

Acts-Revelation

Titus

Titus 1-3

Younger Verse

Salvation's available for everyone! Titus 2:11 (The Message)

Older Verse

God's readiness to give and forgive is now public. Salvation's available for everyone!
Titus 2:11 (The Message)

Bible Story

*The following is a summary of the Bible story to help you with your preparation. Please do **NOT** read to the children. Instead, study your Bible, using this summary as a guide, and make a note page to help you remember your plans for the lesson or questions you want to ask.*

Have you ever had a friend who, for some reason, had to move away? Or maybe you were the one who moved. When you write them a letter, what kinds of things do you share? Do you share that you had your hair trimmed last week and that you are wearing jeans and a t-shirt as you write your letter, that you will go to school tomorrow or that your teacher gave you three packets of homework? Probably not! If you were going to write a friend you haven't seen for months or years you would most likely tell them the big things, the important things. That is what Paul did when he wrote his friend Titus.

What other letters did Paul write that are now in the Bible? Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians and 1 & 2 Timothy. Paul wrote to Titus the same year that he first wrote to his friend Timothy. While Timothy was in a city called Ephesus, Titus was on the island of Crete. The people in Crete were really bad people. They even said bad things about themselves. One of them said that Cretans (people who lived on the island) were always liars, evil, and lazy people who ate too much!

When Paul wrote Timothy and Titus, the church in Ephesus (Timothy's church) had been a church for almost twelve years, but Titus was on the island of Crete to start new churches. Paul gave him instructions about what kind of men to choose to help lead the church. Paul warned Titus about the Cretans and told him to tell them that what they were doing was wrong! Paul even told Titus how different people in the church should act, like older men and women, and younger men and women, and even slaves. He said that they should do things that would make God look good; they should obey God and teach others about Him.

Paul had something even more important to share with Titus. Do you remember us talking about that letter that you would write to a friend who lives far away and the really important things you would share? Paul told Titus that God's grace had come, and because of that, salvation was for everyone! When Paul talked about God's grace he was talking about God's gift of Jesus - a gift that we don't deserve, but that He gave us anyway. And because he gave the gift of Jesus, every one of us can experience salvation!

Lesson Goals

What is salvation and what do we need to be saved from? Paul gave the answer in Titus 2:14. Jesus gave Himself for everyone, to save all people from the bad things we do and to clean up everyone for Himself and make us ready to do good things. Paul says again in chapter three (v 3), that they were once foolish and disobedient, spending their lives hating each other. But he also said that God's kindness came, and that He saved them. God didn't save them for anything good they had done; He saved them according to His mercy. Mercy is when we are saved from the punishment we deserve.

Have you ever been foolish or disobedient? Have you ever hated someone? Maybe you still do. Well, for doing bad things like that we really should be punished! But . . . God made a way for us to be saved from the punishment we deserve - His kindness came. What, or who, do you think God's kindness is? JESUS! Did we do something good to make Him come? NO! He doesn't save us because we keep a bunch of rules, or help people, or obey our parents all the time. He saves us because He loves us. And He saves us when we ask Him to; He waits to be invited in. If you know you've never talked to God about His wonderful gift of Jesus and that you want to be saved from the bad things you do, talk to Him now or talk to me after the story.

And if you have been saved from all those bad things, there's something God wants you to do! Being "saved" means making Jesus the most important thing in your life. More important than TV, school, family, friends, etc. It means putting God first in everything. Remember, that doing these good things doesn't save us, but, once we are saved, we should want to do them. In his letter to Titus, Paul tells Titus and the Cretans five times that they should be doing good things. You know how when your teacher or your parents tell you something once, that you should do it. Do you think it is more important or less important if they tell you again?! (More important.) Well when Paul says something FIVE times, it's pretty important. Let's be careful to do lots of good things!

**Memory Verse
Activities**

Make small cards, with one word each, to spell out today's memory verse. Attach magnets to the back of each card (or if you have access, buy printable magnetic sheets for your printer and print out today's verse). Using a magnetic surface, have students order the scrambled verse, then read it.

Prayer Time

Be sure to pray, thanking God for His kindness - for the gift of salvation! Thank Him that it's not something that only the rich can have.. Thank Him that it's not just a gift for boys, or only for girls. Thank Him because salvation is for everyone!

Clean Up/Snack time

Take this opportunity to answer any lingering questions your students may have concerning the lesson, specifically regarding salvation.

Planning for October 24th
Philemon

Preschool Lesson for Titus

Begin by singing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus.

On your birthday, we celebrate the day you were born. Have you ever received a really good gift on your birthday, a gift that made you want to say “thank you” over and over again?

Well, today is not Jesus’ birthday, so why did we sing “Happy Birthday” to Him? We can sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus as a way to talk about Him and celebrate Him every day of the year, not just at Christmas. We can do this because He was a big, exciting, amazing gift to us from God! In one of Paul’s letters we read that we should thank God because He has given us a gift so big that it’s really hard to say “thank you” enough (2 Corinthians 9:15).

When you get a birthday present, do you have to do chores to earn your present?! NO! That present is a gift for you, just because your parents love you and want to tell you how thankful they are for you. God’s gift of Jesus is like that too! We don’t have to work and keep lots of rules to receive Jesus as a gift. God sent His one and only Son because He loved us so much, even though we do bad things sometimes!

Let’s say “thank you” to God for His amazing gift of Jesus. (Take this time to pray, and model prayer for your preschoolers).

Activities for Titus

- Your students have learned that salvation is for everyone! During the course of your Bible Study time, be sure to stress over and over to them that salvation is for everyone. Have them make a list of friends or family that they can share that truth with this week.
 - Plan to work on a puzzle with your students. Before class, take one of the puzzle pieces and hide it. Help your students with the chosen puzzle. When they have completed the puzzle, minus the hidden piece, ask them what's missing. Also ask them why there is a problem with an incomplete puzzle. Then take the opportunity to share with them that if there is just one person who doesn't know that Jesus died for them and isn't saved from all the bad things they have done, then it's even more of a problem than a missing puzzle piece. Retrieve the missing piece and put it in place while stressing to your students how much God wants everyone to be saved and what an awesome opportunity we have to do a good thing and tell them.
 - Stressing that salvation is not earned by good works, talk to your students about the good things they can do once they experience salvation. Be sure to point them to Scripture, including Colossians 3:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Philippians 4:18, etc
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