

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Acts 16:1-5; 2 Timothy 1; 1 Timothy 4:12
- In This Passage: Paul is traveling when he meets a young man named Timothy. Timothy is well-liked and has a lot of leadership potential, so Paul invites him along on the journey. Paul also ends up writing a couple of letters to Timothy, encouraging him to grow in leadership.
- Bible Point: God's family raises up new leaders.
- Summary Verse: "Then Peter replied, 'I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right' " (Acts 10:34-35).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God's family raises up new leaders*. Unless kids have naturally emerged as leaders in school, they probably don't think of themselves as having leadership potential. Most leaders they see are adults, and they may not have considered ways they can lead as children. This lesson can be an empowering time where they feel important and equipped as leaders in God's family.
- Think About: Who have been influential leaders in your life? What characteristics did they have?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray for kids to have the confidence to lead by example.

Quick Tip

- Look for ways to give kids simple leadership roles each week. You might ask some friendly kids to be greeters, some techie kids to help you set up the sound equipment, some shy kids to help you with setting out supplies or cleaning up, and some loud and boisterous kids to help you lead a game. By giving leadership tasks to a variety of personality types, you'll help continue the message that you're raising them *all* up as leaders.

This Lesson at a Glance



MUSIC VIDEO

Preschoolers sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “No Matter What I’m Facing” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” (watch or download [here](#))
- “I’m Trusting You” (watch or download [here](#))



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Recommended for elementary kids.

Supplies

- “In Honor” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible*



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers roll playground balls into each other.

Supplies

- playground balls



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers are called into a group, travel, and receive a letter.

Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- envelope
- upbeat music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Fold a piece of paper, and put it into an envelope. Place the envelope in a Bible.



DEEPER BIBLE

Preschoolers dig deeper into 1 Timothy 4:12.

Supplies

- Bible*



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Classroom: Monkeys

Preschoolers play Follow the Leader.

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a version of Duck, Duck, Goose.

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



CRAFT

Preschoolers make leadership flags.

Supplies

- craft felt (1 sheet for every 2 preschoolers)
- Glue Dots
- paint stir sticks (1 per preschooler)
- craft foam stickers

Easy Prep

- Cut the felt sheets in half diagonally.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers do a fingerplay.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



MUSIC VIDEO
No Matter What I'm Facing

[10 min]

Supplies

- “No Matter What I'm Facing” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” (watch or download [here](#))
- “I'm Trusting You” (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can choose your own worship songs from our Best Of Dig In Music DVD [here](#).

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO In Honor

[10 min]

Supplies

- “In Honor” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or purchase DVDs [here](#).

Discuss and Watch “In Honor”

Say: **We’re learning that God’s family raises up new leaders.**

Ask: • **Tell about someone you see as a good leader.** Share your own example first.

Say: **Let’s see how a good leader changed someone’s life.**

Watch “In Honor.”

Ask: • **What made Mrs. Kelly such a good leader?**

• **What’s something you’ve learned from a good leader?**

Say: **God’s family raises up new leaders. We all have good leaders in our lives...and they can help encourage us to grow into good leaders, too! Just as Mrs. Kelly made this girl want to be a teacher, or how Paul encouraged Timothy in the Bible, good leaders can help us learn to lead, too.**



OPENING Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible*

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers stack their hands in a cheer and say, "I love Jesus!"
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say "happy birthday" five times as fast as they can.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we'll learn God's family raises up new leaders. So let's start by talking about people who show us what we want to be like.**

Share

- Share about a grown-up *you* hoped to be like when you were a kid.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about a grown-up *they* hope to be like.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Those people are leaders! Leaders help people follow Jesus more. And the Bible tells us all about leaders! We'll learn about some today. Let's get started.**

Pray, praising God that his family raises up new leaders.



OBJECT LESSON

Keep On Rollin'

[10 min]

Supplies

- playground balls

Transfer Energy Between Playground Balls

Say: **We've been learning that God's family raises up leaders. Paul helped Timothy be a good leader. Then Timothy traveled around to help people be friends with Jesus. Let's see what some playground balls can show us about that!**

- Have preschoolers sit with their feet in front of them, lined up so they make a narrow lane.
- Set a playground ball in the middle of the lane.
- Have one child roll another playground ball down the lane so it hits the first. It works best if the balls hit head on, so the narrower the lane, the better kids can aim.
- Point out that the ball that was rolling stopped (or slowed down), and the second ball kept rolling.
- Let every child have a turn. (If you have a lot of preschoolers, you can split into multiple lanes and give each lane a set of balls. Have an adult or teen helper at each lane.)
- You can also put two or three balls in the lane and see what happens when you hit them with the ball.

