



### God's Unfolding Story

#### Bible Story:

Paul's Letter to

Timothy (2 Timothy 1-3)

**Bible Phrase:** "All that the Bible says is from God" (2 Timothy 3:16).

**Bible Truth:** The Bible is God's letter to me.



1. God created everything.



2. People disobeyed God.



3. God chose a special people.



4. God sent Jesus to help us.



5. Jesus began the Church.



6. Jesus is preparing heaven for us.

#### Suggested Schedule:

##### Arrival

Centers – 25 minutes

Clean-up Time – 5 minutes

Bible Story Time – 15 minutes

Craft Time – 10 minutes

Snack Time – 10 minutes

Game Time/Dismissal



### Unfolding God's Story for Teachers

Soon we will say good-bye to our oldest daughter, our son-in-law, and four of our grandchildren. They are moving across the country to take advantage of a new ministry opportunity. The good-byes will be tearful, but we know our loved ones are in God's plan. We send them off with much love. We trust our daughter and son-in-law to hold fast to what they have learned from the Bible and from their parents. We'll pray daily for them, and as they face the joys and challenges of ministry, we'll seek to encourage them and affirm their calling.

Paul also was separated from his "dearly loved child" (2 Tim. 1:2). He was in a Roman prison while Timothy was preaching in Ephesus. Paul knew he soon would die, and he wanted to encourage his son in the faith (see 1 Tim. 1:2). Timothy had been close to Paul since Paul's second missionary journey (see Acts 16:1-5). Paul may have played a part in Timothy's conversion. The term "dearly loved child" underscores their strong relationship. Paul loved Timothy and prayed daily for him, just as any Christian parent would. Paul recalled Timothy's tears from their last meeting and affirmed that seeing him would bring him joy (see 2 Tim. 1:4).

Paul was aware of the challenges and struggles of being in the ministry. He wanted Timothy to be faithful to his calling, and he reminded him of the faith displayed in his grandmother and mother (see v. 5). Timothy's faith had roots. Paul told Timothy he had a "gift of God" (v. 6). When God calls, He also equips. What Timothy had to offer was from God, not himself. Paul was familiar with the environment where Timothy served, and he feared Timothy might be hesitant to exercise his gift. Fear is not an expression of God's Spirit. God's Spirit comes forth in "power, love, and sound judgment" (v. 7). This same Spirit would give Timothy courage to speak the truth. Timothy could look to his spiritual mentor and see that Paul certainly was not ashamed of the gospel. Paul knew in whom he believed and in whom he trusted (see vv.

11-12), even to the point of being willing to die for Him. Paul admonished Timothy to be guided by the Holy Scriptures and the gospel. He told Timothy that God inspired "all Scripture," and God's Word was to be used to teach the truth, to rebuke, to correct, and to train others in righteousness (see 3:14-17). When a man of God uses the Scripture wisely, he lacks nothing.

In Paul's closing comments to Timothy we find what could easily have been Paul's epitaph: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7). What a remarkable example Paul was to Timothy! Oh, to be that model for the ones we love! Paul knew his days on this earth were numbered, but he also knew about the prize of his faith. Paul lived with that prize in his mind, on his heart, and in his soul—joyfully envisioning laying it at Jesus' feet! May our desire, and the desires of our children, be the same.

### Lesson Plan

#### Arrival

- Greet children at eye level and express how happy you are to see them.
- Be sure each child has a name tag and the security measures of your church are followed.
- Label all coats and personal belongings. Strongly encourage children who have brought items from home, such as toys and books, to place them on a shelf while they are working with other materials. Assure children their items will be safe and they can take them home at the end of the session.
- Help each child make a choice where he or she would like to begin his or her Center Time.

# Center Time



## Block Center:

Build with Blocks

### Supplies:

- Wooden blocks
- Transportation toys

**What to Do:** Provide a small carpet if possible. Blocks are best located in a corner of the room away from the traffic flow.

**Link to the Bible Story:** As children build, be sensitive to opportunities to share the Bible Phrase or to tell a part of the Bible story.

## Bible Learning Center:

Work a Maze

### Supplies:

- Copies of Activity Page: Maze, "Paul's Letter to Timothy" (Reproducible)
- Crayons or washable markers

**What to Do:** Invite children to use markers or crayons to get the letter from Paul, who was in prison, to Timothy, who lived and worked in Ephesus.

