

Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade





= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:



“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” 2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV)

Hook:





Suffering for Righteousness (Activity/Discussion).   For this activity, you need to catch a student at doing something good, such as: sitting quietly, or helping the teacher pass supplies out, etc. When you catch a student doing something good or right, make the class suffer a punishment; such as everyone has to put their head down on the table or go stand facing a wall for 5 minutes. Explain to the students that they will probably never have to worry about suffering great torture or even death for what they believe, but the apostles did. Today there are some people around the world that do suffer for their beliefs. Share a few stories of missionaries who have suffered. Explain further that even though they may not suffer like the apostles did, they may suffer being made fun of in school or by friends and neighbors because they choose to live differently for Christ. For example, if they choose not to swear some kids may ridicule them. If they always obey the teacher they may be called “teacher’s pet” or “goody-two-shoes”. When they are made fun of, ridiculed, or called names, will they stand firm and pass the test of faith?



Secret Meeting (Activity).   Pretend you are holding class in a place where freedom to worship Christ does not exist. Pull the shades on the windows. Darken the room as much as possible. If you can get the room very dark, use flashlights or lanterns for light. Partition a corner of the room for a ‘meeting place’ and seat the children on the floor so that they are somewhat crowded. Sing quietly together. Explain to the students that in many parts of the world Christians meet like this. During all of history there have been times and places where it is very dangerous to be a Christian. Tell the students that in the lesson today, Paul will warn Timothy about this and tell him how to be prepared for terrible times to come.



Look to God's Word (Game).   This game is played like a Bible drill. The students will hold a closed Bible up in the air. The teacher makes a statement that can be answered or refuted from God's Word. For example the teacher says, “You are at school and a friend tries to tell you that God can tell a lie.” The teacher would then say, “Look to God's Word: Titus 1:2.” The students should open their Bibles to find Titus 1:2 as quickly as possible. The first student to find it should stand up and read Titus 1:2. Prepare scenarios and Scriptures ahead of time, that are relevant to the lesson and age of the students. After you have played for awhile, remind the students that all of the answers we need for handling persecution and suffering are in the pages of the Bible. The inspired Word of God has the answers and the help we need to be thoroughly equipped for every good work, 2 Timothy 3:16.



Tug of War for Truth (Activity/Discussion). 🦋, 🦋 For this activity you will need two ropes and an awesome treat to award the winning team. Divide the students into two teams. One team will represent 'The World' and the other will represent 'The Truth'. Explain to the students that 'The World' means people whose actions and beliefs are not of God (unbelievers), and 'The Truth' means people whose actions and beliefs are dependent on God (believers). Example: 'The World' believes watching movies or TV shows with bad language isn't so bad. It won't affect me and I'll be okay. 'The Truth' believes: "I will set before my eyes no vile thing." Psalm 101:3a; and "Bad company corrupts good character." 1 Corinthians 15:33.

Lay a rope down in the middle of the area. Teams line up single-file on opposite sides of the rope on the floor. The object of this activity is to try and pull the opposing team over the line. Be sure everyone knows what the prize is so they will be very determined to pull hard for the win. The winning team collects their prize. You can also have a tug of war of students against teachers and helpers. Sometimes children battle with parents about obeying. Explain to the students that in our daily life we will face struggles to do what the Bible says or give in to the world's ways. Ask them: "Which will you do?"



Whatever Happened to the Apostles? (Story). 🦋 Tell the students that we know that as Paul wrote 2 Timothy he was in prison and expecting to die soon. Ask the question: "Do you ever wonder what really happened to Paul and the other apostles?" Explain to the students that we can't be completely sure because the Bible doesn't tell us, but there are stories from history about most of the apostles. Some of these stories were passed around for a long time before they were written down so we can't be sure that they are true. Other accounts were written by historians during Roman times and are just as reliable as the material in your history books at school. Read the following history to the students:

- James, the brother of John, was the first apostle to die. Clement, a Roman historian, wrote that the person who brought James to the authorities and testified against him had a change of heart along the way and became a Christian. He asked and received forgiveness from James. They were beheaded together in 36 A.D.
- Thomas was killed by a dart in India.
- Simon, the zealot, was crucified after preaching in Africa and in Britain.
- Bartholomew preached in India and is said to have translated Matthew's gospel into the Indian language. He was beaten, crucified and when he was almost dead he was beheaded.
- Andrew, brother of Peter, preached in Africa. The following story was told to an historian named Jerome: When Andrew went to speak to Governor Aegeas about the evils of idol worship, the governor threatened to crucify him if he didn't stop preaching and teaching about Christ. He replied, "I would not have preached the honor and glory of the cross if I feared the death of the cross." He was immediately condemned to death and went willingly to be crucified.
- Matthew, after he wrote his gospel, preached in Africa and many were converted. Hircanus, the king of Egypt, sent a man to kill him with a spear.
- Philip was crucified and stoned to death in Phrygia.
- James, writer of the book of James and brother of Jesus, was seized by the scribes and Pharisees during Passover. They forced him up to a pinnacle of the temple and demanded he tell the crowd that Jesus had deceived them. Instead he said, "Why do you ask me of Jesus the Son of Man? He sitteth on the right hand of the Most High, and shall come in the clouds of heaven." The angry Jewish leaders threw him down. The fall did not kill him and he began to pray. A blow to the head took his life.
- Peter was crucified. Jerome's account says that Peter was crucified upside down at his own request. Peter felt he was unworthy to die in the same manner as his Lord.
- Paul was executed by orders from Nero. He was beheaded with a sword.
- John was exiled by the Emperor Domitian to the island of Patmos where he wrote the book of Revelation. After Domitian's death he was released and ministered to the churches in Asia. He lived to be about 100 years old.



