

★ Keeping the Faith

The Last Days of Paul

Lesson 3

The Teacher's Preparation

Scripture Passages to Study: II Timothy 4

Study Guide: Read “Keeping the Faith: *The Last Days of Paul*” from *New Testament Highlights - Part 2*.

Lesson Objective: Paul had every right to tell Timothy to keep the faith because he had kept the faith even when trials came into his life.

Lesson Application: If Paul could go through so much and still keep the faith, we should be able to keep the faith, too!

Memory Verse: II Timothy 4:7

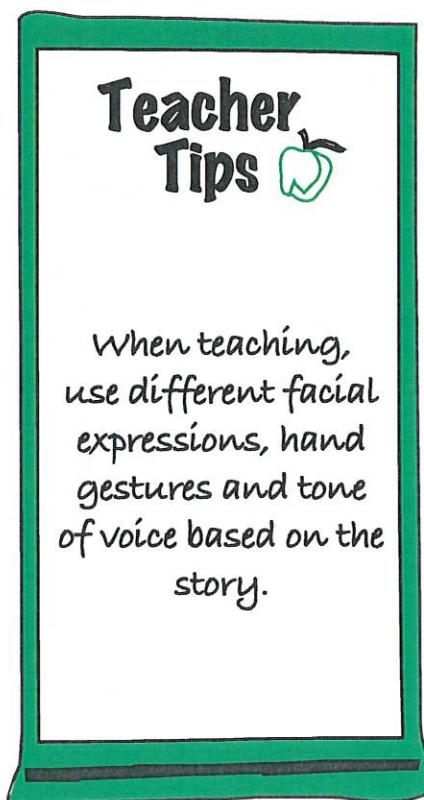


I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith

—II Timothy 4:7

The Teacher's Checklist

- Activity Worksheets and Pencils
- Attendance and Record Notebook
- Lesson Plan
- Cue Card
- Memory Verse Card
- Music Player
- Visual Illustrations for the Lesson
- Attention Getter: Book



The Teacher's Lesson Plan

Materials: Book

You may use a book for this illustration or any other items listed in the second paragraph.

What You Could Say:

In Ecclesiastes 7:8, we read this: “*Better* is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof...” King Solomon, the man who said those words, was the wisest man who had ever lived on this earth (other than Jesus Christ, of course). In the book of I Kings, we read that “God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore... he was wiser than all men... And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth...” This king was so wise that men and women from all over the world came to hear what he had to say.

Let us look again at what King Solomon said in the book of Ecclesiastes: “*Better* is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof...” He is saying that end of something is better than its beginning. You may be wondering what that means. Let me give you some examples. If you like making model cars, which would you rather be doing: reading the instructions on how to build a model car or setting your finished model car on the shelf for all to see? If you like running races, which would you rather be doing: starting a race and worrying about winning or crossing the finish line? If you like reading books, which would you rather be doing: learning about characters or discovering which of those characters committed the crime?

Even the end of a life is better than its beginning. Though it may be sad for family and friends, the homegoing of a saved soul is far better than anything on this earth. He or she will go to Heaven to be with the Lord. In today's lesson, we will learn about the Apostle Paul's last days—his end—on this earth.

Teacher's Notes

A teacher who
is attempting
to teach without
inspiring the
pupil with a
desire to learn is
hammering on a
cold iron.
—Horace Mann

★ Keeping the Faith

The Last Days of Paul

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 3

We have learned a lot about the life of Paul. Paul was a great apostle who did many great works for the cause of Christ. God used him to write much of the New Testament. We have read about the letters he wrote to the churches. He taught new Christians many things that God wanted them to know. Paul started out as a man who didn't serve Jesus. He persecuted Christians. But later, Paul believed in Jesus and lived the rest of his life serving God.

In this lesson, we are going to learn about the end of Paul's life. The book of II Timothy is a letter that Paul wrote to a pastor named Timothy. Paul wanted to encourage Timothy to live for God and keep the faith. Paul had spent much of his life helping the Christians in the new churches. Paul realized before he died that someone was going to have to keep the faith after he died. He wanted to make sure Timothy would be able to carry the torch of the Gospel, so that it wouldn't die out.

The Testimony

Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

—II Corinthians 11:24-30

Paul had every right to tell Timothy to keep the faith because he had kept the faith even when trials came into his life. Paul went through many hardships as a Christian. He was beaten and put in prison. He was shipwrecked and stoned. He went through trials that many Christians don't ever have to experience. Yet, in spite of everything that happened, he still kept his faith in Jesus Christ. He still lived for God. Paul had an amazing testimony of staying true to God no matter what.

One of the last things Paul said was "I have kept the faith." If Paul could go through so much and still keep the faith, we should be able to keep the faith, too! Sometimes people may make fun of us because we do things differently. We dress differently than most people in the world. We listen to different music. However, even when people make fun of us or don't like what we do, we still need to live for Jesus.

The Charge

Paul wanted Timothy to stand for Christ! During Paul's life, he took a stand for what was right. He stood against the Roman gods. He preached to the people in Rome about how wicked their false religion was. This kind of preaching did not make him popular, but Paul still preached what was right.

Paul knew that he was soon going to be in heaven. He wanted Timothy to be able to stand for what was right. Paul wanted Timothy to be an encouragement to the churches. We should be an encouragement to those around us. We should be kind to people and help them do what is right. We should not make fun of people who are trying to do what God wants them to do. We can be a help to others by writing encouraging notes like Paul wrote letters. Is there someone to whom you can write an encouraging note?

The Application

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

—II Timothy 4:7-8

Paul stood up for what was right. He knew that he had done what God wanted him to do, and when his time was almost gone, he was ready to see Jesus. Paul's life was a testimony to others to live for God and keep the faith. Paul encouraged people to do right. Even when horrible things happened to him, he did what was right and served God.

What about you? Do you encourage others to serve God? Do you stand up for what is right? Some day, every person will stand before God and give an account of his life. We need to live our lives so that, at the end of our journey, we can confidently say, "I have kept the faith."

Teacher's Notes
