

## From Childhood...

### The Bible for Kids

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As adults, we can easily get lost in life. Busy schedules and the pressures of the day can cause us to forget what matters the most. We can forget the simple truths of life we learned as children.

The early days of the faith were difficult times. Timothy was in the thick of the fight of faith. His life was not easy. His mentor, the apostle Paul, wrote a letter to stir up Timothy's faith (2 Tim. 1:6-7). To do this, Paul reminded Timothy of the early lessons of his childhood.

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:14-15).

Timothy had been taught the Scriptures by his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice. The Scriptures could give him wisdom, build his faith, and lead him to salvation in Christ. The answers to his questions and the solutions to his problems could be found in the Scriptures that he had been taught as a child.

But, why the Scriptures? What was special about Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets? In the next verse, Paul cited an explanation relating to the uniqueness and purpose of these sacred writings.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

### All Scripture...

**1). Comes from God.** The Scriptures were breathed out by God. In other words, God has spoken to us through the Scriptures. This is what makes the Scriptures unique. They are the expression of God's mind. We must reverence and obey the Scriptures.

**2). Is profitable.** The Scriptures are good, wholesome, and beneficial. They intend to bless our lives and protect us from evil. However, we must invest in them. We do not profit from anything in life unless we first invest. Timothy's grandmother and mother had invested in the Scriptures.

**3). Teaches.** In life, we have much to learn. We must be humble enough to recognize our need for instruction. The Scriptures teach us about who we are and who made us. They teach us about our purpose for living. They teach us about our future.

**4). Reproves.** One of the basic lessons the Bible teaches us is about sin. Sin is the failure to meet God's expectations for us (1 John 3:4). Sin keeps us from reflecting the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Everyone has sinned. The Bible convicts us of sin. It makes an undeniable case against us as sinners.

**5). Corrects.** Thankfully, the Scriptures do more than reprove. The Scriptures show us how to correct our sins. As stated earlier, the Scriptures wisely lead us to salvation in Christ Jesus. The Scriptures show us how Jesus came to offer the forgiveness of sins. By faith in His death and resurrection, our sins can be corrected.

**6). Trains.** Once sin is corrected, we begin living a new life. The Scriptures teach us how we are to live righteously. They teach us about a new heart we develop. They teach us how to think and discern life in the world. Our discernment requires constant training as the world is constantly changing (Heb. 5:14).

**7). Equips.** The Scriptures teach us that God made us to do good works. However, we must first prepare ourselves. Before beginning any task, we must learn and practice. Being a Christian involves learning and practicing. God expects us to properly engage with the world as His image-bearers. By teaching, reproofing, correcting, and training, the Scriptures equip us for the job.

### **Conclusion**

Paul makes a compelling case about why we need to read and do what the Scriptures teach. Additionally, Paul makes a compelling case about why we need to teach the Scriptures to our children. Had Lois and Eunice not taught Timothy the Scriptures in his childhood, we might not have ever heard of this example of faith.

We want our children to have good, productive lives in the kingdom of God. This can only happen by the Scriptures being taught to them. The God we want them to know, the Savior they need to receive, and the Spirit they need to lead them can only be known through the Scriptures. Faith is not genetically inherited. Faith is birthed through learning the word of God.

Tonight, we will begin a monthly series entitled, "From Childhood: the Bible for Kids." Each month, we will study a memory verse from the Shaping Hearts Bible class curriculum. The simplistic wording of these verses helps convey the important meaning of Biblical text. Parents, be sure to attend and have your children use the handouts to take notes.