Book:

Presentation Ideas –



Jannes and Jambres—Egyptian Magicians (*Illustration/Coloring Page*). 🦋, 🦋 2 Timothy 3:8, 2TIM03.GF1.



Paul Persecuted for His Faith (*Illustration/Coloring Page*). 🦋, 🦋 2 Timothy 3:10-12, 2TIM03.GF2.



Young Timothy Learning the Word (*Illustration/Coloring Page*). 🦋, 🦋 2 Timothy 3:14-15, 2TIM03.GF3.

Bible Adventure for 1st – 6th Grades –

Suppose I told you I had decided to climb Mount Everest. I had on a T-shirt, shorts and a pair of flip-flops. I let you know I was completely ready to head out on my mountain climbing adventure. What would you think? Well, aside from thinking I was totally nuts, you would probably want to tell me that I was indeed not prepared for scaling the heights of Mount Everest. I would need the proper gear, clothing and training; not to mention an experienced group to accompany me. If I went as I was, I would most certainly not be ready to face the steep climb, blizzards, freezing temperatures, icy winds and the many other harsh realities that awaited me on the mountain.

Likewise, the apostle Paul did not want his young disciple, Timothy, to be unprepared to face the harsh realities that awaited him in his Christian life. In 2 Timothy 3, Paul wrote about the dangers that Timothy would encounter as a minister of the Gospel. He would experience suffering and persecution at the hands of godless men just as Paul had. Paul stated plainly that God's plan for the future included "terrible times" (3:1). This was because men would turn their backs on God and love themselves and their sin. Paul warned Timothy to avoid such men because they have absolutely no interest in godliness. They only chase after their own sinful desires and tempt others to do the same. The most frightening part about them is that outwardly they look religious, but in their hearts they are deceitful and sinful. Paul gave an example of what these men were like. He referred to Jannes and Jambres. They were two Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses and performed fake miracles. The Lord spoke through Moses and yet these men refused to listen and rejected God. The false teachers in Ephesus, where Timothy was staying were just the same way. Timothy needed to follow Paul's example by challenging their lies and persevering though the persecution that would inevitably follow. However, Paul pointed out, "They will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone" (3:9).

In addition to following his example, Paul encouraged Timothy to remain faithful to his ministry by clinging to the Word of God that was taught to him as a very young child. He was to study it and be absolutely convinced of all that it said. It was the truth of the Word that had saved him and it was the truth of the Word that would enable him to teach the Gospel and rebuke false teachers.

Paul reminded Timothy of the preciousness of God's truth written down in the Bible. He explained that the entire Bible was written by God Himself! He communicated His message to the minds of the writers of the Bible and they wrote down exactly what He wanted them to say. This is why we can be sure that the Bible is perfect, without any mistakes.

In his letter to Timothy, we learn from the apostle Paul that the Christian life is filled with suffering and danger. He said, "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life will be persecuted" (3:12). It should not catch us by surprise to find difficulties in our lives. Jesus Himself encountered extreme persecution when he confronted the false teachers and religious hypocrites of His day. These evil men were so angry with Jesus that they plotted to kill Him! This is why Timothy needed to brace himself for the fight that lay ahead of him as he dealt with the false teachers in Ephesus. Jesus told His followers, "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first." John 15:18.

Paul reminded Timothy that he had all that he required to persevere through suffering—the precious Word of God. Everything Timothy needed for courage and godly thinking, attitudes, speech and actions is contained in the Bible. The same is true for us. Today it may seem highly unlikely that we would ever

suffer for our faith by being either hurt or killed. However, in many countries around the world this occurs daily to missionaries and Christians who will not stop preaching about Jesus Christ. Suffering for us may mean being made fun of for following Jesus. Whatever the case, suffering for the Savior signifies that our love for God is so great that nothing can stand in the way of our showing our love for Him and sharing it with others. The question you must ask yourself is, "am I willing and ready to suffer, too?"