Talk About It

Say: **The one ball helped the other ball get going! That reminds me of how Paul helped Timothy get going to tell people the Good News and do big things for Jesus.**

Ask: • **Who helps you do big things for Jesus?**

Say: **Our church is full of people who want to help you do big things for Jesus! God's family raises up new leaders—like you!**



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Paul Raises Up Timothy (Acts 16:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 1)

[20 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- envelope
- upbeat music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Fold a piece of paper, and put it into an envelope. Place the envelope in a Bible.

Tip

- You can purchase downloadable music and other items to enhance your DIG IN program [here](#).

Join the Group

Say: **Today we'll find out God's family raises up new leaders. Our Bible story starts out with a leader named Paul. Paul traveled to a new city. I'll be Paul, and you'll be people in that city.**

Have kids stand around the perimeter of the room while you stand in the middle.

Say: **I'll play a song, and you sing along. But if I point to you, it means I think you're a leader! Come and join me.**

Begin playing music. Then point to kids and call their names. When kids join you in the middle, give them high-fives and say: **God's family raises up new leaders.**

Invite those kids to be leaders by pointing to other kids and having them come join the group. Continue until everyone is in the group with you.

When the song ends and everyone has joined the group, say: **While Paul was traveling in one city, he met a guy named Timothy! He thought Timothy would be a good leader, just like I thought you would be! Paul invited Timothy to travel and help tell people about Jesus.**

Let's all be Paul and Timothy and travel around our room!

Travel

Say: **Let's start by walking to another city!** Lead kids in walking to another city. After a while, announce that you've arrived, and invite kids to say, "Jesus loves you!"

Say: **Let's take a donkey to the next city!** Lead kids in pretending to ride donkeys around the room. Arrive in another location and invite kids to say, "Jesus loves you!"

Continue in this manner, traveling by boat, on a horse, and in a carriage.

Say: **Paul and Timothy traveled all around, helping more people love Jesus! And Timothy became a good leader.**

Eventually, Paul and Timothy went different places. But Timothy kept leading God's family on his own! God's family raises up new leaders, and Timothy was able to keep on going without Paul.

Receive a Letter

Classroom: Monkeys

Say: **But that doesn't mean Paul was done helping Timothy become a good leader! Paul wrote Timothy some letters to help him know how to be a good leader. And those letters became part of the Bible!**

Pull out the envelope. Say: **Here's a letter right here! Let's see what it says.**

Open up the letter.

Say: **Paul said, "Timothy, don't let anyone think less of you because you're young." Hold up fingers to show how old you are. Pause.**

Even though you're just little, you can be a leader for Jesus! Look back at the letter. Paul also said, "Timothy, set an example by how you live." Act out doing something really nice, like helping with dishes. Pause.

Great helping! Helping sets a good example.

Paul wrote, "Timothy, I pray for you!" Let's fold our hands like we're praying. Pause.

Paul wrote, "Timothy, remember the people who helped you get to know Jesus!" Point to your head like you're remembering something. Pause.

Ask: • **Who has helped *you* get to know Jesus?**

Say: **Paul wrote, "Timothy, get better at the things you're good at." Act out something you're good at. Maybe you can sing or color really well. Pause.**

Say: **You can use the things you're good at to be a leader for Jesus! God's family raises up new leaders.**

Paul also said, "Timothy, don't be scared!" Make a scared face, and then relax. Pause.

Paul wrote in his letter, "Tell people the Good News about Jesus." Let's do that one more time. Everyone shout, "Jesus loves you!" Pause.

God's family raises up new leaders. Paul's time with Timothy and his letters to Timothy helped Timothy become a great leader! I hope our time together helps *you* become leaders for Jesus, too! Like Timothy, you can help people know all about Jesus' love.



DEEPER BIBLE I'm an Example!

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bible*

Set an Example in What You Say

Say: **I'm going to read to you a sentence from one of Paul's letters to Timothy.**

Read 1 Timothy 4:12.

Say: **Even though you're young, you can be a leader! You can lead grown-ups by setting a good example. Let's learn some ways you can be examples!**

You can be an example in what you say! Let's practice saying some kind and polite things.

Lead kids in practicing saying "please," "thank you," and "you're welcome." Kids can also think of other nice and polite things to say, and say them, too.

Say: **When we use our mouths to say kind things and not mean things, we're good examples!**

Set an Example in the Way You Live and Love

Say: **You can also be an example in the way you live and how you love other people.**

Lead kids in thinking of ways to show love to others. Examples might include giving hugs or high-fives, or drawing pictures for people. Let kids practice anything they can do easily right there.

