

YEAR C | QUARTER 2

10

A Friend Indeed

Grace

God's grace transforms us.

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).

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
- student story on page 112 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 4, The Son
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God wants us to know Him personally.
- **Feel** grateful for God's patient love.
- **Respond** to God's grace by expressing a desire to get to know Him as a friend.

POWERPOINT

God wants us to know Him personally.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

This lesson is taken from 1 Timothy 1, in which Paul tells Timothy the story of God's constant grace pursuing him while he was violently persecuting the Christians. God's grace was "poured out on me abundantly" (verse 14), he says, then explains Jesus' mission as coming to the earth to save sinners. God is patient with each of us as He tries to develop a friendship with us.

This is a lesson about grace.

Just as God's patient love pursued Paul, so He pursues us today. There is nothing we can do to earn or increase God's love for us, and nothing we do will ever prevent God's patient love from seeking to save us. This amazing love is amazing grace.

Teacher Enrichment

This letter to Timothy was written while he was pastor of the Ephesus church. It is mostly instructions to him as a leader of the church. (See *The SDA Bible Commentary,* vol. 7, p. 285.)

This passage begins with Paul giving thanks for God: (1) choosing him, (2) trusting him, (3) appointing him to service, and (4) empowering him. Paul tells Timothy about his terrible past, but he focuses not on his behavior, but on Jesus.

Paul describes himself as a "violent man," a person who inflicts pain on someone else for the sheer joy of doing it. Why does Paul describe his sins? For four reasons: (1) to keep him from pride; (2) to keep alive his gratitude to God; (3) to urge him to greater effort for God; and (4) to encourage others. Paul is saying, "Look at me. If God can save someone like me, He can save anyone. If God can use someone like me to reach others for Him, then He can use anyone. If God can be my friend, He can be anyone's." (See William Barclay's commentary on 1 Timothy.)

How has God shown His love for me? From what has He saved me? How will I show my gratitude for His amazing grace?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Lifelines* *B. Learning to Lean*	paper, pencils
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 107. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket, world map, pushpins
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	 mailbox, prepared letter (p. 150), Timothy, his mother, Bible costumes (optional) Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Getting to Know Him* *What's the Chance?*	Bibles, paper, pencils, copies of activity sheet (p. 151)
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*June Valentines*	Bibles, art supplies
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Lifelines

Give each student a piece of paper and a pencil. Prepare in advance an example of a graph and describe it briefly. Say: **Make a graph of your life. Have a clear starting place (birth) and ending (today). Show the key points that stand out in your life, whether they were mile markers along the way or high/low points. Label each marker or point (birthday, baptism, getting a pet, etc.).** Have the students share their lifelines in pairs. Then ask volunteers to share theirs with the whole group.

Debriefing

Ask: **In what direction is your lifeline headed? What is the highest point? Where will it go in the future? Where along the line do you see God working in your life?** Say: **Today in our story we see how God's patient love was continually drawing Paul into a friendship. Our power point is:**

God wants us to know Him personally.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Allow students with special needs to work with a partner.

B

Learning to Lean

Ask each student to find a partner for this activity. Give these instructions: **Stand facing each other about one arm's length apart. Keeping your body straight, lean forward with your arms out in front and your palms facing forward. Catch each other with the palms of your hands. Hold the position, then push off and return to a standing position.**

Suggest that they each step back one step and repeat the process, then step back even farther and repeat the process again (if they are comfortable).

Debriefing

Ask: **How did it feel to let yourself fall forward? What made this work for you?** (trust, knowing the person, working together) **Who are the key people in your life that you can lean on?** (They will probably name people they know very well.) Say: **In today's lesson Paul tells Timothy about His friendship with Jesus, the person Paul leaned on most of all. God wants us to know Him personally too, so we can have someone to always lean on. Our power point is:**

God wants us to know Him personally.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Consider involving the students with special needs in observing, discussion, answering questions, if they cannot participate physically in the activity.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"When I Remember" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 58)
"Behold What Manner of Love" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 42)
"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 45)
"Amazing Grace" (*The SDA Hymnal,* no. 108)
"I Want to Know You More" (*Praise Time,* no. 55)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map and push pins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

God uses our offerings to show people all around the world how much He loves them. God wants them to know Him personally too.

Prayer

Today, focus the prayer time on God's grace. In small groups, students will (1) praise God for specific things He has done for them; (2) share one area of their lives that they would like God to bless; (3) pray for each other in the group; (4) pray for mutual friends, that they will know God personally.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **Our lesson today is about Pastor Paul and his close friendship with the young man Timothy. They were able to share their close friendship with Jesus and with each other. God's desire is to have a close friendship with each of us, so that we may know Him personally.**

Experiencing the Story

YOU NEED:

- ☐ mailbox
- ☐ prepared letter (p. 150)
- ☐ Timothy
- ☐ his mother
- ☐ Bible costumes (optional)

Prepare in advance a mailbox with a letter inside. Copy the letter from page 150. A person dressed as Timothy enters with a person dressed as Timothy's mother. The mother opens the mailbox and hands the letter to Timothy. All the while they ad-lib as a mother and son would. Then Timothy reads the letter aloud.

God wants us to know Him personally.

