

Lesson Plan

Passage: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Cross References:

- **Preach the Word** - Acts 10:34-43.
- **Be ready in season and out** – Matthew 26:36-44; Luke 12:25-40; 2 Corinthians 9:1-5; Titus 3:1
- **Reprove** –Proverbs 9:8, 19:25; Revelation 3:19.
- **Rebuke** –Proverbs 13:1, 17:10, 24-25 , 27:5; Luke 17:3-4; 1 Timothy 5:1, 20; Titus 1:7-14.
- **Exhort** –Acts 2:40, 11:23, 13:15; Romans 12:8; 1 Thessalonians 3:2, 4:13; Hebrews 3:13, 12:5-6, 13:22; 1 Peter 5:12; Titus 2:15
- **Be self-controlled** –1 Cor 9:25-27, Proverbs 25:28, Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Timothy 1:7, 3:3.

Exegetical Idea:

We are to set our hearts on Christ's appearing by holding fast to the truth and fulfilling the ministry.

Pedagogical Idea:

The way that we fulfill the ministry is by preaching the message, staying ready, reproof, rebuking, exhorting. As we do these things, we must remain self controlled, endure hardship, and do an evangelists work. Christ will count as righteous those who are faithful.

Lesson AIM(S)

- **Cognitive (Head):**
The students will understand what it means to preach the message, be ready, reprove, rebuke, exhort, and be self controlled.
- **Affective (Heart):**
That the students would long for Christ to return, and for Him to award them the crown of righteousness.
- **Behavioral (Hands):**
That students would continue to evaluate their lives in these areas, personally and with an accountability partner, based on the list of questions provided. That they would repent and ask for help in the areas where they are weak, and that they would continue to persevere in the areas where they are strong.

Hook

(10 Minutes)

1. VIDEO CLIP FROM *Rudy*:

- a. Show Clip – “Scene where Rudy finally gets to play”
- b. Provide a brief explanation of the plot of the movie to the students.

Rudy is a movie about a boy with a dream he cannot awaken from. All his life, Rudy (Sean Austin) and his family watch football on television. If Notre Dame is playing, the game is almost a religious experience. The scrawny little kid does his best on the high school team, with an unrealistic desire to one-day wear the uniform of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

In order for that to happen, Rudy must do two things: Get grades good enough to ensure acceptance into one the country's most prestigious universities, and then try to secure a position on one of the country's top university football teams. Rudy has no shortage of people telling him why this can't be done-- his father (Ned Beatty) being the most persistent at offering such advice.

If you have the same lack of interest in this contact sport that I do, your first impression may be to pass this one by. But Rudy really isn't a football film. While the story features a come-from-behind kid with guts (like dozens of other sports movies), it is not all about looking for glory. Instead, it's about having enough persistence and determination to try to reach your dreams, no matter what the odds. It recognizes that scoring a winning touchdown in the final moments of the last game is not what makes a hero. And the plight of the undersized protagonist with the oversized ambition exemplifies emotions that even lethargic guys like me can relate to.

Based on a true story, Rudy leaves you with new motivation to tackle your most difficult goals. Although the language in Rudy is somewhat rough (with references to deity as well as other profanities), parents and teens may still benefit from its messages of hard work and determination. “The little football player that could” reminds us that even impossible dreams are worth believing in.⁶

- c. Setting the hook:
 - i. What was Rudy's goal?
 - ii. How long did Rudy train?
 - iii. What obstacles did he face?
 - iv. What was his reward?
 - v. How long did it take him to get there?

2. TRANSITION

In this passage, we are going to look at what faithfulness looks like - how we can train ourselves to be faithful, and what the reward will be.

⁶ <http://www.parentpreviews.com/movie-reviews/rudy.shtml>

Book

SHORT INTRODUCTION (10 minutes)

Ask the members of the group what they know about the book of 2 Timothy. After group members have had a chance to respond, add information that they haven't mentioned.

1. Who is the author or speaker? What do you know about Paul? What is his background?

Key Points:

- The author is Paul.
- Paul was a Pharisee who was persecuting Christians, ravaging the church, going from house to house, dragging both men and women off and putting them to prison.
- God revealed himself to Saul, and chose him to preach the gospel
- Paul became a travelling missionary, and took the gospel to many people.
- Paul was put in jail several times and suffered much for the sake of the Gospel.

2. Why was this book written? What was the occasion of the book? What are the implications of that?

Key Points:

- Paul wrote the letter to instruct and encourage Timothy.
- Paul was imprisoned at the time
- Paul believed he was nearing the end of his life.
- How does knowing that this was the last thing Paul wrote before he died affect how we should read this passage?

3. What was going on in the world when it was written?

Key Points:

- Nero was in power
- Christians were being persecuted.

