

“Never Too Young” - LESSON 1

“Be An Example”

Main Focus:

No matter how young you are, you can be a strong example for others



Power Verse:

“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers...”

- 1 Timothy 4:12



Watt’s Up:

“I’m Never Too Young To Change The World!”

LEADER’S INFO

Too many kids buy into the idea that you have to “grow up” and become an adult before you can really do anything BIG for God! This is not true. The Bible is full of great examples of young people who made a huge difference in the world when they put their faith in God.

One of those young leaders was a young man named, Timothy. Timothy was called by the Apostle Paul to follow along on one of the missionary journeys. In addition, Timothy ended up leading many adults in their Christian faith.

Through the story of Timothy and Paul’s charge to him, the children will learn that they are “Never Too Young” to be an example for ALL believers!



“The Spark” Intro Video

Jordan & Elliott introduce the series



“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”



Character Skit

“Giddy”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Baby Bottle Big Gulp”



Bible Story

“Timothy Is Called”



Power Verse Video

“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers...”

- 1 Timothy 4:12



Call To Action

“Be An Example”



Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

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Call To Action

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Small Group Experience

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CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Giddy” (A bubbly, southern, hyperactive little girl that loves surprising her friends, but the surprises never work out))

(Giddy tip-toes onstage, sneaking behind the leader who does not notice her at all. Giddy leans in closely to the leader’s ear. She takes a deep breath...)

GIDDY: SURPRIIIIIIIIISSSEEEEE!!!!

Leader: Aggh!! *(jumps, startled)*

GIDDY: Oh my GOODNESS GRACIOUS I just LOOOOOOOOOVE SURPRISES!

Leader: You almost gave me a heart attack! Who ARE you?!

GIDDY: My full name is Giddadora Grace Galapagos Gallowell the third.

Leader: Wow, that entire thing is your na--

GIDDY: *(interrupts)* But everybody calls me GIDDY!!!!!!!

Leader: Wow, Giddy, you sure seem to be really excited.

GIDDY: Oh I AM excited! And you wanna know why? OF COURSE YOU DO!! *(starts speaking at a rapid-fire pace)* I come out here and I’m all like SURPRISE and you’re all like AGGGHH and I’m all like I’M GIDDY and then you’re all like Giddy I love your dress and I’m all like THAAAAANK YOUU and then you’re all like you look like a princess and I’m all like my daddy calls me a princess and you’re all like you really ARE a princess and you get to ride a PONY, so where’s my pony?

Leader: What?

GIDDY: My pony!!

Leader: Giddy, you’re talking so fast I can’t understand what you’re saying!

GIDDY: *(Takes in a deep breath and says very slowly)* MYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY POOOOOONNNYYYYYYYYY!!!!

Leader: Why do you think you are getting a pony??

GIDDY: Because grownups get to ride ponies and I wanna be a grownup RIGHT NOW!!

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Leader: You want to be a grown up right now? How old are you?

GIDDY: Ummmmm.....(thinks for a minute, then holds up a random number of fingers) THIS MANY! I wanna be a grownup so I can do **BIIIIG THINGS**, like be a missionary, or go to the Mars, or OOH OOH be a missionary to **MARTIANS!** (starts speaking in a robotic voice) **JESUS-LOVES-YOU.**

Leader: Well, Giddy, you don't have to be a grownup to do big things for God.

GIDDY: Silly Billy, yes you do! God only uses grownups. Everybody knows **THAT!** **DUUUUUUHHHHH!**

Leader: Actually, that's not true at all. Today the boys and girls are learning **all** about how you are **NEVER** too young to do Big Things for God! The bible is **FULL** of heroes that God started using when they were really young! Like Timothy, for example!

GIDDY: I had a guinea pig named Timothy, but I returned him to the store. **NOBODY BITES MOMMA!!**

Leader: That's not what I mean, Giddy! Today we're talking about a guy in the Bible named Timothy! He was good friends with the Apostle Paul! Paul taught him that you are **NEVER TOO YOUNG** to do **BIG THINGS** for God! You can start **NOW!**

GIDDY: Now? Like **NOW-NOW?!**

Leader: Yep.

GIDDY: Oh my **WORD!** Why am I sitting here like a bump on a log talking to **YOU?!** I gotta go!!