**Link to the Bible Story:** Explain to the boys and girls that Paul's friend Timothy was a pastor in Ephesus. Paul wrote a letter to Timothy to let him know of his love and to encourage him in his work. Tell the boys and girls that when he wrote this letter, Paul was in prison for telling people about Jesus.

## Art Center:

Color Bundles

### Supplies:

- White construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- Crayons
- Rubber bands

**What to Do:** Print today's Bible Phrase on each paper. Make a color bundle by grouping three different crayons together and securing them with a rubber band. Offer a variety of bundles for children to use. Invite children to use the color bundles to draw designs on their papers.

**Link to the Bible Story:** As children work, call attention to the Bible Phrase. Express that a man named Paul wrote a letter to his friend Timothy to remind him to keep studying the Bible to learn more about God.

## Home Living Center:

Role Play

### Supplies:

- Small rocking chair, sink and stove unit, small table and chairs; plastic dishes, child pots and pans, plastic food items; and doll items such as baby doll, doll bed, doll bag, blanket, clothes, bottles, and diapers.

**What to Do:** Home living items will encourage children to role play home activities such as cooking, cleaning, and caring for the baby.

**Link to the Bible Story:** As children play, look for opportunities to engage them in conversations about the Bible story, Bible Phrase, or Bible truth.

## Puzzle Center:

Work Puzzles

### Supplies:

- Offer a variety of non-fantasy wooden or cardboard puzzles for the children to work.

**What to Do:** Encourage each child to finish a puzzle before leaving the center. Offer guidance rather than doing the puzzle for the child.

**Link to the Bible Story:** As children work, take advantage of opportunities to say the Bible Phrase or to briefly tell the Bible story.

## Clean-up Time

Encourage preschoolers to help at clean-up time. Assign specific tasks for preschoolers to do such as placing all the crayons in the basket, throwing away the trash, gathering all the glue sticks, etc. Guide children to the Bible Story Time area.

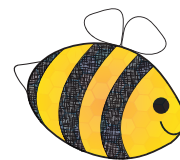
## Bible Story Time

### Supplies:

- Bible
- Teaching Picture, "Paul's Letter to Timothy" (Reproducible)
- God's Unfolding Story Cube (Reproducible/Cardstock)

## Introduction

- Show the God's Unfolding Story Cube. Point to each symbol and tell God's Unfolding Story. (Refer to page 1.) Encourage children to say the points of God's Unfolding Story with you.
- Comment to boys and girls that today's story is from the fifth point, **Jesus Began the Church**. (Point to that symbol on the cube.)
- Express the following in your own words: "Have you ever gotten a letter or card in the mail? Perhaps a grandparent, an uncle or aunt, or some other relative has sent you



something in the mail. It's exciting to get mail. Today our Bible story shares with us parts of a letter that Paul sent his young friend Timothy. Paul was in prison and knew he would not live much longer. He wanted to remind Timothy of some things he had learned when he, Timothy, was a little boy. Paul also wanted to tell Timothy some other things. This letter was so important that it later became a part of the Bible. Listen to some of the things Paul wrote to Timothy. "

## Bible Story

### Paul's Letter to Timothy (2 Timothy 1-3)

Dear Timothy,

*Each day when I pray, I thank God for you. It would bring me much joy to see you again. I remember your grandmother and mother and their faith in Jesus, as well as your own faith. Sometimes you may feel afraid, but God will help you not to be afraid. He will also help you be confident and share with other people what you have learned about Jesus.*

*Remember when you were a little boy and you studied the Scriptures. Timothy, I want you to keep studying and learning about God. Every Scripture you read—every part of the Bible—is from God, and it will help you know how to live. I want you to teach others what you have learned and patiently encourage them.*

*My time on this earth soon will be over. I have worked hard to do what God has asked*

*me to do. Even when times were hard, I have never stopped believing God. One day soon I will be with Him in heaven.*

*Still, I hope you can come to see me soon. Please bring my coat. Try to come before the winter.*

*The Lord is with you.*

—Paul

## Talk Time

1. Show the teaching picture for today's Bible story. Ask the following questions: "To whom did Paul write? From the letter, how do you think Paul felt about Timothy? What did Paul want Timothy to keep on doing? To where did Paul believe he soon would be going?"
2. Say today's Bible Phrase together: "All that the Bible says is from God" (2 Timothy 3:16). Express to boys and girls that the Bible is God's letter to us, and when we listen to its stories and teachings we learn more about God. Encourage children to remember always that the Bible is true.
3. Close the Bible Story Time in prayer, thanking God for the Bible and the important truths we learn when we read and study it.
4. Direct children to Craft Time.

