions to two young pastors, telling them how to care for the "flock of God." Paul was constantly on the move, opening up new territory for the gospel and rarely lingering long in one place. Since he was continually crossing new frontiers, he had to leave others behind to stabilize and maintain the work he had begun. Timothy took over in Ephesus (see 1 Tim. 1:3) and Titus was left in charge of the church in Crete (Titus 1:5). Paul wrote these letters to advise and encourage these young pastors as he went on to carry the gospel into new territory. *SUGGESTION: A map of Paul's missionary journeys will be useful for teaching this lesson.*

TEACHING PROCEDURES

1. Refer to Paul's urgent request that Timothy "stay on at Ephesus" (1 Tim. 1:3) and explain why this might have been his main reason for writing this letter: (1) After stopping briefly at Ephesus toward the completion of his second missionary journey (Acts 18:19-21), Paul returned to the city during his third missionary journey and worked for two years to establish a church there (Acts 19:1, 9-10). (2) Eventually, he felt led to continue his gospel mission in Macedonia (see Acts 20:1), but he was concerned about leaving behind the heretical teachers who could undermine the faith and the fellowship of the church in Ephesus. So, he urged Timothy to remain there in order to straighten out these problems. NOTE: Paul was giving Timothy no easy assignment. The fourth largest city in the Roman Empire, Ephesus was immersed in pagan religions. The city was a major center of Roman emperor worship; and it was home to the world-famous temple of the Greek goddess Artemis (the Roman Diana). And the teaching of error within the church was even worse than these external threats to the gospel.

2. Comment on Paul's description of the "certain individuals" whose false teachings were laden with error (1:3-4,6-7): (1) They were teaching "differently" (1:3). That is, their ideas were different from the truth revealed in Christ. (Refer to 1 Tim. 6:3-4.) (2) Rather than teaching sound doctrine, they were devoting themselves to "myths and genealogies." NOTE: Paul's allusion to "Jewish myths" in Titus 1:14 probably explains what he means by this. From early times some rabbis would embellish the inspired record with imaginary yarns. (3) Fancying themselves to be great teachers of the Old Testament law, they were arrogant and dogmatic, even though they didn't know what they were talking about. (v. 7). (4) Paraphrase what Paul is saying in 1 Tim. 1:3-4,6-7: "Tell those false teachers to stop spending their time on fictional stories and long lists of ancient ancestors. Those things only produce stupid discussions; they have nothing to do with God's plan for us, which we can know by means of faith."

3. Interpret 1 Tim. 1:5: Here Paul explains the basic reason for the instructions he has just given. His purpose is to cultivate love, rather than a vain show of superficial learning, love that comes from a heart that is free of sin, a pure heart (a conscience that does not accuse others of wrongdoing) and a faith in Christ that is genuine.

4. Explain Paul's comments on the Law in 1 Tim. 1:8-10: (1) Laws are needed for evildoers. If all men were good, there would be no need for laws. (1:8-9a.) (2) Review the catalog of sins in vv. 9b-10: "Lawless" (those who disregard right and wrong). "Disobedient" (undisciplined, contemptuous of authority). "Ungodly" (defiant, arrogant). "Sinners" (no moral standards). "Unholy and profane" (those who have no respect for God). "Murderers of fathers and mothers." APPLICATION: The National Council on Aging estimates that 5 million seniors are abused each year. "Manslayers" (see Mt. 5:21-22). "Immoral persons and sodomites" (adulterers and homosexuals). "Kidnappers" (kidnappers, slave dealers). "Liars and perjurers" (people who have no regard for truth).

5. Summarize Paul's testimony in 1 Tim. 1:15-17: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself was the worst sinner in the world. But God was merciful to me, in order that Jesus Christ might be able to show the full extent of his patient goodness by saving me. And since I was the worst of sinners, I serve as an example for everyone who from now on will believe in Christ and receive eternal life."

CLOSING THE LESSON

John Newton (who wrote "Amazing Grace") felt what Paul says in 1 Tim. 1:15. On his tomb in Olney, England, are these words: "John Newton, Clerk, once an infidel and libertine...was by the Mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Preserved, Restored, Pardoned and Appointed to Preach the Faith..."

Lucien Coleman P.O. Box 2951 Weatherford TX 76086 682-262-1312