Aim Questions

1. **What did Paul say would eventually come during the last days?** (*Terrible times.*)
2. **What would men be like during these *terrible times*?** (*Men would be sinful and rebellious.*)
3. **What example of false teachers did Paul give to Timothy?** (*James and Jambres.*)
4. **What encouragement did Paul give to Timothy to persevere in verses 10-11?** (*Paul called Timothy to remain faithful to what he was taught and to remember Paul's example.*)
5. **What role does the Word of God play when we are suffering for the Savior?** (*It gives us hope and courage that it can change lives and make us adequate for everything.*)



Look:



Men in Terrible Times (Worksheet). Have the students complete the crossword as they refer to the passage provided on the worksheet, **2TIM03.GF4**. *Answers:* Across: unforgiving, denying, money, treacherous, boastful, terrible, brutal. Down: disobedient, abusive, unholy, rash, ungrateful, themselves, slanderous, proud.



Persecution (Bible Drill). Have the students hold their closed Bibles in the air as each reference is read. After the 'go' signal, have them race to find these verses on persecution, **2TIM03.GF5 Pgs.1 & 2**.



Kids of Courage I & II (Story/Discussion). Read the stories aloud of Kinza and James to the class, **2TIM03.GF6 Pgs. 1 & 2**. Explain to the students that these two kids of courage faced terrible suffering at the hands of Christ's enemies. Christian kids across the world are still persecuted because of their love for Jesus. Have the students answer the following questions on the whiteboard after they read the story of Kinza or James:

1. How does the story about James/Kinza change your view on suffering?
2. Is Christian suffering still occurring today?
3. How will you be praying for those Christians who are suffering in the world today?

These stories as well as more information on Christian persecutions can be found at www.persecution.com.



Who Is Who? (Worksheet). Tell the students that Paul compares the magicians who opposed Moses, Jannes and Jambres, to the men who were opposing him and the Gospel he preached. Have the students compare Exodus 7:11-12 ; 8:18 ; 9:11 with 2 Timothy 3 on the worksheet, **2TIM03.GF7**.



Aim Questions (Worksheet). Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2TIM03.GF8**.



Passage Review Questions (Worksheet). This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **2TIM03.GF9 Pgs. 1 & 2**.





2 Timothy 3:12 (Memory Verse Song). Words and music for today's memory verse are available upon request from Children's Ministry.



Took:





Current Events (Discussion/Prayer Activity). ,  Bring in a large map of the world. Obtain current information about where Christians are being persecuted in today's world. *Voice of the Martyrs* magazine is a good resource. Their web site address is: www.persecution.com.

This information is current as of October 2002: "Today there are more persecuted Christians than in the times of the Roman Empire! It is hard to believe that there are over 50 countries in the world today where Christians are being beaten, jailed, and even murdered for their belief in Jesus Christ. Countries like Bhutan, Brunei, China, Comoro Islands, Cuba, Cypress, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Laos, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Vietnam, and Yemen are just a few of the countries where it is not safe for a Christian to live."



See how many of these countries students can find on the map of the world. Pray in groups for our brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer in other parts of the world.





Origami World Prayer Reminder (Craft). ,  Teachers: Familiarize yourself with this craft ahead of time so you can help the students, especially the younger grades. Each student will need:
2TIM03.GF10 Pgs. 1 & 2 copied onto light weight paper
12 piece of yarn
coloring crayons or markers

Have the students follow the instructions on **2TIM03.GF10 Pg. 2** to complete their crafts.



Worth Dying For/Worth Living For (Testimony). ,  Read Dan Culvertson's powerful testimony to the students, **2TIM03.GF11 Pgs. 1 & 2**. It tells of real persecution in modern times and the effectiveness of God's Word in desperate situations.



Paul in Chains (Memory Verse Incentive). ,  The incentive for the book of 2 Timothy will be based on the weekly memory verses. Each child will be able to receive a 'chain' keychain to remind them of this book (Paul in Chains). Each week, a brass charm will be added to their chain, representing the focus on that week's Bible passage. Encourage your students to participate in this memory verse incentive!