## Craft Time

Bible Story Booklet

### Supplies:

- Copies of "Bible Story Booklet" (1 sheet per child)
- Variety of colors of construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- Crayons or washable markers
- Cross stickers (at least 2" wide, 1 per child) or white paper (1 or 2 sheets)
- Child scissors

**What to Do:** If cross stickers are not available, cut 2" or 3" crosses from white paper. Give each child a Bible Story Booklet to color and cut out. Assist with cutting as needed. Each child should choose a sheet of construction paper for his or her booklet cover. Ask children to glue their Bible Story Booklets on the construction paper covers they have chosen. Help children fold their booklets. Give each child a cross to glue on or to stick on the front of his or her booklet.

**Link to Bible Story:** As children work, say the Bible Phrase and talk about some of the important things Paul wanted Timothy to remember and learn. Encourage children to use their booklets to share today's Bible story with family members.

## Snack Time

Be sure to wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Say a thank-you prayer to God for the snack. When snack time has ended, encourage preschoolers to help with cleaning up.

## Game Time/Dismissal

Favorite Bible Story

### Supplies:

- Read To Me Bible or similar Bible with Bible story pictures
- CD player
- Children's Music CD

**What to Do:** Ask children to join you in the Game Time area. Begin playing the music. Tell boys and girls they will gently pass the Bible around the circle until the music stops. When the music stops, whoever is holding the Bible will open it to any Bible story picture. Then the child will show the picture and the class will talk about the story the picture represents. Play the game as long as it is practical to do so and as long as children are interested. Talk about children's favorite stories from the Bible.

At the close of the activity, remind boys and girls that the Bible is God's letter to us, making it possible for us to learn more about Him.

Dismiss children when parents arrive. Be sure to follow your church's security guidelines.







# Resources and Supplies

New Testament Unit 11: The Church Taught about Jesus  
Lesson 3: Paul's Letter to Timothy

## Standard Art Supplies

(Supplies that are generally in the room)

Washable markers  
Crayons  
Child scissors  
Playdough and accessories  
Drawing paper  
Easel (optional)  
Glue/glue sticks  
Tempera paint, 4 colors  
Tape/masking tape  
Pencils/colored pencils  
Hole punch  
Teacher scissors  
Stapler/staples  
Permanent markers  
Watercolors  
Paintbrushes  
Yarn

## Standard Equipment

(Equipment that is generally in the room)

Small beanbag for Bible Story Time  
Assorted wooden/cardboard puzzles  
Set of wooden blocks  
Small cars and trucks  
Doll bed  
Baby doll (soft plastic)  
Stove/sink unit  
Play dishes/pots and pans  
Small table and chairs  
Small carpet for block area  
Play food items  
Storage shelf for blocks  
Tables and chairs for art, puzzles,  
and Bible Learning Center  
CD player/Children's Worship CDs

## Reproducibles

(Included with the lesson plan downloads)

