

2 timothy 2:1-2 lesson 4 a very important message

Welcome and Play Time 10 Min

These lessons are designed for 2-6 year olds. If you have older children in your group this is a great time to train them to help look out for the younger ones. Watch to see if an older child in your group might have the skills to lead the children's portion of the small group in the future and give them portions of the lesson to lead. Assign the other older children (7-12) to the younger ones (1-6) that need more help sitting still or coloring. Encourage the older ones to take responsibility and make it fun!

Use this time as people are arriving for the kids to get comfortable with each other and settled in so that Mom and Dad can enjoy small group.

Bible Lesson Activities 20 Min

Activity 1 - Mixed up Message: Today we are learning about the important message God has for us and how careful we need to be in passing that message to others. Have the children stand in a row and whisper simple messages to the first child in line and have the kids pass it on. Have the child at the end say the message out loud. **Was the message the same as it started? What happened to the message along the way?**

Activity 2 – Pony Express: God wants us to guard the message he gave to us and pass it on carefully much like the riders of the Pony Express. Explain a little about the pony express: (read facts below and summarize for kids)

The horseback relay mail service was established to provide the fastest mail delivery between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California ... traveling right through El Dorado County. The Pony Express was short-lived . beginning April 3, 1860 and ending in late October 1861 with the completion of the Transcontinental Telegraph.

80 riders, including 14-year-old William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who made the record single run of 322 miles, were employed to race between the 190 stations, switching horses every 10-15 miles and averaging 75 miles per run-day or night, in all kinds of weather, across 120° F deserts or snowbound Sierra passes through El Dorado County. The Pony Express National Historic Trail was established in 1992 to preserve the trail and commemorate those who rode it.

Pony Express riders were lured to the job with the following ad:

Wanted. Young, skinny, wiry fellows. Not over 18. Must be expert riders. Willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred.

The riders chosen were around 20 years of age, the youngest being 11 and oldest in his mid-40s. Not many were orphans and all weighed around 120 pounds. They were paid \$100 per month.



Have a relay race much like the riders of the pony express. Use a "pony" (stick horse, yard stick, bigger kid) and take turns running around the room with a "special message" (rolled piece of paper with Bible verse on it). Have other kids be coyotes and Indians (make the sounds but no touching) to help understand the tough road the riders had. Was the message delivered the same as the one sent? Why did they have to guard the messages? Would you be scared?

Bible Story Time 10 Min

Have a small snack for the kids like pretzels or cheerios to help encourage quiet mouths and listening ears. Pray and thank God for the snacks and for the Message he's given us.

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7 (ESV)

1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. 5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. 7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

Discuss with the children what the verses mean. Talk about what it means to be strong in Christ. What message is it that God has given us to guard? (the Bible) What does it mean to entrust something with someone? (entrust: To give over (something) to another for care, protection, or performance) Who were some people that Jesus taught? (the disciples) Do you know that when the Bible uses the word "disciple" it is really saying that these men were "learners"? You are all disciples right now because you are learning truth about God!

We need to read the Bible and memorize what it says so that we can know the truth of God's message and so that we can carefully pass it on. Do you know any verses from the Bible? Would you like to learn one?

2 Timothy 2:2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

(Use motions to help children remember the words...have kids help with making up the motions)

Coloring Sheet 10 Min

Have older children help the younger children with their coloring sheet. Talk about the Bible reading as you color. Help reinforce the Bible verse and what it means as they color.

Closing/Clean Up 5 Min

Clean up and make sure everyone has shoes on, coloring sheets in hand and everything is put back in the room.



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2 Timothy 2:2