Jannes and Jambres—Egyptian Magicians



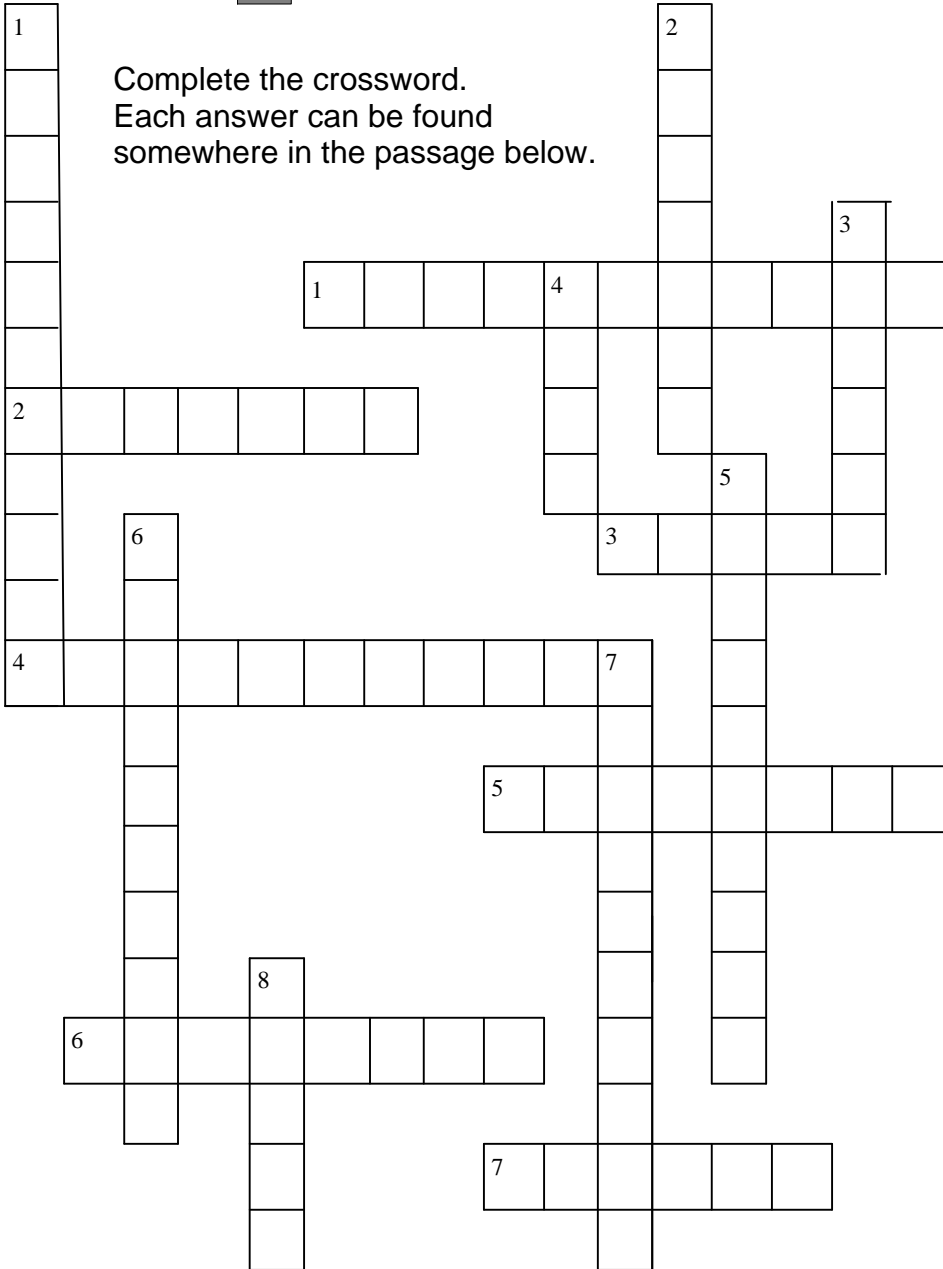
Paul Persecuted For His Faith



Young Timothy Learning the Word



Men in Terrible Times



Complete the crossword.
Each answer can be found
somewhere in the passage below.

ACROSS:

1. Holding a grudge
2. Refusing to believe
3. \$\$\$
4. Sneaky and evil
5. Full of bragging
6. Horrible
7. Violent and mean

DOWN:

1. Rebellious
2. Treating others badly
3. Impure—unlike God
4. Impulsive and reckless
5. Not thankful
6. The people they see in the mirror
7. Gossiping
8. Not humble

*"But mark this: There will be **terrible** times in the last days. People will be lovers of **themselves**, lovers of **money**, **boastful**, **proud**, **abusive**, **disobedient** to their parents, **ungrateful**, **unholy**, without love, **unforgiving**, **slandorous**, without self-control, **brutal**, not lovers of the good, **treacherous**, **rash**, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but **denying** its power. Have nothing to do with them."*
2 Timothy 3:1-5

Persecution Bible Drill

Have students hold their closed Bibles in the air as each reference is read. After the “go” signal, have them race to find these verses on persecution.

Psalm 7:1: “O LORD my God, I take refuge in you; save and deliver me from all who pursue me,”

Psalm 119:86: “All your commands are trustworthy; help me, for men persecute me without cause.”

Jeremiah 15:15: “You understand, O LORD; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering— do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.”

Daniel 3:17, 18: “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

Matthew 5:11: “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”

Matthew 10:18-20: “On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

Luke 21:12, 13: “But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. This will result in your being witnesses to them.”

Luke 21:16-18: “You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. All men will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish.”

John 15:18-19: “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”

John 16:2, 3: “They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or Me.”

Acts 5:40-41: “His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.”

Acts 7:59, 60: “While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he fell asleep.”