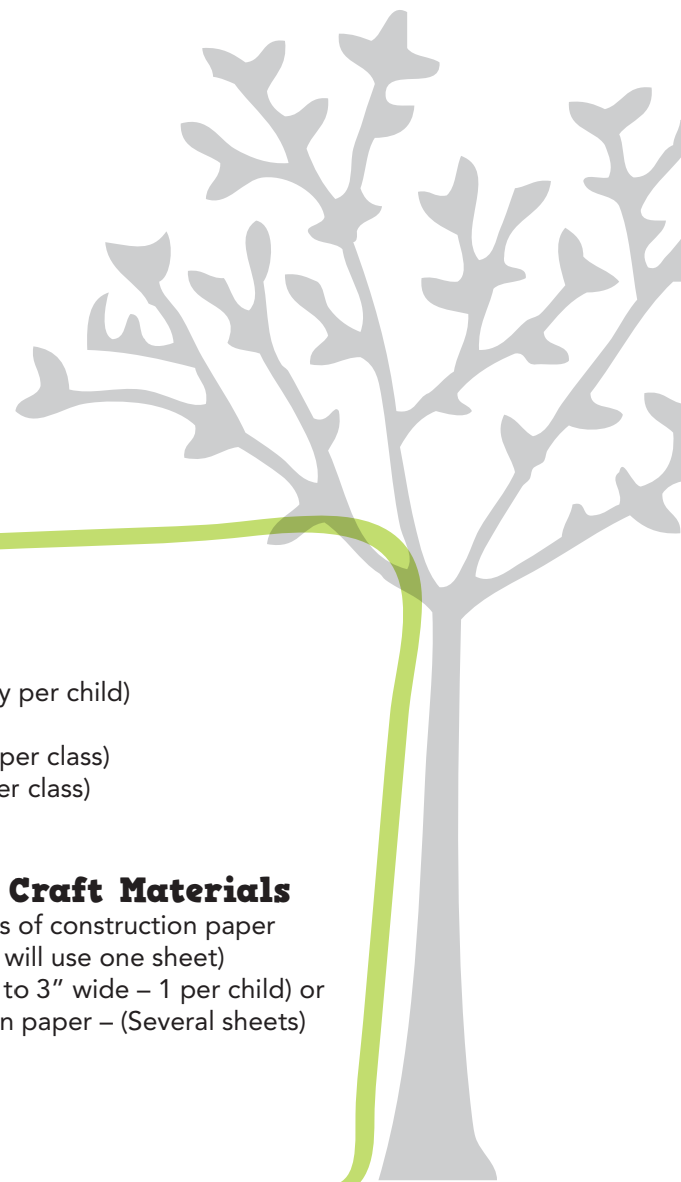
Activity Page: Maze, "Paul's Letter to Timothy" (1 copy per child)  
Bible Story Booklet (1 copy per child)  
Teaching Picture: "Paul's Letter to Timothy" (1 copy per class)  