Leader: What're you going to do?

GIDDY: I gotta go build my **MISSIONS ROCKET TO MARS!** (starts singing) **JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE MAAAAARTIANS, ALL THE MARTIANS OF THE MAAAAARS! WHETHER YELLOW, PINK, OR GREEN, JESUS DOESN'T THINK THEY'RE MEAN, JESUS LOVES ALL THE MARTIANS OF THE MAAAAAAAARS!**

Leader: Giddy, I'm pretty sure Martians don't exist.

GIDDY: Oh... I'LL GO TO **JUPITER THEN!!** I'll see you later, boys and girls! **Get-a-long-little-Giddy!**
BYEEEEEEEEEE!!!

(Play “Giddy’s Theme Music” from the DVD as she exits)



GAME ON!

“Baby Bottle Big Gulp”

Items Needed For Game:

six small baby bottles filled with apple juice; baby bibs (*optional*)

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Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to compete in this game. Before the game say, “We are talking about how you are NEVER too young to do big things for God. So, we are going to play a game that takes us all the way back to being a baby!”

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How To Play:

When you say, “Go!”, the contestants will try to drink the juice from the bottle as fast as they can. The first team to have a contestant finish the juice completely is declared the winners!



Bible Story

“Timothy Is Called”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (as shown)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Acts 16:1-3 and 1 Timothy 4:11-12; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Have you ever heard of the Apostle Paul? He is one of the greatest heroes of the Bible. In fact, he was the man God used to write most of the New Testament. *(show pic)* Paul traveled the world preaching and teaching to thousands of people. Paul met lots of people in his travels. One of the people he met impressed him a whole lot. *(show pic)* It was a young man named Timothy.

Timothy was much younger than Paul. That didn't stop the Apostle Paul from seeing incredible potential in Timothy. Even though he was very young, Paul approached Timothy and *(show pic)* said, “You are well thought of by the believers. Will you join my missionary journey?” WOW! Timothy was just a young person and he was recognized by Paul as a strong example to other Christians.

(show pic) Paul took Timothy along with him on his missionary journey. They started many churches and accomplished great things over the years. One day, Paul was thrown into prison for preaching the good news of Jesus. He wanted to make sure Timothy continued to preach the gospel, *(show pic)* so he decided to write him a letter. This letter is what is now known as the book of 1 Timothy in the Bible - because it was the first letter that Paul wrote to Timothy.

Timothy received this letter *(show pic)* and began to read it. He read these words from Paul, “Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers...” Timothy understood exactly what Paul was telling him. He knew that, even though he was very young, he was able to be an example for other Christians to follow. Timothy continued to preach about Jesus and taught the Christians in the churches.

Timothy understood something very important. You are NEVER TOO YOUNG to be an example for others. Other kids - even adults - can learn from watching how you live. If you follow God in all you do and set an example for others, you can change the world! That's exactly what we are going to learn in our lesson today!





Call To Action

“Be An Example”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; a large clock

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson One,” begin with the slide titled “Be An Example.”

The Message: *(title slide)*



Today, we learned about the incredible young Bible hero named Timothy. Timothy was young, but he didn’t let that stop him from doing some incredible things for God. Now, he certainly could have come up with some excuses why he was too young. He could have said, “I just want to have fun!” He could have said, “I have too many things to do - friends, sports, activities, etc.” There are many excuses he could have thrown out, but instead he understood...

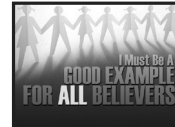
I Am Never Too Young To Do Big Things For God *(slide)*



If God could use Timothy to preach all across the world, planting churches, and being an example to all believers, then God can use each one of you. So many kids make the mistake of saying, “I’m too young.” They think that they have to wait until they are older before they can be taken seriously. They think, “I am just a kid. Who is going to pay any attention to what I say?”

The Apostle Paul gave Timothy some incredible advice. In fact, that advice is found in our PowerVerse today. “Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers...” - 1 Timothy 4:12 You must understand - no matter what your age - you can do BIG things for God. So, follow the advice of Apostle Paul.

I Must Be A Good Example For ALL Believers *(slide)*



The truth is, people are watching you. Younger children are watching. Your friends are watching. Adults are watching. One of the biggest ways you can make a difference for others is to show them a good example of what it means to be a Christian. How do you do that? The Apostle Paul continues in the same verse, 1 Timothy 4:12, “...be an example for ALL believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.”