Romans 8:17: “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

2 Corinthians 1:5: "For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows."

2 Corinthians 4:8, 9: "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."

2 Corinthians 12:10: "That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Philippians 3:10, 11: "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

2 Timothy 1:8: "So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,"

2 Timothy 2:8-10: "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory."

Hebrews 11: 24-26: "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward."

Hebrews 11: 36, 37: "Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—"

James 1:2, 3: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance."

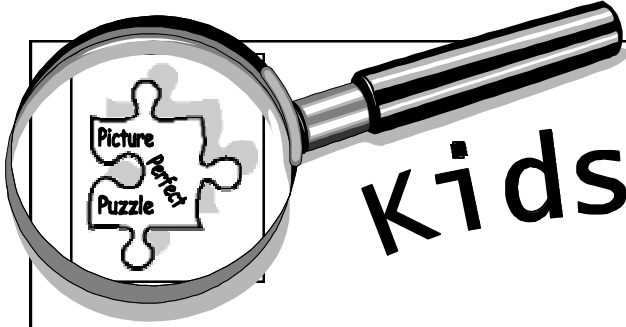
James 5:10: "Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord."

1 Peter 2:21-23: "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly."

1 Peter 3:14: "But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. 'Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.'"

1 Peter 4:12-14: "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."

Revelation 2:10: "Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."



Kids of Courage

KINZA

For giveness in Pakist an

"I saw a man in black come shoot my daddy," said four-year-old Kinza. "My daddy looked at me as he fell down." "Where is your daddy now?" Kinza was asked. "He's in heaven with Jesus!" she answered with a half-smile.

Kinza's father, Pastor Immanuel, was the pastor at the church in Pakistan attacked by radical Muslims in October 2001. During the attack, a gunman came up to Pastor Immanuel, pointed a gun at him, and said, "Throw your Bible to the ground." The pastor said, "I will not." He clutched his Bible to his heart and turned his back on his attacker. The gunman shot him. Kinza was watching.

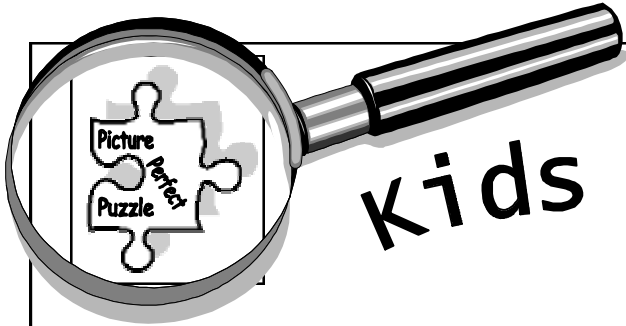
Kinza and her family miss their father and are sad that he is no longer with them. But when Kinza talks about the attacks, she does not say, "I hate Muslims," or anything like that. Kinza's mother talks to her children about what the Bible says about enemies. Many Muslims in the area did not approve of what the radical Muslims did when they attacked Kinza's church. Some came to Kinza's house to say they were sorry about her father's death. At first Kinza's older sisters did not want to answer the door. They were angry at the attackers. But their mother said, "Jesus told us to forgive our enemies."

The loving and forgiving attitude of Christians has been a good witness to others. Some Christian youth wanted revenge on the Muslims for the attack. But the Christian leaders reminded the youth that revenge is not the way of Jesus. The young people changed their minds.

In Pakistan, Muslim leaders don't often say good things about Christians but one Muslim leader said, "The Christians' behavior was better than the Muslims'." Some Muslims even came to Pastor Immanuel's funeral to show their respect.

Just a week after the attack, Kinza's mother said, "The Bible says it is because of Jesus' name that we will suffer. We are rejoicing. It is a privilege for us that my husband is a martyr, and he is with the Lord." Kinza's mother knows her family's suffering is not over. She has six children. Some of them may have to go to work to help support the family. But, like the apostles in Acts 5:41, she is rejoicing in her suffering.

Please pray for little Kinza and her family. Pray that their witness will lead many to find out more about Jesus and the salvation He offers. Pray for Kinza's mother to remain strong as she leads her family alone.



Kids of Courage II

JAMES LADULA Healing in the Sudan

James Ladula, age six, is a Christian boy who lives in southern Sudan. When he was a toddler, radical Muslim soldiers from the North came to the village where James lived with his parents, two brothers, and four sisters.

The soldiers lit a ring of fire around the village. It was the dry season, so the fire traveled inward very quickly. The villagers ran. James tried to run, but he fell down. Falling down saved his life. The fire passed over him, but his brothers died in the fire. James' right hand was badly burned. There were no doctors or nurses to help it heal correctly. He and his family walked through the bush (woods) for a week until they reached a refugee camp.

In January 2002, workers from *The Voice of the Martyrs* arranged for James to go to a hospital in southern Sudan where a skilled surgeon repaired James' hand in a three-and-a-half hour operation. Now James will be able to hold a pencil, work with his hands, and play games like other children. Thank God for giving us ways to help Him in His work of healing!