4. Who were the original recipients? What do we know about them?

Key Points:

- The original recipient was Timothy
- Paul recruited Timothy into the ministry
- Timothy accompanied Paul on many missionary journeys, and was sent out from him to other minister in other places as well.

REVIEW HOW THIS PASSAGE FITS INTO THE BOOK OF TIMOTHY (3-5 minutes)

- Chapter 1 of the book contains greetings, and an admonition not to be ashamed of sharing the gospel, to remain faithful in teaching the gospel, and to be willing to suffer for it.
- Chapter 2 is an encouragement to stay strong and remain faithful no matter the circumstances, that God's word cannot be chained. We are pursue righteousness for his sake.
- Chapter 3 warns of difficult times opposition and persecution, of those who would turn away and oppose God's message. Regardless, Timothy is to continue living as he has been taught and sharing the word.
- The passage we are considering charges Timothy to be faithful, and lists his responsibilities and reward.

- The end of Chapter 4 contains Paul’s closing requests to see people, for his scrolls and parchments to be brought to him, as well as greetings for friends.

READ THE PASSAGE (5 minutes)

Ask one person in the group to read the passage aloud.

LARGE GROUP OBSERVATIONS (10-15 minutes)

Use a whiteboard or easel and pad, and have one person record the observations. Ask members of the group for general observations about the passage.

1. What does Paul tell Timothy he must do?

Key Points:

- Preach the message / do an evangelists work
- Be ready
- Reprove
- Rebuke
- Exhort
- Be self controlled
- Endure hardship
- Fulfill the ministry

2. What will others who do not tolerate sound teaching do?

Key Points:

- Accumulate teachers for themselves - why?
 - Have insatiable curiosity to hear new things
- Turn away from the truth
- Turn to myths

3. What has Paul doing? What has he done?

Key Points:

- He is being poured out – what does that mean?
 - He expects to be killed soon
- He has competed well
- He has finished his race
- He has kept the faith

4. What will the Lord do?

- He will judge us
 - What kind of a judge is he? Righteous
- He will reward us.
 - What is his reward? The reward is a crown of righteousness
 - Who is it for? It is for all who set their affections on Christ

TRANSITION

Now that we’ve made some observations about this passage, let’s really dig into what it means to live out Paul’s charge to Timothy.

Look

Have the group split into 6 subgroups. Hand each of the groups a topic and the references that refer to that topic. You may use the sheet on page 21. Each group should look up the references, and be ready to report what they have learned to the larger group – by acting it out, then verbally summarizing any additional information. Specifically they should look for what they are doing, and how they should do it. The teacher may share additional information about these topics after the groups do their skit.

Key Points

- **Preach the Word** - Acts 10:34-43
 - One of the best examples of preaching the word is found in Acts 10:34-43.
- **Being ready in season and out**
 - Jesus teaches about being ready in Matthew 26:36-44 and Luke 12:25-40. We do not know the day or the hour that Christ will return. Jesus compares his second coming with the flood of Noah. We will live life as we always have, until suddenly the flood will come and sweep us away. We are told, therefore, to stay awake and to keep ourselves ready, so that when Christ comes we are doing what He has called us to do.
 - In 2 Corinthians 9:1-5, we learn from Paul as he writes the church at Corinth that being ready is a continual process, there is no point that we have ever arrived. Paul and Timothy boast of the readiness of Corinth, and yet they send the brothers so that their boasting proves true.
 - In Titus 3:1 we are exhorted to be ready for every good work.
- **Reprove** –
 - In Proverbs 9:8, we learn that the response of a wise man to correction is love
 - In Proverbs 19:25, we learn that when a man of understanding is reproved, he gains knowledge.
 - In Revelation 3:19, in the letter to the church at Laodecia, we see that Christ reproves and disciplines those whom he loves, and that the proper response to reproof is to be on fire for Christ and to repent of our sins.
- **Rebuke** –
 - In Proverbs we see that scoffers do not listen to rebuke (13:1) and that rebuke is to go deep into a man of understanding (17:10). We also see in verses 24-25 that those who are wicked that they are right will be cursed by the peoples, and that those who rebuke them will have delight and blessing. We are instructed that open rebuke is better than hidden love (27:5), and that if we add to God's word that we are liars in need of rebuke.
 - In Luke 17:3-4, Christ instructs us that if our brother sins, we are supposed to rebuke him, and if he repents, we are to forgive. No matter how many times he sins and then repents, we are always to forgive.
 - In 1 Timothy 5:1, we are instructed not to rebuke an older man, but to encourage him as we would a Father. In 1 Timothy 5:20, Paul instructs us that those who persist in sin are to be rebuked in the presence of all, so that the rest may fear.