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Call To Action (Continued)

What a great list! If you want to be a good example for ALL believers, do it in “what you say.” Let your words be truthful, helpful, and kind. If you want to be a good example for ALL believers, do it in “the way you live.” Live every moment to please Jesus and follow His commands. If you want to be a good example for ALL believers, do it in “your love.” Show love to others, especially those who least deserve it. If you want to be a good example for ALL believers, do it in “your faith.” Believe that God can use you in a big-time way. If you want to be a good example for ALL believers, do it in “your purity.” Stay away from sin at all costs.

THAT is how you can be a good example for all believers - “in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.” WOW! You can ALL do that! It’s what God has called you to do. You are NEVER TOO YOUNG to be an example for all believers. So, here is the last lesson you need to learn...

If I Want To Change The World - I Must Start NOW! *(slide)*



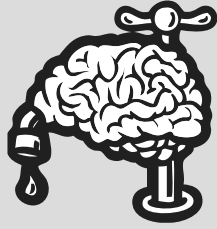
Too many kids wait until they are older to start really making a difference. Of course, we learned today that there is no reason to do that. God can use you, no matter how young you are. So, why wait? *(hold up the clock)* Every second you wait, that is a second you lose. Every minute you wait to allow God to use you, that is a minute you can’t get back.

You must start NOW! You are NEVER TOO YOUNG to do big things for God. God wants to use you to pray for the sick and see them healed. God wants to use you to share the gospel with others and see them become Christians. God wants to use you to love and encourage others. God wants to use you to give to Missionaries so that people across the world can hear the truth of Jesus.

Do you want to change the world? Don’t wait! Start NOW! You are NEVER TOO YOUNG to change the world!

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Pray for every child to trust God and believe He will use them in a big way. Have the children stand up - those who want God to use them to do BIG things for Him. Have your adult leaders lay hands on the children and pray for them.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson One,” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “I’m Never Too Young To Change The World!”

2. The name of the girl on the video who gave up her birthday party is _____.

Answer: Anna

3. Who was the young man that the Apostle Paul asked to join him on his journey?

Answer: Timothy

4. Who taught us today’s Power Verse?

Answer: Babyface

5. Should you wait until you are older to do BIG things for God?

Answer: No

6. Did Timothy decide to go on the missionary journey?

Answer: Yes

7. According to our lesson today, “I Am _____ Too Young To Do BIG Things For God.”

Answer: Never

8. According to our lesson today, “I Must Be A _____ For ALL Believers.”

Answer: Good Example

9. According to our lesson today, “If I Want To Change The World - I Must Start _____!”

Answer: Now

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: I Timothy 4:12

Small Group Experience

LESSON 1 - "Be An Example"

NEVER
TOO
YOUNG



Watt's Up:

"I'm Never Too Young To Change The World!"



Power Verse:

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers..." - **1 Timothy 4:12**

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

- * "Timothy Thru Time" print piece (*provided; print one set*)
- * Bible Story Pictures (*provided; print one set*)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

When small group begins break the kids into three groups. The kids will recreate the Bible story in teams. Each team will have a certain part of the story to tell based on what "Timothy Thru Time" card they are given. Give each group one of the "Timothy Thru Time" print pieces. Place the Bible story pictures on the floor at the front of the room. Allow each group to come and claim the pictures that go with their "Timothy Thru Time" picture. The group that has Timothy as Tiny Baby will use the first two pictures to retell that part of the story. The group that has Timothy as a Toddler will use the second two pictures to retell that part of the story. The group that has Timothy as a Teenager will use the final two pictures to retell that part of the story. Allow the groups a few minutes to decide how they will retell their part of the story before you begin.

Say - "I am so glad that you all are here! Today, we began looking at people in the Bible who did amazing things for God. We aren't talking about adults! What? No mamas, no daddies, no grannies, no pappies! We're talking about how God used young people just like you to make a BIG difference. I have placed you guys into three teams. I am giving each of your teams a different picture of 'Timothy Thru Time.' Each 'Timothy Thru Time' picture has two matching Bible story pictures. Once you receive your 'Timothy Thru Time' pictures, you can come to the front and find the two Bible story pictures that match your Timothy. You will have a few minutes to decide how you want to tell your part of the story. Team 'Tiny Baby Tim' will go first, Team 'Toddler Tim' will go second and Team 'Teenager Tim' will close out the story. Are you ready? Go!"

