

UNIT 2: THE CHURCH SERVES GOD

Session 3: Bereans Studied the Scriptures

BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 17:1-12

LIFE POINT

The church studies Scriptures to know and understand the truth.

CHRIST FOCUS

Scripture teaches who Jesus is and what He is like.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

A church is a group of Christians who meet together to worship and serve God.

SUGGESTED USE DATE: July 16

BIBLE VERSE

Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (CSB)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

SCHEDULE AND PROPS**Huddle Ups** (optional)

Supplies (for each small group):

- “Grow and Know”—none
- “Match It. Read It. Learn It.”—Bible, 18 index cards, marker

Countdown Video (3 minutes)

Props: none

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Welcome and Prayer (5 minutes)

Props: none

True2Life Drama (or *Mooseberry video*) (3-5 minutes)

Props: 2 Bibles, table, 2 chairs, slips of paper, pen

Connection Point Game (10 minutes)

Props: painter's tape, button, 10 paper plates (5 red, 5 blue)

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Bible Story (10 minutes)

Props: Bible, textbooks

Worship Song and Offering (3 minutes)

Props: none

Connection Point Bible Verse (5-8 minutes)

Props: none

Connection Point Missions (5-8 minutes)

Props: none

Real Life Connections (3-5 minutes)

Props: none

MUSIC AND MEDIA

- **Countdown:**
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**
“All”
- **Welcome and Prayer:**
Life Point and Bible Verse slides
- **True2Life Drama:**
Mooseberry Life Application video (optional)
- **Connection Point Game:**
Connection Point Game slide
- **Worship Song:**
“We Are Your Church”
- **Bible Story:**
Bible Story and Christ Focus slides; Notebook Bible Story video (optional)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**
Connection Point Bible Verse and Bible Verse slides
- **Connection Point Missions:**
Connection Point Missions and Connect to Missions slides
- **Real Life Connections:**
Real Life Connections, Real Life Questions, and Life Point slides

Huddle Ups (Optional)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies (for each small group):
 - “Grow and Know”—none
 - “Match It. Read It. Learn It.”—Bible, 18 index cards, marker

Huddle Up: Pre-Session

“Grow and Know”

Prep: none

- Announce one of the following baby animal names:
 - Eaglet (*eagle*)
 - Piglet (*pig or hedgehog*)
 - Kit (*fox, beaver, skunk, ferret, weasel*)
 - Puggle (*platypus*)
 - Cygnet (*swan*)
 - Joey (*kangaroo, koala, opossum*)
 - Fawn (*deer*)
 - Bunny (*rabbit*)
 - Fingerling (*fish*)
 - Kid (*goat*)
 - Polliwog (*frog*)
- Encourage kids to guess what kind of baby animal you named and pretend to be that animal.
- Continue naming baby animals, guiding kids to guess and pretend to be the animal.
- Comment that just as kittens grow up to be cats or puppies grow up to be dogs, children can grow up to be adults.
- Explain that as kids grow and learn, they can choose to be faithful, mature Christians.

- Say: “One way to grow as a Christian is to study the Bible. **The church studies Scriptures to know and understand the truth.**”
- Watch for the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups. Guide your small group to join the others to begin worship.

Huddle Up: Post-Session

“Match It. Read It. Learn It.”

Prep: On separate index cards write Exodus 20:15; 1 Chronicles 16:8; Proverbs 3:7; Proverbs 8:33; Matthew 22:37; Luke 6:31; Acts 16:31; Romans 12:18; 1 John 4:7. Make 2 sets of cards.

- Review the Life Point: **The church studies Scriptures to know and understand the truth.**
- Mix the cards.
- Place the cards facedown on the floor or table in a 3-by-6 grid.
- Invite a child to turn over two cards.
 - If the cards do not match, turn them back over.
 - If the cards match, find the verse in a Bible and read it aloud.
- Ask: “What does the verse tell us to do?”
- Invite volunteers who know the verse from memory to say it aloud.
- Alternate turns until kids match all of the cards.
- Play again if time allows.
- Direct each child to choose a card to take home.
- Suggest each child bookmark his chosen verse in his Bible.
- Challenge kids to memorize and obey their assigned verses.
- Mention that the more a person studies Scriptures, the more easily he can know and understand the truth.