God's Unfolding Story Cube (Cardstock—1 copy per class)  
Parent Page (1 copy per child)

## Additional Art and Bible Learning Materials

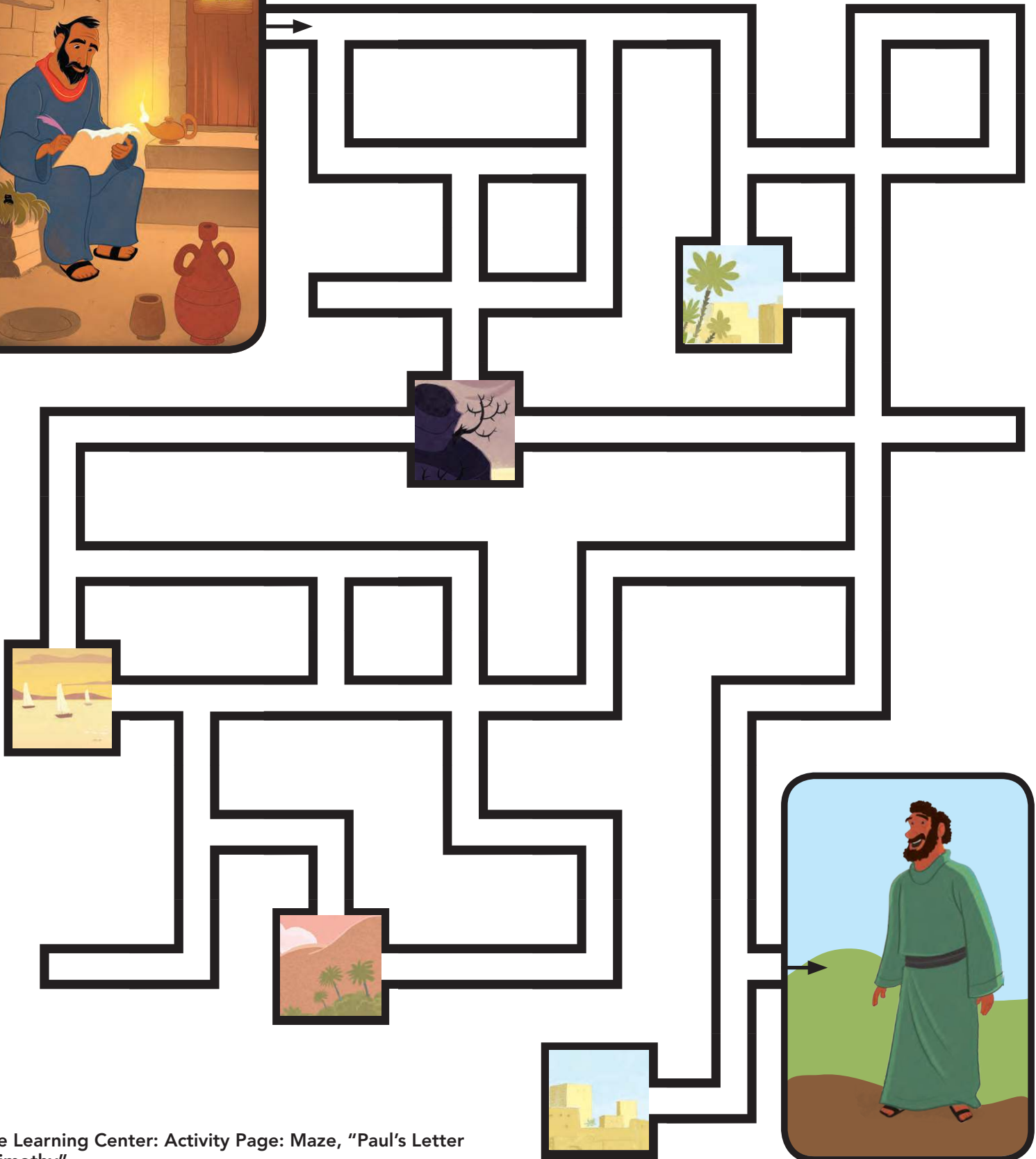
White construction paper (1 sheet per child)  
Rubber bands (10)