Allow the teams time to strategize. Then, have them present their team's part of the story.

Say - "You all did a fantastic job telling the Bible story! I am sure that Timothy wasn't the only young man in his town, but something about him stood out. Something about Timothy was different."

Ask - "What made Timothy different from the other young people in his town?"

Say - "Acts 16:2 says, 'The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.'"

Ask - "Why do you think the believers spoke well of Timothy?"

Say - "If you love and obey God, others will see that in your life! Timothy was a true follower of Christ. He didn't just say he loved God. He let his attitudes and his actions reflect the love he had for God!"

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Game/Activity**SUPPLY LIST:**

- * Costume print pieces (*provided; print one set*)
- * Box or paper sack
- * Handkerchief or other material to serve as a blindfold
- * A watch or stopwatch

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, cut out the Costume Print Pieces. Place them in a box or paper sack so that they cannot be seen. Group the kids together in teams. Tell the kids that they are now playing a game of “Who Do I Look Like?” Choose a team to go first. One member from that team will come forward. Blindfold that team member and hand them one of the Costume Print Pieces. Make sure that they hold it so their team members can see the design on the piece. The object is for the team to get the blindfolded person to guess, “Who Do I Look Like?” That team will have 30 seconds to call out hints and clues to their blindfolded teammate. They cannot say any part of the name of the costume. At the end of the 30 seconds, the blindfolded team member will get a chance to guess who they look like. If they answer correctly, their team will get the chance to answer the Bible question first. If they do not guess who they look like, the question will be passed to the other team. Call on a new person to be blindfolded after each question until all questions have been answered.

Say - “You are all now players in the game, ‘Who Do I Look Like?’ I am going to ask some review questions, but you have to compete for the chance to answer them! Before each question, I will call a member of your team to the front to be blindfolded. I will hand the blindfolded person a picture of a costume, uniform, or piece of clothing. The teams will have 30 seconds to give their teammate clues to help them figure out, ‘Who Do I Look Like?’ If the blindfolded person guesses correctly their team will get the chance to answer the question. If they answer incorrectly the other team will have the chance to answer. Are you guys ready to play, ‘Who Do I Look Like?’

- Call one person forward, blindfold them and play, “Who Do I Look Like?” -

- Q.** True or False, our story was about the Apostle Peter and Timothy?
A. *False*

- Call one person forward, blindfold them and play, “Who Do I Look Like?” -

- Q.** What did Paul invite Timothy to do?
A. *To join him on his missionary journeys*

- Call one person forward, blindfold them and play, “Who Do I Look Like?” -

- Q.** Why was Paul thrown into Prison?
A. *For teaching the good news of Jesus*

- Call one person forward, blindfold them and play, “Who Do I Look Like?” -

- Q.** While Paul was in prison he sent something to Timothy, what did he send?
A. *A letter*

(Continued on next page)

- Call one person forward, blindfold them and play, “Who Do I Look Like?” -

Q. Giddy said that she wanted to be a grown up so that she could ride what?

A. A pony

- Call one person forward, blindfold them and play, “Who Do I Look Like?” -

Q. Complete this phrase, “Never ___ anyone _____ on you _____ you are _____.”

A. Never let anyone look down on you because you are young.

- Call one person forward, blindfold them and play, “Who Do I Look Like?” -

Q. True or False, Timothy understood that he had to wait until he was 25 years old to be an example to all believers?

A. False

Say - “You all did an awesome job playing, ‘Who Do I Look Like?’ That was a fun game to play, but it is also a great question for us to ask ourselves every day! When people looked at Timothy they saw God shining through his life. He was a reflection of God.”

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * “Mirror” print pieces (provided; print one per person)
- * Scissors (one per person, or they can share)
- * Crayons or Markers (variety that they can share)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Have the kids come together as a large group. Give each kid a mirror print piece to cut out and decorate. Tell them to leave the middle of the mirror empty so that they can write in it later. Once they have done this, you can begin group sharing.