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Countdown Video*
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

(Play the Countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “All” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Welcome to church! It’s great to see all of you here! A church is a group of Christians who meet together to worship and serve God. Let’s get started! Everyone, stand and sing with me.

(Show the music video.)

(Kids stand to sing.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

Hello, boys and girls! Are any of you called by something other than your name? For example, my mother’s name is *(Your mother’s name)*, but I call her Mom. My friend’s name is Madeline Joy, but those who know her well call her Maddie or MJ. *(Allow for responses.)*

We sometimes call the Bible by other names, too. Some people call the Bible *God’s Word*. That’s a good idea because all of the words in the Bible

come from God. Other people may call the Bible, *Scriptures*. *Scriptures* are the words that we read in the Bible. Scripture tells people how to be right with God, to do right, avoid wrong, and be prepared to live a life that honors God.

(Show Life Point slide.)

The church studies Scriptures to know and understand the truth. Say that with me:
“The church studies Scriptures to know and understand the truth.”

Today’s Bible verse tells people to correctly teach God’s Word. Read with me 2 Timothy 2:15.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 *(CSB)*
- Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 *(KJV)*
- Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 *(NIV)*
- Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 *(ESV)*
- Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 *(NKJV)*

We don’t want to be ashamed of our choices. We want to study God’s Word so we can learn from it and obey it! Let’s pray and ask for God’s help. After we pray, we will check in with the True2Life team *(or the Mooseberry kids)*.

God, thank You for Scripture! Please help us study Your Word, understand it, and obey Your commands. Help us know and understand the truth. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

TRUE2LIFE DRAMA

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Mooseberry Life Application* video (optional)
- ➔ People:
 - Ron (*a church kid who is learning about God*)
 - Lucy (*Ron's church friend*)
- ➔ Props: 2 Bibles, table, 2 chairs, slips of paper, pen
- ➔ Prep: Write Scripture references on each slip of paper, including Philippians 2:3.

Ron and Lucy sit at a table in their Sunday morning class. They both have their Bibles open and are finding Scriptures written on slips of paper.

Ron: I always forget where in the Bible to find Romans.

Lucy: I just looked up that verse. Romans is right after Acts.

Ron: Right!

Lucy: Have you found Philippians 2:3 yet?

Ron: Yes. Philippians is after Ephesians.

Lucy: I found it. I just don't know if I agree with what it says.

Ron: What do you mean?

Lucy: Well, it says (*reading from the Bible*) "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves."

Ron: That sounds right to me.

Lucy: Well, the problem is that I read something last night that said the exact opposite.

Ron: You did? Where?

Lucy: My family ordered take-out, and there was a message inside my cookie. It said: "You are the most important person in your life."

Ron: (*laughing*) So you're confused by a cookie?

Lucy: Don't laugh, Ron. One day I read a message that said: "Get ready to celebrate something new." My baby cousin was born the same day!

Ron: So you're saying that you trust a cookie for wisdom more than the Bible?

Lucy: I don't know. I'm confused.

Ron: Lucy, PEOPLE write those messages. No person can know everything that will happen. You can't trust those messages.

Lucy: How do I know what to trust? The message in my cookie said one thing, but the Bible says something different.

Ron: The Bible is the truth. It's the Word of God. Anything that is opposite of the Bible is not true.

Lucy: You're right, Ron. I guess I just forgot.

Ron: That's why we keep studying the Scriptures. The Bible helps us know and understand the truth.

Lucy: I'm glad we had this talk, Ron. I feel kind of silly that I was confused by a message in a cookie.

Ron: Don't feel silly, Lucy. All of us have lots of things to learn about God and the Bible.

Lucy: Thanks, Ron.

Ron: You know, Lucy ... cookies aren't a good place to learn truth, but they ARE really good snacks.

Lucy: (*laughing*) Did you read THAT in the Bible?

Ron: Nope, but talking about cookies is making me hungry!

(They exit.)