How does the story about James change your view on suffering?

Is Christian suffering still occurring today?

How will you be praying for those who are suffering?

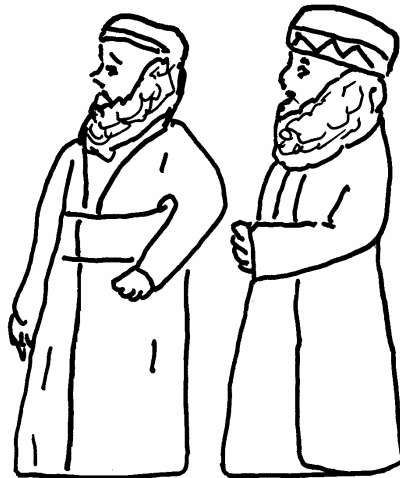


Who Is Who?

Paul compares the magicians who opposed Moses, Jannes and Jambres, to the men who were opposing him and the Gospel he preached. Compare Exodus 7:11, 12; 8:18 and 9:11 with 2 Timothy chapter 3 for similarities between these two groups of men that opposed God's messengers. Draw a line from the statements in the box on the left to the two groups of men on the right. Then answer the questions at the bottom of the worksheet.

- A. Opposed Moses.
- B. Opposed Paul.
- C. Were wizards.
- D. Were men of depraved minds.
- E. Their folly was obvious to all.
- F. Appeared before Pharaoh.
- G. Were proven to be fake.
- H. It would soon be proven that they were fake.
- I. Opposed God in all that they did.

Paul's Enemies



Jannes & Jambres

1. What were some things that were true of Paul's enemies and Jannes and Jambres?

2. How was Jannes and Jambres sorcery shown to be weak in comparison to our all-powerful God? (Exodus 7:11-12)

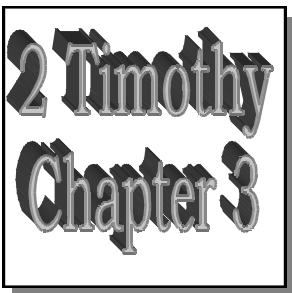
Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. What did Paul say would eventually come during the last days?
2. What would men be like during these terrible times?
3. What example of false teachers did Paul give to Timothy?
4. What encouragement did Paul give to Timothy to persevere in verses 10-11?
5. What role does the Word of God play when we are suffering for the Savior?

For us today, the threat of being killed for standing up for our faith may not seem possible, but in many other countries around the world, missionaries and Christians are threatened daily with losing their lives for preaching the Gospel.

Suffering here, in the United States, may mean being ridiculed or being excluded for believing in Jesus. Whatever form this persecution takes, are you willing to suffer for Him? He is willing to suffer for you.



"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,"

2 Timothy 3:12

Passage Review Questions

2 Timothy Chapter 3

How does Paul describe the last days of man? (3:1)

What kinds of things will people be loving? (3:2)

What other sins will be common among man during that time?
(3:3-5)

What do these men with depraved minds oppose? (3:8)

What kinds of things was Timothy aware of in Paul's life?
(3:10-11)

What were some places that Paul received persecution? (3:11)

What will believers who desire to live a godly life expect to receive? (3:12)

What will happen to those evil men who oppose godliness? (3:13)

For what reasons does Paul give Timothy for keeping to the truth? (3:14)