Say - “I am giving each of you a page that has a picture of a mirror. Cut out the mirror and decorate it however you want, but leave the middle of the mirror blank. We will write in that area later.”

- Allow kids time to cut out and decorate mirrors -

Ask - “Can anyone guess why I would give you a picture of a mirror?”

Say - “Mirrors show the reflection of whatever or whoever is in front of them. When people looked at Timothy and watched his life, they saw the reflection of God’s love and grace. Timothy was young, but he understood that you are NEVER TOO YOUNG to be a Godly example to others. I want us to think of some ways that our lives can be a reflection of God. Write the answers in the mirror.”

Say - “Do you think that young people can really make a difference for God? Why?”

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Prayer Time


Say - “The world is full of reflections. If you want to stand out, if you don’t want to be just another face in the mirror, you must reflect God. Timothy had this figured out. He stood out because he reflected God! Because of that, God was able to use Timothy to bring Glory to Him. I want us to take time to pray that God will help us to be reflections of Him. After that, I want to pray for you. I am going to pray that every day you are reminded that you are NEVER TOO YOUNG to be an example for others!” (PRAY)

Closing

Say - “God loves to use unexpected people to do great things for Him. I am sure everyone thought that Paul would choose an adult to go with him on his missionary journeys, but he did not! He chose Timothy, a young man. God doesn’t look at a person’s age when he is deciding whether or not they are qualified. He looks at their reflection. Timothy was a reflection of God and that made him the perfect person for the job no matter his age. You are NEVER TOO YOUNG to be an example for others! God can use you right now! Take time this week to ask yourself, ‘Who Do I Look Like?’ Pray that God will change you to reflect more and more of Him so that he can use you to do amazing things!”