(END SCENE)

CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 6 kids
- ➔ Props: painter's tape, button, 10 paper plates (5 red, 5 blue)

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Tape a 3-by-3 grid on the floor. Each square should be large enough for a paper plate.*
- *Choose 6 kids.*
- *Form 2 teams.*
- *Designate a red team and a blue team.*
- *Provide the red team with 5 red plates. Give the blue team 5 blue plates.*
- *Direct attention to the grid.*
- *Explain that each team should try to get 3 of their plates in a row, either vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.*
- *Comment that teams must win the opportunity to place a plate on the game grid.*
- *Secretly hold a button in 1 hand.*
- *Challenge a player from the red team to choose the hand with the button.*
 - *If successful, lead the players to name 1 thing they know about Jesus.*
 - *If unsuccessful, the turn is over.*
- *Invite the team to place 1 plate on the grid if they successfully name a fact about Jesus.*
- *Hide the button and play again, this time allowing the blue team to choose a hand.*
- *Continue until a team places 3 plates in a row. (Do not allow repeated answers.)*
- *Clear the grid and play again as your time allows.*
- **Leader note for multiple game rounds:**
Require players to name people Jesus helped or miracles Jesus did. Require kids with strong Bible knowledge to name places Jesus visited or things Jesus said.

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Game slide.)

It's time to play a game! Today's game requires strategy and some Bible knowledge! Who would like to play? *(Choose six kids. Form two teams. Assign a red team and a blue team.)*

Teams, the goal of this game is to get three of your plates in a row, but you must earn the chance to play! I will hide a button in one hand. A player from the red team will each choose a hand. If the player chooses the hand with the button, his team earns a chance to play.

If the team can tell me one thing about Jesus, the team may place a plate on the grid. Be sure to listen well. You may not give any repeated answers!

We will alternate turns between teams until a team gets three plates in a row. Do all of you understand how to play? *(Answer any questions and lead teams to play the game.)*

Our teams know lots of things about Jesus! Scripture teaches who Jesus is and what He is like. Today you've heard that **the church studies Scriptures to know and understand the truth**. After we sing, we will hear a Bible story about a group of people who studied the Scriptures.

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: "We Are Your Church" *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Second Timothy 3:16 says that all Scripture comes from God. God's Word is always true and right! Let's sing "We Are Your Church" before we hear today's Bible story.

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Christ Focus and Bible Story* slides; *Notebook Bible Story* video (optional)
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: Bible, textbooks

Option 1: Use the suggested props and tell the following Bible story.

Option 2: Play the *Notebook Bible Story* video.

Option 3: Tell the Optional Bible Story available on the DVD-ROM. This session's optional Bible story: "The Early Church," Acts 2:14-47.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Bible Story slide.)

(Show the textbooks.) Do you have books like these at school? (Talk about what people can learn from each.)

When you get ready for a test, do you read your book and then forget everything you read? (Allow for responses.) I hope not! The goal is to remember and learn the things you read. You need to study! It's a lot of work to study and learn.

The church studies the Scriptures to know and understand the truth. God doesn't want believers to read the Bible and then forget what they read. God wants us to study His Word so we can know what is right and obey Him.

Let's hear a Bible story about a group of people who chose to hear, study, and obey God's Word.

(Open Bible to Acts 17.)

Paul and Silas traveled to a town called Thessalonica (*THESS-uh-loh-NIGH-kuh*) and found a Jewish synagogue (*a place of worship*). On three different Sabbath days Paul went to the synagogue and taught about Jesus.

(Read Acts 17:3.)

[Paul was] explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and rise from the dead: "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah."

Some of the people who heard Paul's message believed in Jesus, but others became jealous. They formed a mob and searched for Paul and Silas.

The angry mob attacked Jason's house because Paul and Silas had been staying there. When the Jews could not find Paul and Silas, the mob dragged Jason and some other believers to the city leaders.

"Paul and Silas have turned the world upside down," the angry Jews announced, "and Jason has welcomed them! They are doing things against Caesar's law. They say there is another king—Jesus!"

The city leaders made Jason and the others pay a fine, and then the leaders released them. As soon as night fell, the believers sent Paul and Silas out of town to a place called Berea (*buh-REE-uh*). In Berea, Paul and Silas went straight to the synagogue and began to teach.

(Read Acts 17:11-12.)

The people here were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, since they received the word with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Consequently, many of them believed, including a number of the prominent Greek women as well as men.

(Close the Bible.)

