



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 71

GOD BREATHED THE SCRIPTURES

The Scriptures are able to carry us through times of evil and trial.



MONDAY

THE STORY: 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9

There will be terrible times in the last days. Paul wrote this letter to Timothy from prison in Rome believing that his execution was close at hand (see 4:6). Paul warned Timothy, who was in Ephesus, about the evil that he is sure to confront in his ministry. As Timothy continued caring for the young churches, Paul wanted him to be aware of the evil around him, that he might guard against it and protect the church.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Are we in the last days? (Yes, we are in the last days and will be until Jesus returns.)

Is there evil today like the evil Paul describes? (Yes we have the same evil around us, but children are often protected from knowing much about it by their parents.)

Why is disobedience to parents on the list with these other sins? (Children sometimes falsely assume that disobedience to their parents is not serious. In fact, disobedience by children toward their parents is wicked in the sight of God. That is why children need to repent of their sin and turn to Jesus. They are just as much in need of a Savior as adults.)

PRAY:

Pray that we would see the evil in our own hearts and cry out to God for forgiveness through Jesus Christ.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-15

God's word is an anchor in terrible times. After painting a pretty dark picture of sin, Paul contrasted the wickedness of the world with the righteousness that comes to God's people. Paul offered his own life as a testimony of God's grace and then encouraged Timothy. In the midst of great evil and persecution, God's grace would be available through Scripture which is God-breathed.

Although men wrote scripture, God spoke through men so that they wrote the words God wanted them to write. God breathed the scriptures by his Holy Spirit. Peter spoke of it this way: "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit," 2 Peter 1:20,21.

As a result of God directing the process, scripture is not the mere words of men. It is the actual words of God to us. That is why reading the scriptures sustains us and serves as an anchor in terrible times.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does Paul mean when he tells us scripture is God-breathed? (Draw your children out about how it could be that, even though men wrote scripture, God is the author. Use the analogy of a pen. Write something with a pen and ask them if the pen wrote the lines. Of course, the pen did make the marks, but you used the pen as an instrument to write your words. Men, in a manner of speaking, were the "pens" of God.)

How do the scriptures help us in terrible times? (The scriptures can fill us with hope; correct us if we start to follow an evil path and strengthen us so that we are equipped to do good works even in the worst of times.)

PRAY:

Thank God for giving us His Word.



**WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

THE STORY: 2 TIMOTHY 3:15

The scripture is God-breathed and is able to lead us into righteousness. It is able to “make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” The purpose of the scripture, all of the Old Testament and New Testament, is to point to the salvation available through Christ’s death on the cross. Jesus told His disciples on the road to Emmaus how the Old Testament pointed to him (see Luke 24:27). The Bible is not first a book of rules, but a book of faith. Salvation does not come by works, but by faith (see Ephesians 2:9).

TALK ABOUT IT:

When did Timothy first begin to hear the scriptures? (Timothy first heard the scriptures as a very small child.)

What does Paul say the scripture is able to do in the midst of difficult times? (The scripture is able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.)

Will the scripture do the same for us today? (Yes, that is why it is so important for us to train our children from an early age in the scripture. The only hope anyone has, is to be convinced of the Gospel and place their trust in Jesus Christ.)

PRAY:

Pray that God would use the scripture to touch the lives of all the children of your family.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: 2 TIMOTHY 3:16,17

The ministry of the Word sustains the church in terrible times. Paul finishes his exhortation to Timothy by charging him to preach the Word. Paul opened his letter to Timothy charging him to guard the good deposit of sound doctrine (2 Timothy 1:14) and that theme continues here. If we believe that the Bible is God's Word, able to sustain us in terrible times, then the only logical thing to do is to proclaim it!

Paul first encouraged Timothy personally and here instructs Timothy to care for the church and to do the work of an evangelist, preaching to unbelievers. Clearly Paul has in mind the time he spent proclaiming the word of God to combat false doctrines that threatened to corrupt the church.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is sound doctrine? (Sound doctrine is the accurate teaching of the Bible. Doctrines are the truths the Bible teaches. Doctrine includes truths like the fact that Jesus was both God and man; that he lived a sinless life and that he rose from the dead. The word "sound" means true or trustworthy and accurate.)

Why do men reject sound doctrine? (Sin would love to convince us that we can do what we want. If we preach sound doctrine it tells us that our sin is wrong. If we change what we preach to allow us to continue in our sin, we don't feel as bad. People want their teachers to encourage them. Take giving for example. The Bible teaches us that we should give money to God and others. That is not good news to the sin of greed in our hearts. Wouldn't it be easier for a rich man if His pastor taught that God wanted all men to be rich in money, instead of teaching them that God wants all men to be rich toward God? If we maintain sound doctrine we cannot change what the Bible says.)

PRAY:

Lift up your pastors in prayer and ask God to help them preserve and proclaim sound doctrine in your church.



**FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

THE STORY: ISAIAH 59:20,21

Paul refers to this passage in Romans 11:26-27. Jesus is the Redeemer who will come to Zion. The covenant spoken of is the New Covenant in Jesus blood that he introduced at the last supper. “In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” (Luke 22:20).

Notice also the promise God makes to sustain His Word. The words of Isaiah and the words of Christ have been written down for us to read and embrace. We are some of the descendants God is speaking about. His Word will carry on forever!

TALK ABOUT IT:

When will God’s Word depart and no longer be needed? (God’s Word is eternal and carries on forever.)

Did you know the Bible talks about you? (Yes, we are included when the Bible mentions “the mouths of their descendants”. Each time we proclaim God’s word we are helping to keep God’s word alive forever.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help you believe His Word and then proclaim His Word.