10

# A Friend Indeed

Key References: 1 Timothy 1:12-17; *The Acts of the Apostles,* chap. 49, pp. 498-508; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 149-151; Our Beliefs, nos. 4, 10, 9















Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 75.

## power**text**

"The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 1:14).

power**point**

God want us to know Him personally.

*If you could go to the mailbox and find a letter from anyone you know, who would it be? Why? While in prison Paul remembered his missionary travels and tireless work to win Jews and Gentiles alike for Jesus. During his ministry Paul had worked closely with Timothy. Now a prisoner in Rome, he remembers Timothy and writes him a letter. Our story this week helps us imagine Timothy getting a letter from his dear friend Paul. He loved Paul's encouraging, inspiring letters. He couldn't wait to find out what God was doing in Paul's life. Let's imagine he shares the letter with a cousin named Dimitri (Paul's words are quoted from 1 Timothy 1:12-16).*

Eagerly Timothy read the letter his friend Paul had written him. It had been months since he had seen Paul.

"It's good to hear from Paul," Timothy said to his cousin Dimitri.

"Where's Paul now?" asked Dimitri.

"Paul has been imprisoned because of the gospel, and he is now in Rome," Timothy replied. "He wants me to visit churches and preach the good news about Jesus."

"I can understand that," Dimitri said. "You're doing well teaching new believers about the love of God. What else does Paul say?"

# 10

## Sunday

**READ** Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17 and this week's story, "A Friend Indeed." Paul and Timothy were very close friends even though they were far apart in age. Timothy was like a son to Paul.

**THINK** Think about the people in your life who have been special to you.

**LEARN** Begin to learn the power text, 1 Timothy 1:14.

**PRAY** Write a prayer in your Bible study journal, asking God by His grace to show you how to know Him better.

## Monday

**READ** Read 1 Timothy 1:12.

**IDENTIFY** What are three reasons Paul was thankful to Jesus?

**THINK** What kind of strength do you think Paul needed? What do you think it means to be faithful?

**SHARE** Share your friendship with someone new today.

**PRAY** Ask God to help you trust Him as Paul did.

## Tuesday

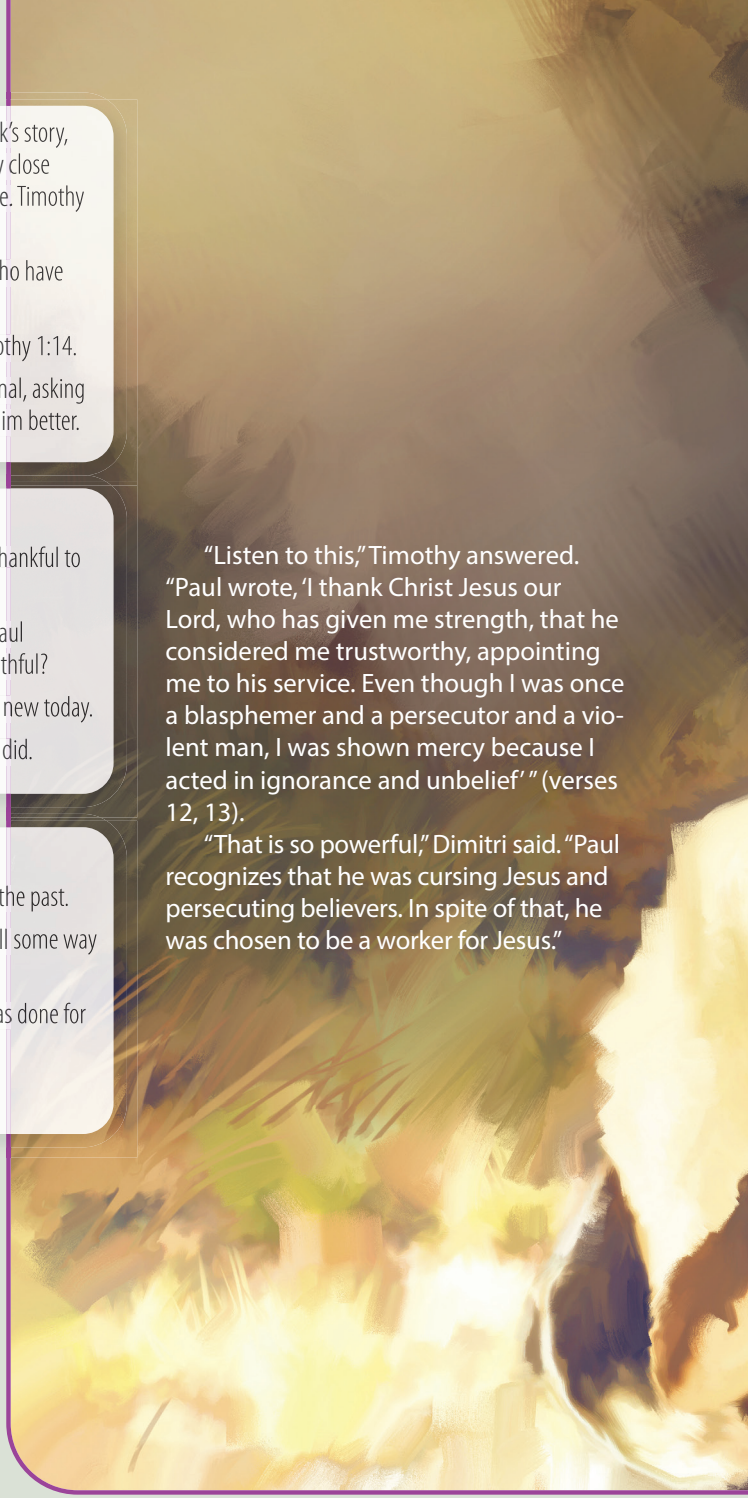
**READ** Read 1 Timothy 1:13.