Set an Example in Your Faith

Say: **You can be an example of believing in Jesus! You can say things about Jesus that help other people know and love him. Let's say some things about Jesus.**

Have preschoolers repeat after you. They can also add their own ideas if they want!

- **Jesus loves you.**
- **Jesus is awesome!**
- **Jesus forgives you.**
- **Jesus wants to be your friend.**
- **Jesus is with you.**
- **Jesus takes care of you.**

Say: **Great job! Sometimes grown-ups need reminders about Jesus. When you say things like we just said, you can be a good leader. God's family raises up new leaders.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Follow and Travel

[10 min]

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tips

- If you chose the Craft option for this week, do it first and let kids use their flags as they play.
- You can purchase downloadable music and other items to enhance your DIG IN program [here](#).

Play Follow the Leader

Say: **God's family raises up new leaders. Timothy followed Paul to new places until he was ready to be a leader who told about Jesus on his own. Let's follow each other around!**

- Lead kids around the room in a fun way, changing the way you walk or going under tables, over chairs, and so on.
- If you'd like, play music during the game.
- Let kids take turns being leaders to follow.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you like about being a leader in this game?**

Say: **God's family raises up new leaders. I loved getting to see you be leaders during our game! And you can be important leaders for Jesus by telling people about his love and setting an example of how to love Jesus.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Paul, Paul, Timothy

[10 min]

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- You can purchase downloadable music and other items to enhance your DIG IN program [here](#).

Play a Version of Duck, Duck, Goose

Say: **We're learning about how God's family raises up new leaders.**

Paul chose Timothy to be a new leader. Let's play a game about that!

- Have each adult or teen helper take a small group of preschoolers.
- Have groups each sit in a circle to play Duck, Duck, Goose.
- One person will walk around their circle and tap kids' heads. With each tap they will say either "Paul" or "Timothy."
- When someone is called "Timothy," that child will get up and chase the Tapper around the circle, trying to tag the Tapper before he or she can sit in the empty spot.
- If you'd like, play music during the game.
- Repeat as time allows.

Talk About It

Say: **Paul chose Timothy to be a leader because people who knew him thought he was a good guy. And Timothy loved Jesus!**

Ask: • **What's one good thing about you?**

Say: **God can choose you to be a leader, too! I'll help you become good leaders because God's family raises up new leaders.**



CRAFT Follow Me Flags

[20 min]

Supplies

- craft felt (1 sheet for every 2 preschoolers)
- Glue Dots
- paint stir sticks (1 per preschooler)
- craft foam stickers

Easy Prep

- Cut the felt sheets in half diagonally.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make a Leadership Flag

Say: **God's family raises up new leaders. When I hold up my flag, I'm the leader! Do what I do.**

Hold up your sample craft, and do a few simple motions for kids to copy. Then follow these directions to help preschoolers make their own leadership flags.

- Have preschoolers use Glue Dots to stick the edge of their craft felt triangle to a paint stir stick.
- Allow preschoolers to decorate their flags using craft foam stickers.

Play

Say: **Now let's take turns being leaders!**

- Have everyone stand in a circle and set their flags down on the ground in front of them.
- Choose one child to be the first leader, hold up the flag, and do some motions for everyone to copy.

Classroom: Monkeys

- After a few turns, remind the child that God's family raises up new leaders. Encourage the child to point to a new leader, who will pick up their flag as the first child puts his or her own flag down.
- Continue in this manner until several kids have had turns to be leaders.

Talk About It

Say: **God's family raises up new leaders. This game helps you practice being a leader and choosing new leaders! When you take your flag home, you can play with your friends and family, and hand the flag to a new person when it's their turn to be a leader. Remember to be a leader by giving other people turns to lead!**

Encourage preschoolers to take their crafts home and play the game with their friends and family.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

I'm a Leader, You're a Leader

[5 min]

Do a Fingerplay Prayer

Say: **Today we learned that God's family raises up new leaders. Let's ask for God's help being leaders with a fun prayer.**

- Lead kids in repeating this fingerplay and doing the motions.

I'm a leader, *(point to self)*

You're a leader. *(point to someone else)*

God, help us lead well. *(make praying hands)*

I'm a leader, *(point to self)*

You're a leader. *(point to someone else)*

Help us be examples. *(make praying hands)*

I'm a leader, *(point to self)*

You're a leader. *(point to someone else)*

Help us show your love. *(make praying hands)*

I'm a leader, *(point to self)*

You're a leader. *(point to someone else)*

God, help us lead well. *(make praying hands)*

- Pray: **God, thank you that your family raises up new leaders. Thank you that we can be leaders for your family, at any age! In Jesus' name, amen.**
- Thank kids for coming to church, and tell them you hope to see them next week.