**You are
well thought
of by believers.
Will you join
my missionary
journey?**



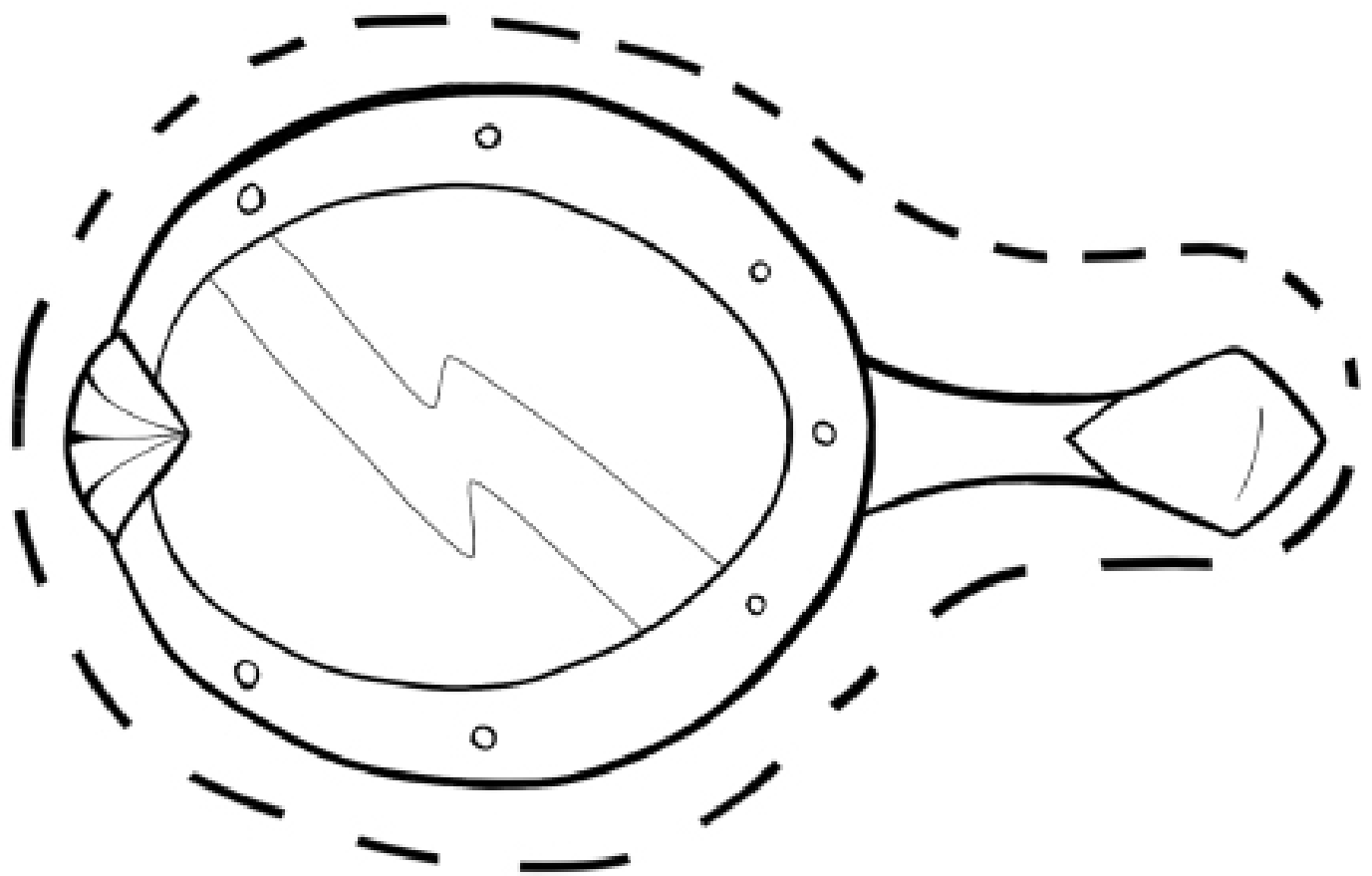
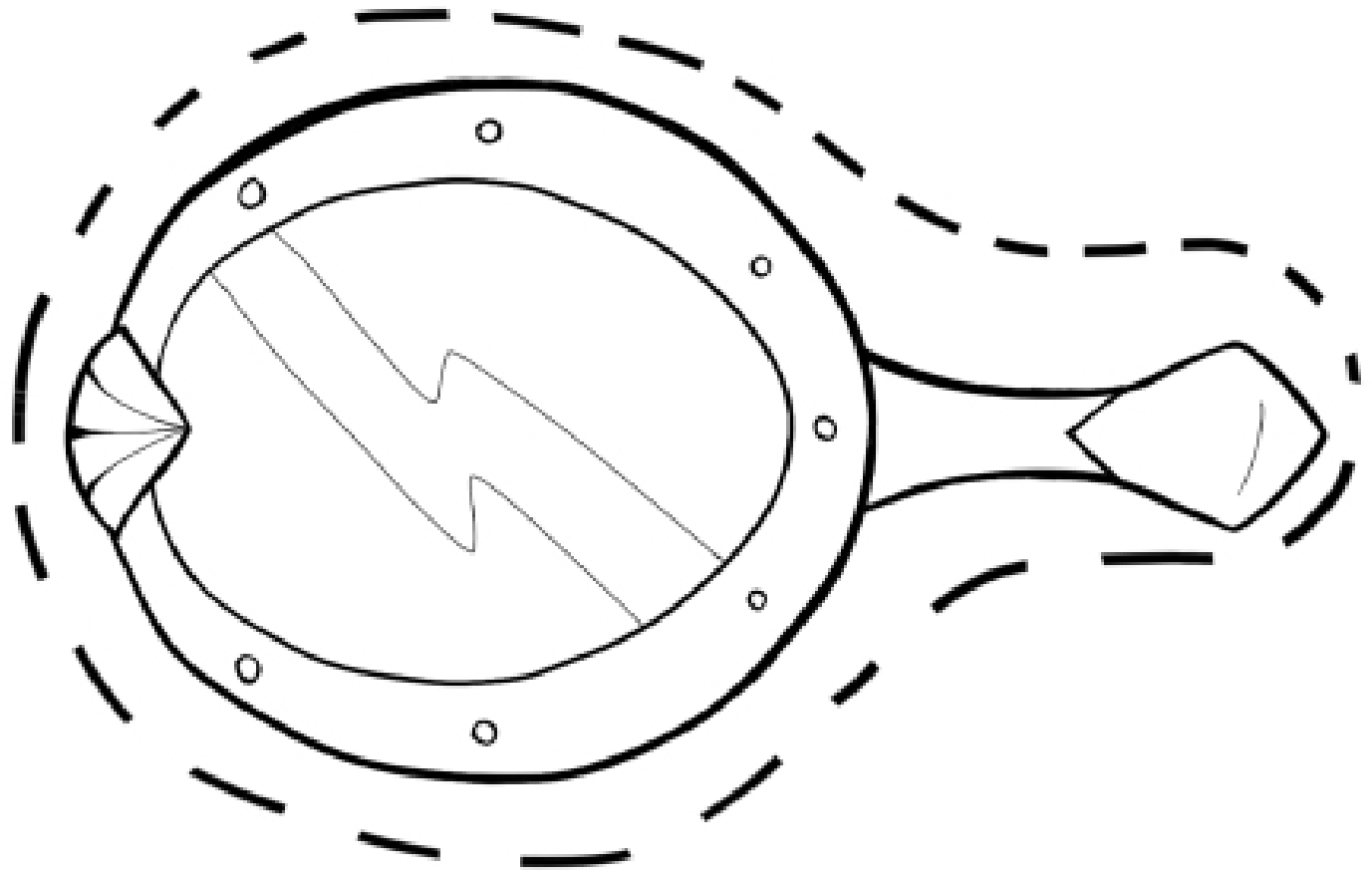