The Bereans were different than the people in Thessalonica. The Bereans were excited to hear about Jesus, and they wanted to know more. They searched the Scriptures to see if Paul's message was true. Many of them believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Savior whom God promised to send.

(Show the Christ Focus slide.)

Scripture teaches who Jesus is and what He is like. When the people searched the Scriptures, they believed what Paul said about Jesus!

Christians meet together to worship and serve God. In addition to worshiping God, believers grow in their knowledge of God and His work in the world. One way that believers learn more about God is by reading the Bible. The church studies Scriptures to know and understand the truth.

The Bible is the only Word of God. You can believe and trust the Bible because all of its words are from

God! Every word is true! Do you ever have questions about God or how to do what's right? Read the Bible! The Bible has the answers you need and can trust!

WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

God's Word is such a gift! It leads us to know and understand the truth about God. Let's pray to thank God for Scripture.

God, thank You for the gift of Your Word. Thank You that the Bible teaches the truth about You and Your Son, Jesus. Please help us study the Bible and learn from it. Teach us to obey Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Optional Giving Segment:

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money people give at church helps others learn from the Scriptures. If you would like to give an offering today,

(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)

CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: none

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Tell kids that a great way to grow in their faith is to learn and remember Bible verses.*

- *Lead kids to say aloud the verse, taking 1 small heel-to-toe step with each word.*
- *Repeat several times, directing kids to take giant steps, backward steps, or sideways steps with each word of the verse.*
- *Play as your time allows.*

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 *(CSB)*
- Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 *(KJV)*
- Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 *(NIV)*
- Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 *(ESV)*
- Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 *(NKJV)*

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

Are you ready to say our Bible verse? Say aloud with me 2 Timothy 2:15.

(Show Bible Verse slide—your preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

This verse tells us to be diligent (*do your best/study*). That means to not give up and to keep trying! God's Word is important, and believers should work hard to study it! We should want to read God's Word so we can understand it and learn from it.

A great way to learn from Scripture is to memorize verses. Let's work together to learn our Bible verse.

(Lead the activity.)

CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Missions slide.)

(Show the Connect to Missions slide.)

Did you know that over half of the people living in Cincinnati do not regularly go to any church? That's a lot of people who need to know about Jesus!

Amer and Victoria Safadi are missionaries partnering with Lakota Hills Baptist Church in Cincinnati to reach the Arabic-speaking people in the area. The church congregation has allowed the Arabic-language church to use their buildings and offered food for ministries. The church also offers English classes to help those who want to learn English. The English classes help the missionaries and church members build relationships with the people and have opportunities to tell about Jesus.

The Safadis invite every Arab person or family they meet to come to their church or to their house. The Safadis serve tea and talk with the people. Amer and Victoria know that they need to build relationships with the people living in the community. They want the people to trust them so they will believe what they tell about Jesus.

Let's pray that the Safadis continue building relationships with the Arabic-speaking people in Cincinnati. Pray that their church will grow, and they will tell more people about Jesus.

(Invite a child to lead the group to pray. If no one volunteers, voice a prayer yourself.)

God, thank You for sending the Safadis to Cincinnati. We pray for the Arabic-speaking people in the Safadis' community. Please help them trust that what the Bible tells about Jesus is true. We pray that the Arabic-speaking church continues to grow as more and more people choose to trust in Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections*, *Real Life Questions*, and *Life Point* slides; microphone to take to individuals in group *(optional)*
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

Lead a conversation with your kids about today's Bible story and Life Point. Show the Real Life Questions slides and discuss each question.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Real Life Questions slides.)

Today you heard that the words in the Bible are from God. Every word is true and right. Let's hear what you know about the Bible and how it helps you.

- Say a verse that you know from memory.
- How does the Bible help you?
- What is your plan for reading the Bible daily?
- What does your church do to help people know and understand the Bible?

(Show Life Point slide.)

The church studies Scriptures to know and understand the truth. Say that with me: **"The church studies Scriptures to know and understand the truth."**

I'm so glad that you came to church today. I enjoyed studying the Scriptures with you and learning what is true. Be diligent—keep working—to study the Bible and obey it! There is so much to know and learn! We will learn more from the Bible again next time! See you soon.

Leader note: *If you plan to utilize the post-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*