- Overseers are responsible for rebuking those who contradict sound doctrine; liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons are to be sharply rebuked (Titus 1:7-14).
- **Exhort**
 - Peter exhorts non-believers, as he bears them witness, to save themselves from this evil generation (Acts 2:40). Barnabas exhorts the church at Jerusalem to remain faithful to the Lord, steadfast in their purpose (Acts 11:23). When Paul is asked for exhortation from the Jews, he stands up and shares the gospel with them. (Acts 13:15)
 - Romans 12:8 lists exhortation as a gift that is to be used by those who possess it.
 - In 1 Thessalonians, Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy exhort the Thessalonian church to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls them into his kingdom and glory. Exhortation goes hand in hand with establishing (1 Th 3:2), and the Thessalonians are encouraged to be devoted to the reading of scripture, to teaching, and to exhortation (1 Th 4:13).
 - The author of Hebrews, likely Paul, states that we are to exhort others so that they are not hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (3:13). He asks the people if they have forgotten their exhortation as sons, that the Lord loves and disciplines those He loves, so they are not to regard the discipline lightly or be weary. (12:5-6)
 - Both the author of the book of Hebrews (13:22), and Peter (1 Peter) regard their entire letter as an exhortation.
 - Paul writes to Titus that he is to exhort with authority. (Titus 2:15)
- **Be self-controlled** –
 - In 1 Cor 9:25-27 we see that to be self controlled means not to be aimless, but to discipline ourselves and to keep ourselves under control, so that we do not disqualify ourselves. This passage is tied to the race analogy used later by Paul. Earthly runners exercise self-control to win a prize that will perish, we run in order to obtain a prize that will last for eternity – the crown of righteousness that Christ will offer us.
 - In Proverbs 25:28, the Bible teaches that to lack self-control is to be like a city that has been broken into and is without walls. The exhortation to be self-controlled is given often in the New Testament.
 - In Galatians 5:22-23, we see that self-control is the fruit of the Spirit. In
 - 2 Timothy 1:7, Paul contrasts the Spirit of fear with one of power, love, and self control.
 - In 2 Timothy 3:3, Paul warns Timothy to stay away from those who have a lack of self control.

TRANSITION –

Now that we've learned what I means to preach the word, be ready, reprove, rebuke, exhort, and be self controlled, let's take the time to see how we can do those things in each of our lives.

Took

QUESTION SHEET (10 minutes)

- Give each student a copy of the “Questions to Consider” provided at the end of this lesson plan.
- Encourage each member to pair up with one or two other people.
- Encourage each pair to talk through the question sheet, and identify where they are strong, and where they are weak.
- Each person should focus on one key area where they are weak, and set measurable goals for that area.
- Together with their accountability partner, they should pray for each other and God’s help.

PRAYER (5 minutes)

Close the gathering with large group prayer. Pray for the members of the group, thanking God for areas of faithfulness that you see in their lives, and asking for him to help them to improve in the areas that they have identified.

CLOSING (2 minutes)

Let the group know you will be checking back in next week to see how it went. Also ask that the pairs to check in with their partner a couple of times this week, to encourage them where they are making progress, and to ask how they can pray for them.

Group Topics & References

- Group 1. **Preach the Word** - Acts 10:34-43.
- Group 2. **Be ready in season and out** –
Matthew 26:36-44; Luke 12:25-40; 2 Corinthians 9:1-5; Titus 3:1
- Group 3. **Reprove**
Proverbs 9:8, 19:25; Revelation 3:19.
- Group 4. **Rebuke** –Proverbs 13:1, 17:10, 24-25 , 27:5; Luke 17:3-4; 1 Timothy 5:1, 20;
Titus 1:7-14.
- Group 5. **Exhort** –Acts 2:40, 11:23, 13:15; Romans 12:8; 1 Thessalonians 3:2, 4:13;
Hebrews 3:13, 12:5-6, 13:22; 1 Peter 5:12; Titus 2:15
- Group 6. **Be self-controlled** –1 Cor 9:25-27, Proverbs 25:28, Galatians 5:22-23, 2
Timothy 1:7, 3:3.

Questions to Consider

As I look forward to Christ's return, am I faithfully doing what Christ has called us to do?

1. Am I preaching the message/doing the evangelists work?
2. Am I ready for Christ's return? Am I maintaining a strong relationship with God so that I represent him well at all times? Am I on fire for God, or lukewarm?
3. Am I correcting and rebuking in love?
4. Am I encouraging other believers, and my own teachers?
5. Am I acting with self-control, or is something else controlling me?
6. Am I facing hardships in a way that glorifies God?
7. Am I living for Christ's return as I go through my daily life, or am I allowing the things He has called me to do to be overshadowed by things that don't ultimately matter?
8. Which area do I most need to work on? If your partner knows you well, do they agree? Set goals for that area. How can you work on becoming more like Christ this week in that area? How will you know if you are successful?
9. How can I pray for my accountability partner?