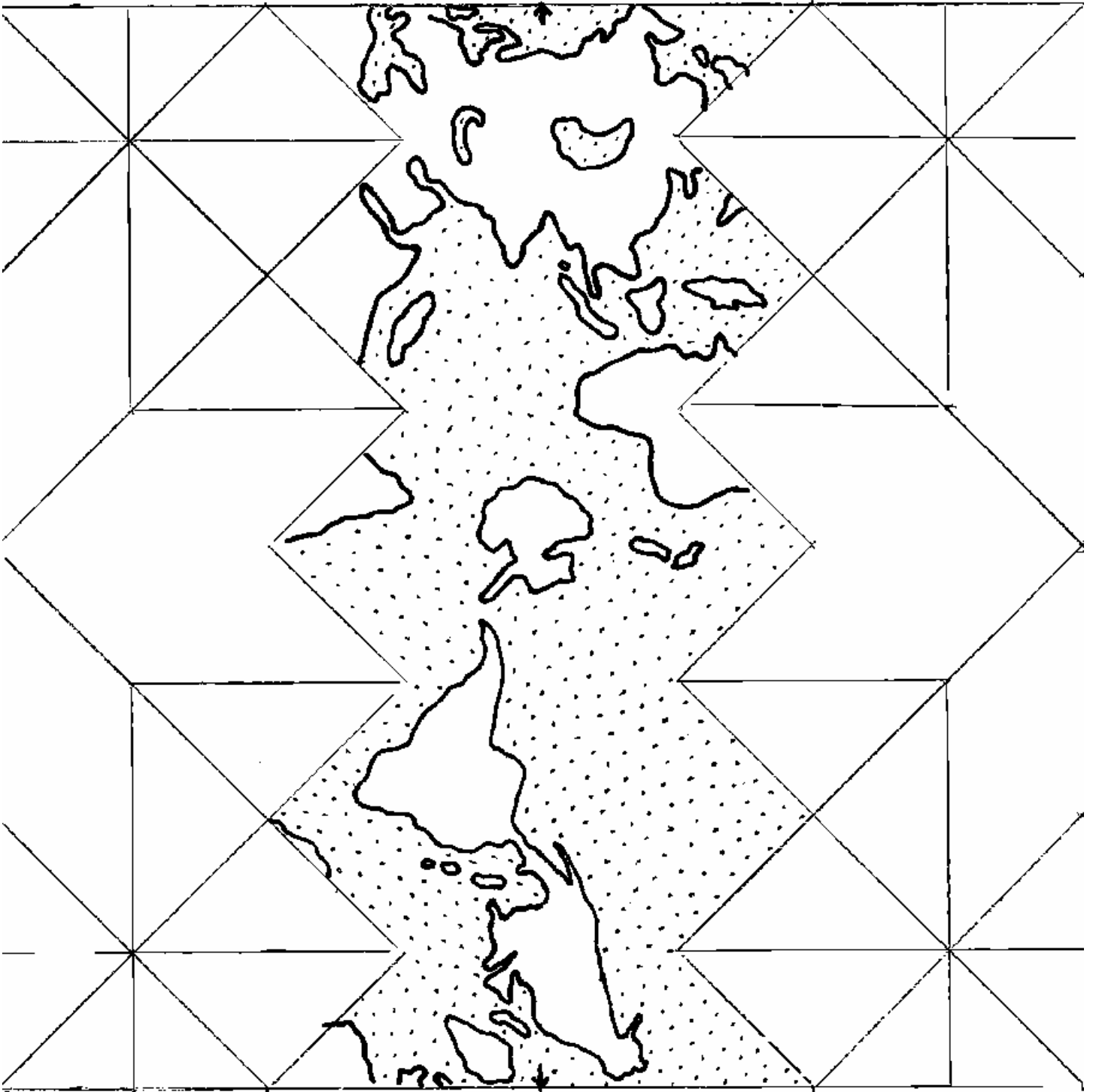
What effect did the holy scriptures have on Timothy's life? (3:15)

How did God provide Scripture to the writers? (3:16)

For what is the God-breathed Scripture useful? (3:16)

For what does Scripture equip the man of God? (3:17)

Origami World Prayer Reminder



**“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”
2 Timothy 3:12**

Instructions for Origami Ball

1. Color first.
2. Tape both ends of a one-foot piece of yarn or string to the back of the square behind one of the small arrows. (This will form a loop for hanging).

3. Figure #1:
Place square of paper on table, design side down.
Fold diagonally corner to corner.
Fold diagonally the other way.
Turn paper over so diagonal folds are up.
Fold in half from arrow to arrow.

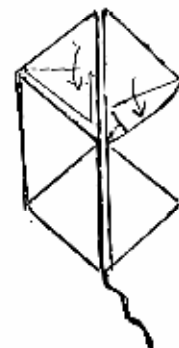
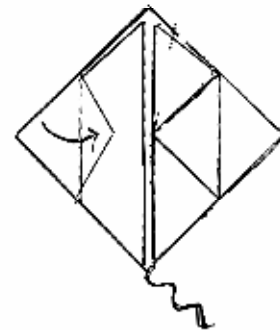
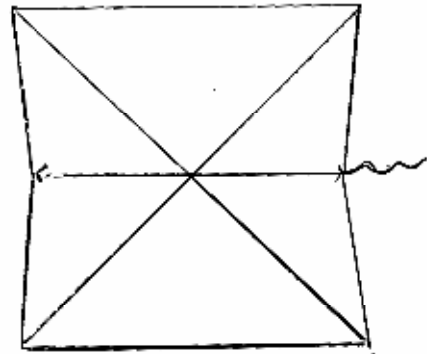
4. Figure #2:
Tuck last fold in on both sides to form a double triangle.

5. Figure #3:
Fold two lower corners up to top corner.
Turn paper over and fold other two corners up.

6. Figure #4:
Fold two side points to the center.
Turn paper over and repeat.

7. Figure #5:
Fold small top corners down. This forms a small triangle.
Now tuck this small triangle into the pocket formed by opening the side flap directly below.
Repeat for each of the four top corners.

8. Turn the paper upside down and hold the edges loosely.
9. Blow into the hole between the arrows. Your paper will expand into a ball!