## Additional Craft Materials

Variety of colors of construction paper  
(each child will use one sheet)  
Cross stickers – (2" to 3" wide – 1 per child) or  
White construction paper – (Several sheets)

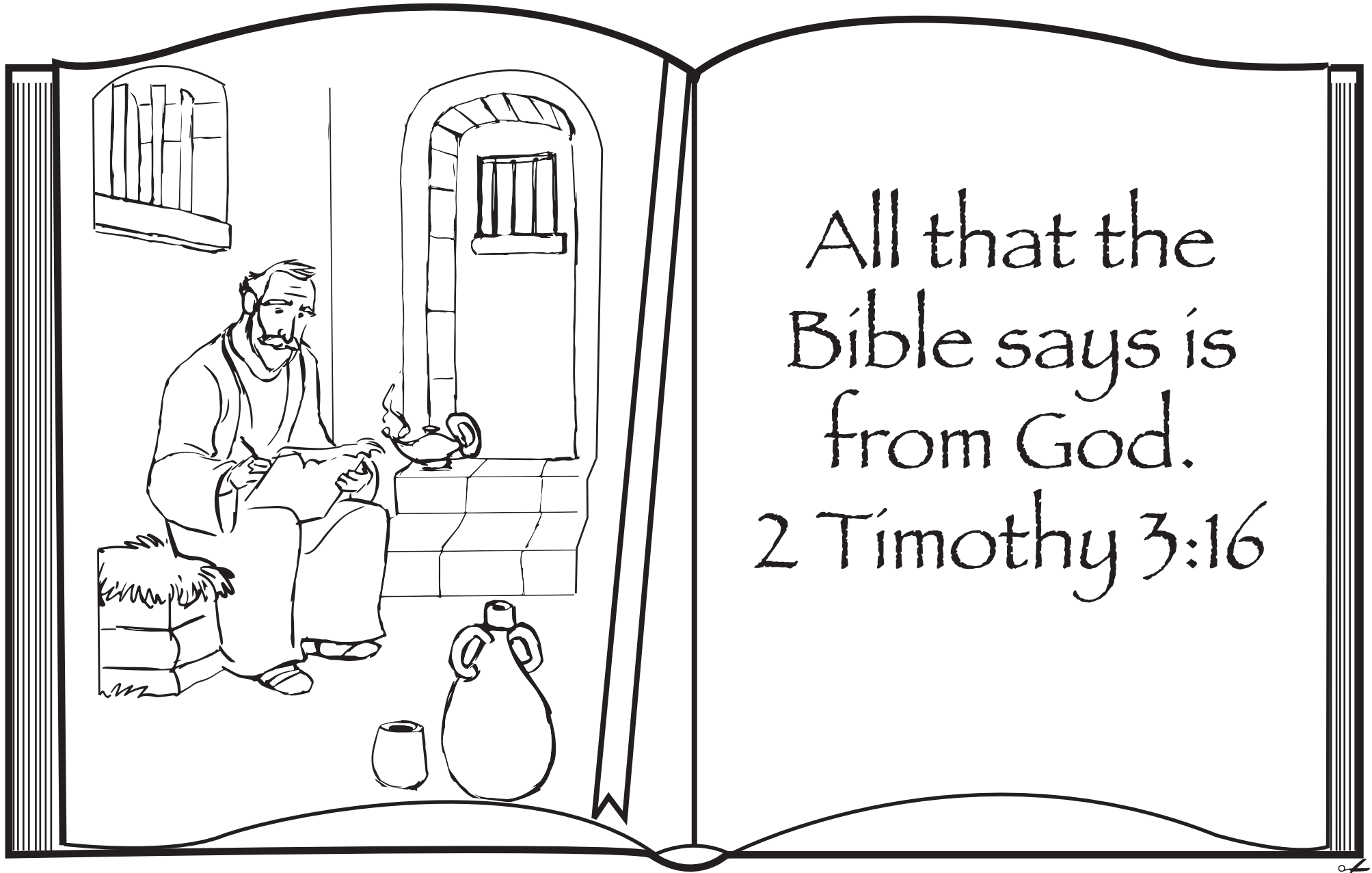


# Paul's Letter to Timothy



Bible Learning Center: Activity Page: Maze, "Paul's Letter to Timothy"  
Instructions: One copy per child. Use a marker or crayon to get the letter from Paul in prison to Timothy in Ephesus.

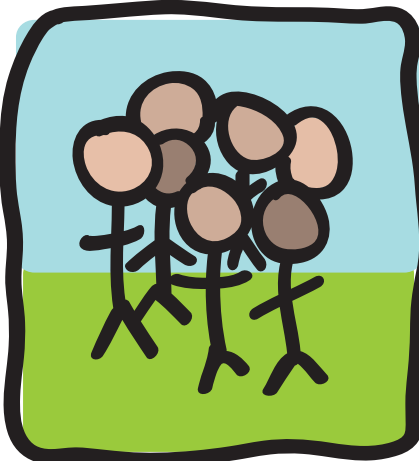
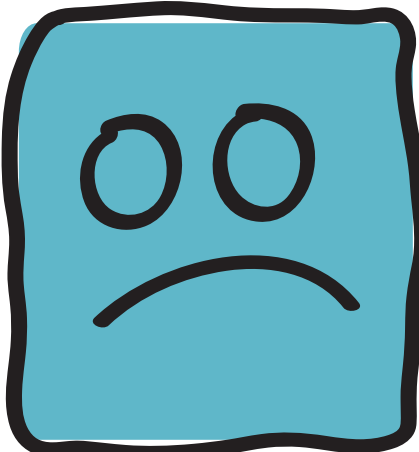
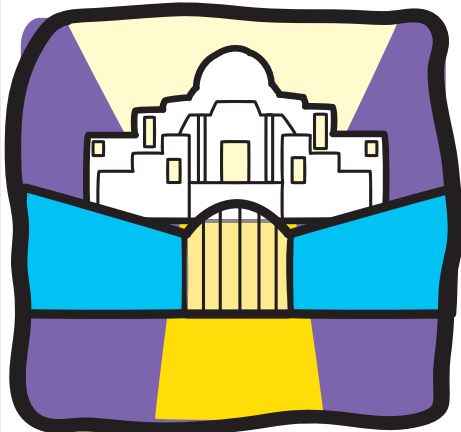
# Bible Story Booklet



All that the  
Bible says is  
from God.  
2 Timothy 3:16

Craft Time: "Bible Story Booklet"

Instructions: Copy 1 sheet per child. Color the Bible story picture and cut out the page along the outside black line. Glue the page to a sheet of construction paper. Fold the booklet and place a cross sticker on the front or glue a paper cross on the front of the booklet.



God's Unfolding Story Cube  
**Instructions:** Cut out on dotted lines, fold on solid lines. Glue or tape to form a cube.





**All that the Bible says is from God. 2 Timothy 3:16**