**LIST** List three things that Paul had been in the past.

**SHARE** Talk with an adult, asking them to tell some way that God's grace changed them.

**RECORD** List three things that God's grace has done for you.

**PRAY** Thank God for His marvelous grace.



"Listen to this," Timothy answered. "Paul wrote, 'I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief' " (verses 12, 13).

"That is so powerful," Dimitri said. "Paul recognizes that he was cursing Jesus and persecuting believers. In spite of that, he was chosen to be a worker for Jesus."

"You're right. Jesus did choose him," Timothy responded. "Remember when Paul was on the road to Damascus? He was going there to hunt more Christian believers. Jesus spoke to him anyway."

"Paul did some pretty awful things. He didn't seem to recognize that even though he thought he was doing good, he was really ruining his own life," Dimitri observed. "Is that all he wrote about?"

"No," Timothy continued. "He says, 'The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus' " (verse 14).

"Why did he write that?" asked Dimitri.

"I believe Paul is trying to tell us that even though his past was so terrible, Jesus still showed His patience and love in Paul's life. Once He got Paul's attention, Jesus used other believers, such as Ananias and Barnabas, to show His love to Paul. Ananias was the first to speak to Paul after the Damascus road experi-



## Wednesday

**READ** Read 1 Timothy 1:14, 15.

**IDENTIFY** List three things that Paul says were poured out abundantly on him.

**THINK** When have any of these three things been poured out on you?

**PRAY** Thank God for specific things He does for you.

## Thursday

**READ** Read 1 Timothy 1:16.

**THINK** Paul says that he was shown mercy because he was the worst of sinners. Why did Jesus display patience to Paul?

**ANSWER** How does Jesus pour out His grace on you?

**DRAW** Draw a picture of your face on your worst day. Draw another picture of yourself when you realize that God watches over you even in the worst situation. What difference do you see between the pictures? Always remember Jesus loves you.