Worth Dying For/Worth Living For

Testimony By
Dan Culbertson

I was born in Austria and grew up in England. My parents were missionaries in Eastern Europe while it was still under the control of communism. The governments in Eastern Europe treated Christians very badly. The authorities didn't like Christians because, God is the most important thing, not the government. My parents had to use code names and learn how to tell if they were being followed down the street. In school I couldn't tell anyone my parents were missionaries because the secret police might have found out.

As I was growing up I was taught a lot about God and what was written in the Bible. I could share the Gospel using bible verses. Even though I had prayed that God would take control of my life, I didn't know what that meant. I thought being a Christian was to read your bible, pray, and go to church. I didn't think that Jesus could take over my whole life and make Himself the ONLY important thing in it.

My senior year of high school, I was invited to go to Albania, the poorest country in Europe, for a month to tell the people there about Jesus. Albania had just been destroyed by corrupt financial schemes and civil war. Because of the internal fighting, almost everyone in the country had weapons. Albania is also a Muslim country. That means that they don't want Christians telling people about Jesus; they want everyone to follow Allah. Even though she loved me and knew it would be dangerous, my mom let me go. I remember that before I left she said to me, "It will be all right if you are killed in Albania, I would be proud to have a martyr as a son."

We got off the plane in Albania and drove to our headquarters where we would do some training. As we drove into the compound we heard gunshots from across the town. Someone had been shooting holes in the roof of our meeting building with an AK-47 because they knew that it was a Christian building. Everyday during our training I could look up at the roof and see the bullet-holes, and remember that this was an important thing—a life-or-death thing.

My six person team went from village to village showing a film about the life of Jesus. I would carry the big generator because I was the youngest on the team. The rest were pastors and Albanian college students. Most of the Muslims we talked to were nice to us, but they didn't want to have anything to do with Christianity. The first two villages we came to gave us no trouble—except for a mayor who kept on winning at pool because he cheated! The third village we were to go to had a reputation of being aggressive and unruly. The other villages cautioned us that they didn't like Christians and they had lots of guns. They warned us that we shouldn't go there, it sounded like that village needed to hear about Jesus the most.

The third village was perched high up on the side of a mountain. We spent all day in the this village, the dangerous one, inviting people to come to watch the Jesus film. When it started to get dark, we set up our big generator and projector and got ready to show the film. We had one problem: there was no one there to watch it! After a brief prayer, God stepped in. For after that short prayer, all the electricity in the village went out. With no light in their homes, and nothing else to do, everyone came outside to see the film that the Americans had brought. I used to be surprised when God intervened, but now I am starting to expect it. I remember looking at the crowd of people watching Jesus being nailed to the cross on the projector screen.

As I watched the screen I thought I saw fireworks being shot above the city from down in the valley. I asked someone about it. They just laughed at me. It took me a while to realize that I wasn't seeing fireworks. I was seeing glowing bullets being fired into the sky. In the middle of the movie, we noticed a group of men gathering together off to the side; they were all carrying guns. My team leader told me to go and watch them. What was I (a sixteen-year old kid) going to do to them? But I went to keep an "eye" on them anyway.

When the film ended, one of the Albanian missionaries on my team briefly told the people sitting there about how Jesus died for them to save them from their sins. As soon as he had given an invitation for people to come and talk to us to learn more about the Gospel, the men in the group began firing their guns in the air and yelling, "Don't talk to those foreign devils or we'll kill you!" I remember very clearly the first bullet that they fired. I had my back to them so I couldn't see who they were shooting at. After the first bullet I was very afraid, but a split second later, when the next bullets came, I knew that it would be alright if I died. I knew I would be in heaven with Jesus, and I would have died doing what Jesus told us to—telling people about Him. It was then that I decided that Christianity was much more important than I had thought it was. It was important enough that it was worth dying for, but it was also important enough to be worth living for. Jesus deserves my whole life. Every day I should be willing to give up my life for Him. God had to take me all the way to Albania and have Muslim men shoot their guns and yell at me before I fully understood, but He got my attention. The team had to spend that night in the same village. We slept four men in one bed. I slept soundly because I knew that there was nothing in that village that could take heaven away from me.

The next morning we were waiting for our land-rover to come and pick us up. We were sitting on top of our film equipment in the middle of the village talking about nothing in particular. Then we noticed a man walking toward us. He was one of the men with a gun from the previous night. As he got closer we noticed a pistol in his hand. He walked behind us and we dared not look back at him. He fired two bullets into the ground and then walked away, looking back at us as if to say, "Don't come back!" We thought that he had come to kill us, but I was not afraid. I knew that dying meant that I would be with Jesus.

Since that time, God has given me a very strong desire to tell people about His good news. What a powerful thing! So powerful that people would want to kill you for talking about it. There is nothing that I enjoy more than telling people about what Jesus did for them. He has also given me passion to tell people about the gospel in parts of the world where their governments don't want them to hear. I want to be a missionary in the Middle East one day. God uses persecution to build up His church. In my life, He used very small amounts of persecution to let me know that He is the most important thing.