“Fanning the Flame”

2 Timothy 1:1-12

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 1:1-12

**Memory Verse:** “*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* 2 Timothy 1:7

**Lesson Focus:** To stir up the gift that God has given us to use for the Gospel.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring sheet, Word Search

Craft for 1st and 2nd Graders: “Fan the flame” Fan.

Give the kids their fan. Help them decorate their fan and then cut it out. Tape or glue the popsicle stick to the fan. Remind them that when they fan themselves that they are to remember to “fan the flame” of the gifts that God will give them to use so that people will come to know Jesus.

**Introduction:** Ask the kids, have any of you ever gone camping. Have you seen a camp fire? Ask them if they know how to start a camp fire?

1. Gather the wood
2. Stack the wood
3. Put kindling in the fire to start the fire
4. Light the match

How do you keep the fire going? (you have to stir it up and rekindle the flame from the ashes.) Everyone knows that when you have a camp fire you have to keep it going or it will just burn out. Today we are going to learn that God has given all of His children gifts to be used for His Kingdom. These are gifts that are given by the Holy Spirit. Paul is going to remind Timothy of his gift and remind him to “stir it up” or “fan it back to life” just like we fan a fire back to life. Paul does not want Timothy’s gift to burn out!

**Bible Lesson:**

This is Paul’s second letter to Timothy. His first one dealt mainly with the Church and the teaching of clear doctrine. This 2nd letter is all about Timothy. It is a very personal letter to Timothy from his father in the faith.

**2 Timothy 1:1-3:**

√ Who is writing 2 Timothy? (Paul)

√ Who is Paul writing to?

√ What title does Paul call Timothy? (beloved son – literally my “beloved child.”

√ What do you think their relationship was like?

√ In 2 Timothy 1:3; how does Paul describe his ministry?

1. Serves God with a clear conscience
2. Serves God without ceasing
3. Always prays for Timothy

**2 Timothy 1:4:**

Paul describes their special relationship. He wants to see Timothy. Evidently one of the last times they saw each other Timothy was brought to tears. Paul knows that when he sees Timothy he will be filled with joy. They truly had a special relationship.

√ Have you ever been sad to say goodbye to someone?

√ Have you ever been truly happy to see someone again?

**2 Timothy 1:5:**

√ What does Paul remember about Timothy? (His genuine faith)

Timothy was not a fake. He believed with his whole heart. He was the “real deal.”

√ Where did Timothy get this faith? (from his grandmother, Lois and his mother Eunice.)

√ What does that tell you about Timothy’s home life?

The Bible tells us over and over that parents are responsible for the spiritual upbringing of their children.

1. Deuteronomy 12:18-19; *“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sing on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”*
2. Psalm 78:4: *“We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.”*

Evidently Timothy’s grandmother and mother were very intentional in teaching Timothy about God. Their faith was strong and Timothy’s faith was strong.

**2 Timothy 1:6:**

√ What does Paul remind Timothy of?

√ What is the “gift” that Paul was referring to? (spiritual gift)

√ Where is the gift? (in you)

√ What was Timothy to do with the gift? (“to stir up” or “fan the flame.” To keep the gift that God has given you alive through using it. Just like you “fan a flame” to keep the fire alive you need to “fan the flame” of the gift God has given you.)

√ What is a spiritual gift and who gives it?

Spiritual gifts:

1. 1 Corinthians 12:11

The Holy Spirit gives the gifts: “*But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” The Holy Spirit decides who gets what gift.*

1. 1 Corinthians 12:7

The gifts are given to be used for all in the body of Christ.

1. 1 Corinthians 12:12

All of the gifts make up the body of Christ. Each local church is made up of many members. Each one was given a spiritual gift to help make the body function. Some are given the gift of teaching, or leadership or knowledge or mercy, etc.

1. Ephesians 4:12

The gifts where given to equip every believer to become more like Christ.

In the body of Christ, the Church, everyone has a role to play. Paul and the leaders of the church saw the gift that God through the Holy Spirit had given Timothy. They laid hands on him and prayed that the gift would be used for the Kingdom of God. Paul is reminding Timothy that his gift to be a leader in the church was given to him from God.

**2 Timothy 1:7**

√ What does Paul say that God has NOT given us? (a spirit of fear)

When we know Jesus we learn from the Bible not to fear. We put our trust in God and we know that He is in charge. Even when bad things happen to us, God knows and will help us through it. We can run to God like we run to our fathers. We are God’s child!

Romans 8:15; *“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by who we cry out, “Abba, Father. For the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”*

√ What has God given us?

1. Spirit of power (Acts 1:8; …you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you…”)
2. Spirit of love (Romans 5:5:…”*Because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit…”)*
3. Spirit of a sound mind (Romans 12:2; *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind…”)*

**2 Timothy 1:8-12:**

√ What does Paul tell Timothy to not be ashamed of?

Don’t be ashamed of Jesus.

Don’t be ashamed of me (Paul) because I’m in prison. When Paul wrote 1 Timothy he was on the road trying to come to Ephesus. But now he is in prison for preaching the Gospel. He is probably in a prison in Rome in an underground chamber with a single hole in the ceiling for light and air. Some people believe that when bad things happen to you, then God is not with you. Paul knew that was not true. Paul did not deserve to be in prison. He had done nothing illegal. But he was bold and preached the gospel and he was put in prison. Paul is not ashamed, and knows that God has allowed this to happen. Suffering is part of the Gospel – John 15:18-20.

√ What does Paul tell Timothy to share in with him?

The sufferings of the Gospel.

√ What does that mean

1. To not be ashamed of Jesus. When people that you know make fun of you because you love Jesus and go to Church and don’t do the things that they do…do not let them shame you.

Romans 1:16: “I am not ashamed of the Gospel of God for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes…”

The Gospel is what Jesus has done for us (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

1. The sufferings of the Gospel means that people may do mean things just because we believe in Jesus.

We are not to be ashamed of Jesus because we have received so much through Jesus:

2 Timothy 1:9:

\*Saved through Jesus (by his Grace not by our works)

\*Called to a holy calling – and He has a purpose for us that was made before the foundations of the world.

\* Jesus has abolished death and has given us eternal life

1. 2 Timothy 1:12: *“…for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day.”*

Paul is saying that it does not matter what he suffers here on earth for Jesus. We know that Paul was beaten, thrown into prison, stoned and many other things, just for preaching that Jesus is Lord. But he none of that matters because he knows Jesus and he knows that Jesus has Paul’s life in His hands.

**Conclusion:** We are not to be ashamed of Jesus. We are to use the gift that God has given us for the Kingdom of God. Go back to the classroom and talk about Spiritual Gifts. Ask the following questions:

1. What are spiritual gifts?
2. Who gives them?
3. How do we receive them?
4. How do we know what spiritual gift God has given us?
5. How do we “fan the flame” of our spiritual gift?