YOU NEED:

□ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Divide your class into several groups. (Small church: choose three or four texts to look up together.) Give each group one of these texts: Exodus 33:11; James 2:23; Proverbs 18:24; 17:17; Matthew 11:19; Luke 11:5-8; John 15:13. Instruct the groups to read their passage and tell:

1. What, in each instance, developed or cemented the friendship?

2. Does this apply to your friendship with Jesus? and if so,

3. How does it apply?

Answer key:

Exodus 33:11

1. Moses talked to God face-to-face.
2. Yes.
3. We talk to God; He talks to us, but not face-to-face.

James 2:23

1. Abraham believed God.
2. Yes.
3. I believe that God wants to be my friend.

Proverbs 18:24

1. Being friendly.
2. Yes.
3. I can be friendly to Jesus by sharing my thoughts and my time with Him.

Proverbs 17:17

1. Always loving.
2. Yes.
3. Jesus shows that He wants to be my friend by loving me all the time.

Matthew 11:19

1. Jesus spent time with "sinners" and made them feel accepted.
2. Yes.
3. I can show my love for Jesus by caring about outcasts as He did.

Luke 11:5-8

1. Doing a favor—even if it's inconvenient.
2. Yes.
3. The things Jesus asks me to do aren't always convenient.

John 15:13

1. Being willing to give up your life for a friend.
2. Yes.
3. Jesus laid down His life for me.

Debriefing

Say: **God's grace shows me how wonderful, loving, and kind He is. When I learn more about Him, I grow more able to understand His heart.** Ask: **How can knowing God personally change me? Remember:**

God wants us to know Him personally.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Use the Bibles with tabs to help students who don't know all the books of the Bible to become familiarized with them.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ copies of activity sheet (p. 151)
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ paper

Getting to Know Him

With your students, find and read Job 42:5. Discuss the difference between hearing about someone and meeting them personally.

Have students divide into groups of two or three and find some or all of the following "portraits" of Christ in the Gospels: Matt. 2:2; Matt. 21:5; Matt. 25:34; Mark 6:2; Luke 19:10; Luke 10:30-37; Luke 15:4-7; Luke 15:11-32; Luke 18:10-14; Luke 19:2-10; Luke 23:39-43.

Have groups report what they "saw" about Jesus from these portraits. Ask: **How could these portraits that God gave us of Jesus help us to know Him more personally?**

What's the Chance?

Say: **You are a visitor at a new church. You enter Sabbath School feeling all alone, but you try to be friendly anyway. You smile at the boy closest to the door, but get no reaction. The girl passing out songbooks ignores your outstretched hand. One adult standing inches from you has her back turned. You sit by two boys who are whispering. Then you realize you cannot make eye contact with these people. What is the chance that you will make friends with them?** (Chances are slim.)

Give the students each a copy of the "What's the Chance?" activity (p. 151). When they have completed it, tabulate their answers to the first part with them. Beside each item write the number each person assigned to it. Add up all the numbers for each item. Rank the items the way the group, overall, ranked them.

_____ Shared experiences
_____ Noticing each other
_____ Long conversations
_____ Common interests
_____ Spending time together
_____ Leaning (depending) on one another

Debriefing

Encourage the students to discuss the order in which they ranked the above items. Then ask: **How easy or difficult was it to think about the way you respond to God? What are ways that you could be more actively involved in getting to know Him personally? Which of those ways might you try?**

Alternative:

You may bring in a volunteer to help make this activity a bit more real. First tell the students that you have a good friend and start describing that person. Then have the students meet the person.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- □ Bibles
- □ art supplies

June Valentines

Distribute art supplies. Tell students they are going to make valentine cards from Jesus, telling them how much He wants them to know Him personally as their best friend.

You can suggest texts such as the following for the students to use as ideas from which to create messages: 1 John 4:7-12; Zeph. 3:17.

You might have students exchange their valentines from Jesus so that they take home a message they didn't write themselves.

Debriefing

Say: **Paul wanted to share how amazing grace was to save him and to bring him to a friendship with God.** Ask: **What can we do to share that message this week with our families, friends, and neighbors?** Remind them that sometimes sharing is something other than talking.

God wants us to know Him personally.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Allow students who need assistance to work with a partner.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Praise God for His patient love that seeks for a personal relationship with every one of His children.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php ?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Paul is imprisoned and sentenced to death in Rome. In spite of his trials and suffering he remains faithful to Jesus.**

Student lesson

A Friend Indeed

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?"

"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 experience. 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.

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 ("Fight the Good Fight")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 4, 10, 9

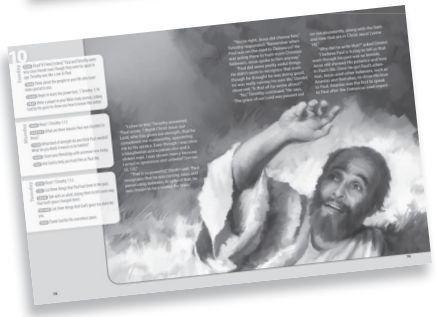
POWER TEXT

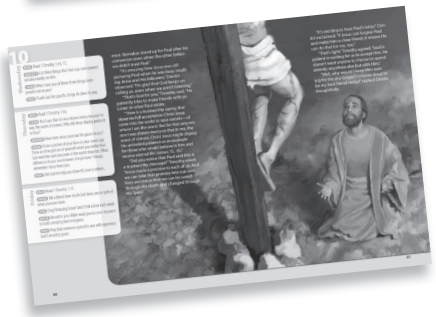
"The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 1:14).

POWER POINT

God wants us to know Him personally.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 75.

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.

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.