



Authorised Mess — 1 TIMOTHY

Your details

Name: Hannah Middleton

Church: Ponteland Methodist Church

Bible book	1 Timothy
Theme of session	Sharing God's love with others.
Notes	<p>Timothy's background was mixed—he had a Jewish mother and a Greek father. He was a disciple of Paul and was therefore entrusted to spread the 'good news' of Jesus and the new wave of Christianity that was spreading. These were challenging times and many people didn't want change—they were happy with the traditional Jewish teachings. Remember that Christianity at this time was not as we know today; it was a mixture of the old Jewish customs and Jesus' teachings. Paul and his followers such as Timothy really had their work cut out. They were not always welcomed warmly.</p> <p>The main message within 1 Timothy is to spread the good news of Jesus in various ways, which is what we try to offer in this session.</p>

Session details

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Younger participants	Whisper game	Get everyone to sit in a circle. First person chooses a word and passes it on to the next person, and so on. When the last person has been told the word, see if it is the same as the word you began with.	None	Reinforces how difficult a job Timothy had when many people had conflicting views about Christianity.



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Older participants	Pass the parcel	Play pass the parcel—a challenge or question (and sweet) should be placed at each layer. Challenges might include: invite/tell a friend about Messy Church; write an article about Messy Church for a local newsletter; tell your teacher about Messy Church; deliver Messy Church posters to the local library. Questions: If you met Jesus what would you like to ask him? What do you think Jesus likes to eat? What might Jesus say to you? What is great about Jesus being your friend?	Questions or challenges written on paper, sweets (optional), wrapping paper, music for background.	Timothy was being challenged to pass the good news on to others, but he too had questions about Jesus.
Girls	Wooden spoon Timothy's	Draw a face on the spoon and add hair. Attach pipe cleaners to the handle to make arms. Finally, put a tissue paper tabard over the spoon.	Wooden spoons, felt tip pens, wool, glue, pipe cleaners, tissue paper.	Timothy had a great deal of travelling to do, now Timothy can travel with them to the celebration time!



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Boys	Obey the rules	One person is blindfolded and has to be talked through the course by others.	Set up an obstacle course using chairs, tables, cushions and any other items available.	Timothy had to listen to God and obey him.
Word-based	Cress heads	Stick the paper around the pot and then decorate it. Place some moistened cotton wool inside the pot and sprinkle with cress seeds. Finish by placing a stick inside with the printed label attached.	Yoghurt pots, paper, glue, cotton wool, water, cress seeds, felt tip pens, stickers, lolly sticks, labels with printed verse from 1 Timothy 6:13.	'God gives life to all things' (1 Timothy 6:13).
Food-based	Gingerbread people	Decorate the gingerbread with the icing and sweets. Now place on a plate with the words 'God loves you' around the edge.	Gingerbread people either bought or made, tubes of icing, sweets, paper plates, pens.	We all belong to God's family and he loves us as he did Timothy and all who wanted to follow him.
Explores global aspect of faith	Love God's family	Encourage everyone to find pictures of people that feel friendly to them, cut them out and stick them on the card. Ask everyone why they choose their pictures of people.	Large sheet of card with the heading 'Love God's family'. Travel brochures, newspapers and magazines. Scissors, glue.	Timothy was teaching people to accept and love all of God's people. We should try to do likewise.



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Quiet	Secret letters	Write down five things you will try to be good at in the future, such as keep your room tidy, sharing, helping a member of your family. Now place these five 'promises' into an envelope and seal it. Only you know what is inside but only you know if you keep your promises.	Paper (different colours), pen, envelopes.	Paul was always sending letters to his friends such as Timothy, and Timothy sent some to Paul too. Timothy also had to keep promises, but he did not always find it easy (1 Timothy 3:14).
Really messy	Messy race	Take off socks and shoes. Step into a tray of paint and then walk across the paper—adults helping children as necessary. Wash feet. When the paint is dry, add the words 'Run your best in the race of life' (1 Timothy 6:12).	A roll of wallpaper, paints, trays, washing-up bowl, water, towel.	Encouragement to run the race.

Celebration suggestion

As part of the act of worship, involve the children in a treasure hunt in the church, if possible, to discover the name of different things inside, such as font, communion table, Bible, hymn book, candles, lectern, organ, pulpit, pew, hassock, cross, flowers, choir area and so on. If the treasure hunt cannot be in the church, you could use pictures of these items instead; alternatively, use familiar areas and items from your space.



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Timothy was busy teaching lots of new ideas to many people. However, they didn't find it easy to remember everything they were told. But what Timothy was trying to say was the church is about the people—they are the most important and precious thing. The church is a lovely building and may have many nice things inside, but it needs people to make it come alive.

Song ideas

- ✿ 'Our God is a great big God' from *Great Big God* CD, Vineyard Records. For details, see <http://greatbiggod.com/>.
- ✿ 'Be bold, be strong' from *Songs of Fellowship*, No. 3. For details, see www.eden.co.uk.
- ✿ 'We really want to thank you Lord' from *Songs of Fellowship*, No. 1 (no. 586). For details, see www.eden.co.uk.
- ✿ 'If I were a butterfly' from *Songs of Fellowship*, No. 1 (no. 208). For details, see www.eden.co.uk.
- ✿ 'Think of a world without any flowers' from *Junior Praise*, No. 254. For details, see www.eden.co.uk.
- ✿ 'Great, great, brill, brill' from *Songs of Fellowship*, No. 2 (no. 741). For details, see www.eden.co.uk.
- ✿ 'He's got the whole world in his hands' from *Complete Mission Praise*, No. 225. For details, see www.eden.co.uk.
- ✿ 'It's love that makes the world go round'

Meal suggestion

- ✿ Chicken/vegetable soup.
- ✿ Pitta pockets with Greek salad.
- ✿ Greek yoghurt and honey; gingerbread people (made in the activity); or honey biscuits and fresh fruit.

Faith in Homes suggestion

Talk about members of the family who pass on stories or faith stories to younger generations, like Timothy's mother and grandmother did.