**PRAY** Ask God to help you show His love to others.

## Friday

**READ** Read 1 Timothy 1:17.

**SHARE** Tell a friend how much God loves you in spite of what you have done.

**SING** Sing "Amazing Grace" and think about each word.

**WRITE** Record in your Bible study journal your response to God's amazing love and grace.

**PRAY** Pray that someone special to you will experience God's amazing grace.

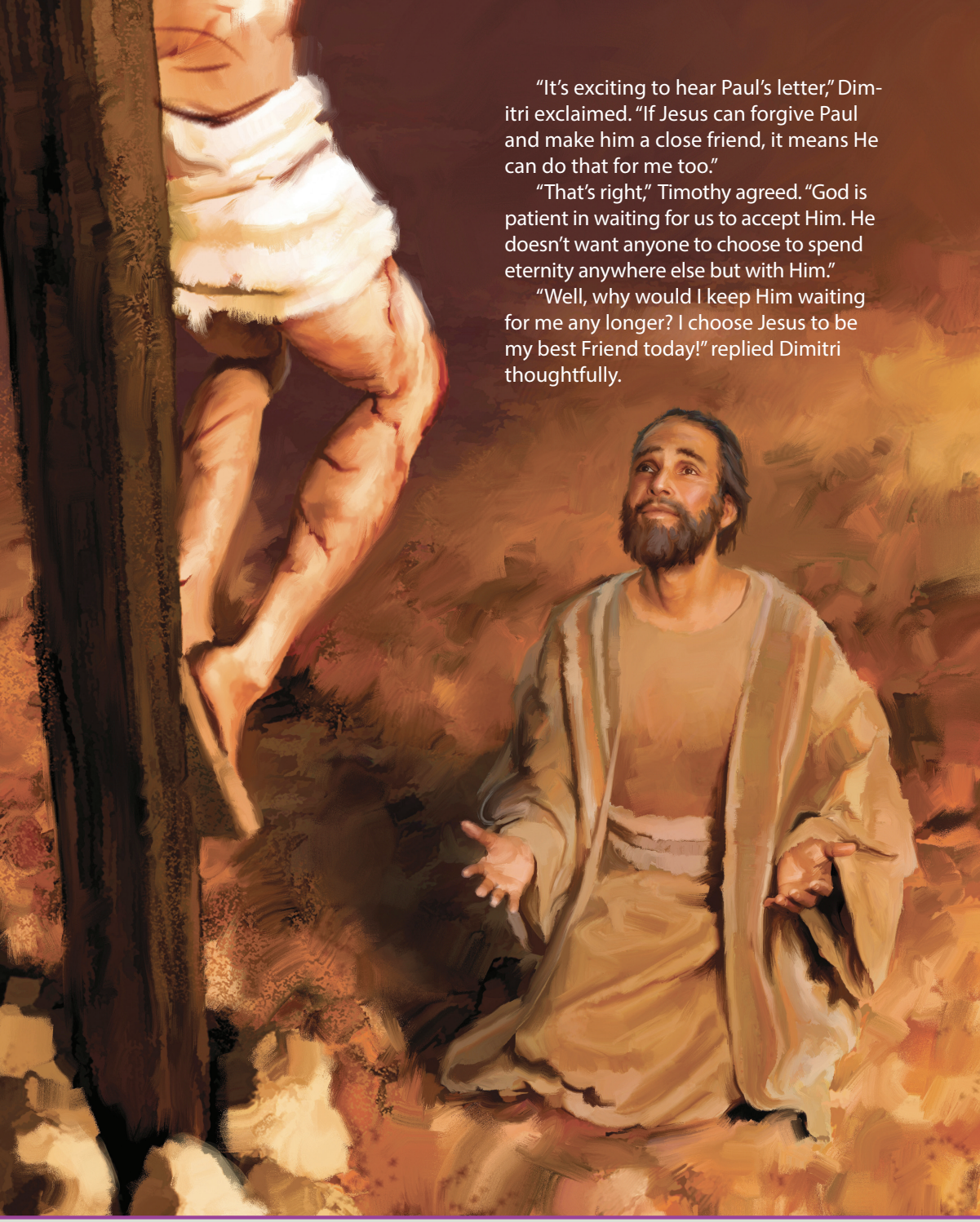
ence. Barnabas stood up for Paul after his conversion even when the other believers didn't trust Paul."

"It's amazing how Jesus was still pursuing Paul when he was busy insulting Jesus and His followers," Dimitri observed. "I'm glad that God keeps on calling us, even when we aren't listening."

"That's God for you," Timothy said. "He patiently tries to make friends with us. Listen to what else Paul wrote.

"'Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life'" (verses 15, 16).

"Did you notice that Paul said this is a trustworthy message?" Timothy asked. "Jesus made a promise to each of us. And we can take that promise into our own lives and know that we can be saved through His death and changed through His Spirit."



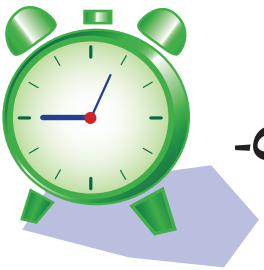
"It's exciting to hear Paul's letter," Dimitri exclaimed. "If Jesus can forgive Paul and make him a close friend, it means He can do that for me too."

"That's right," Timothy agreed. "God is patient in waiting for us to accept Him. He doesn't want anyone to choose to spend eternity anywhere else but with Him."

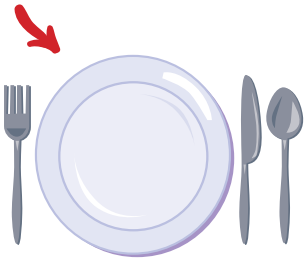
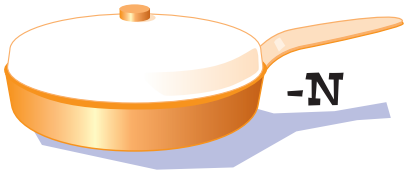
"Well, why would I keep Him waiting for me any longer? I choose Jesus to be my best Friend today!" replied Dimitri thoughtfully.

# GOD IS LOVE

**Instructions:** Solve this rebus to find a Bible verse that tells us one aspect of God's love for us. This rebus works by SPELLING, not by SOUND.


-C-CK +

-FI


-D-H

-N

+

-RE +

-T