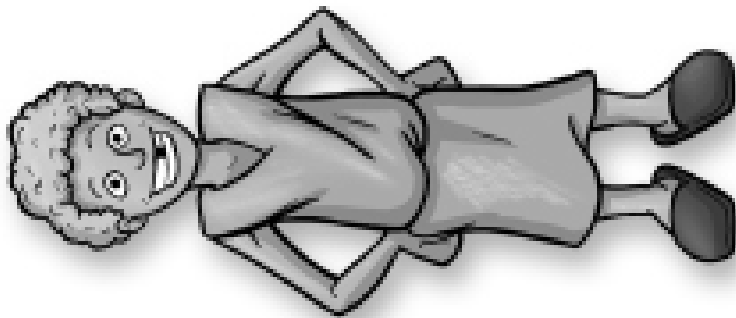
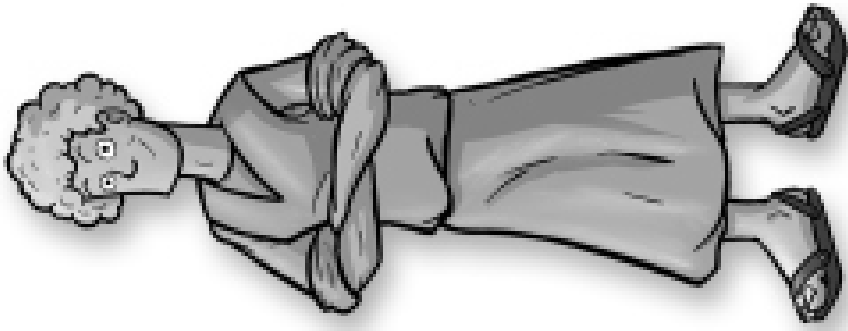
**“Don’t let
anyone think
less of you are
because you are
young. Be an
example to all
believers...”**











Family Devotion

“Be An Example”



Watt's Up:

“I'm Never Too Young To Change The World!”



Power Verse:

“Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers...” - **1 Timothy 4:12**

This week we started a new series called “Never Too Young.”

Start this week's devotion by asking your children some questions.

Ask:

- What are some things that you are “too young” to do?
- How does it make you feel when someone says you are “too young”?
- Do you think God says things like you are “too young” to do things for Him?

Say:

The world, video games, school, or even our friends may sometimes tell us we are too young to do things, but God never says we are “too young”! The next few weeks we are going to be talking about some things that God thinks you are “not too young” to do. In fact, you are just the right age!

Ask:

- Does anyone remember who was the young man who studied under the Apostle Paul? (*Answer: Timothy*)
- What did we learn from Timothy that we are never too young to do? (*to be an example and change the world*)

Say:

This week, Timothy helped us learn that we can do **BIG** things for God. We can change the world! We are never too young to get involved in what God is doing!

Activity:

Make a list or chart as a family (*or help children individually*) of the things they can get involved in and start doing for God. (*Examples- talking to their friends about Jesus, getting involved in a certain ministry, etc*)

Pray:

Pray that your child/children will never forget they are “Not Too Young” to do great **BIG** things for God!