

The Essentials

The Verses

I Timothy 1:3-5

Movie Clip

Up

Activity Prep

None

Activity Supplies

Bibles (one per student)

Topics

What Really Matters

The Essential ?'s

What Are You Trying to Teach Them?

That love grounded in faith is what really matters.

How Do You Know They Got It?

Students know how to show love in different circumstances.

What Do You Do With Those That Don't?

Scrap the end questions, and ask for specific examples from their lives that you can use to demonstrate the importance of love.

What About Those That Already Had It?

Ask them specifics to defend ideas in activity and group discussions.

All That Shines Is Not Always Gold

I Timothy: Study 1

Opening Questions

- ❖ What does it mean to be theologically correct?
- ❖ What are some issues that Christians disagree with each other over?
- ❖ What gets you into heaven?

Activity: Essentially False

Listed below are four statements. Read the first one to the group, then have students look up Bible verses that refute the statement. Go through all four and give students a chance to explain or defend their answers, but remember to keep the activity going from one to the next. After you have finished all four, go on to the activity questions. Ask students whether or not believing the statement you read to them would keep a person from going to heaven. (Note: If you can think of some issues closer to your specific church or denomination, you are encouraged to use those, even if they touch a vein or create some disagreements among the students. That's okay.)

Belief #1: God is too loving to send anyone to hell.

Belief #2: If a baby dies, they will not go to heaven, because they never knew God.

Belief #3: Even if you're a Christian, you can act however you want, no matter what, since you're saved by grace, not by your works.

Belief #4: As long as I believe in God, it doesn't matter if I go to church or not.

Activity Questions

- ❖ Look at each statement. Would any of these beliefs keep you from a personal relationship with God?
- ❖ At what point do misperceptions and bad theology stop someone from being a Christian?
- ❖ Is getting along as Christians more important than being right? Where do you draw the line?

Movie Clip: Up (0:04:52 – 0:11:39)

Life Together

Carl goes from being a shy little boy to a married man, but his love for Ellie and adventure never change. Despite all life's circumstances, the two keep a dream alive to someday see Paradise Falls, a place they had only seen pictures of in books. Nevertheless, their love for each other is stronger, and there is never a sense of blame or resentment when things get in the way. Carl and Ellie loved the idea of someday going to Paradise Falls, but they loved each other more.

Movie Questions

- ❖ What do you like most about their relationship?
- ❖ Is it realistic or too ideal?
- ❖ What things get in the way of simply loving your family?
- ❖ Think about the opening activity and this clip. What are ideas and feelings that keep us from loving each other?
- ❖ Carl could have felt resentful towards God whenever things happened that kept them from seeing their dream. Would you say God had his hand in "making" these things happen?
- ❖ Why does God use hardships to bring us closer to him?

The Scripture: I Timothy 1:3 – 5

Paul helps Timothy focus on the root of his faith – love – rather than getting caught up in things that don't really matter. Timothy must learn to do this despite how many others around him act.

The Lesson

How many times have you had an adult come up to you and act like they know you, just because they know your parents? They don't always seem to see you for yourself, but rather as your parent's child. This can even happen for younger siblings, as you try to play a sport or take a class that an older brother or sister took before you. For the first six months the teacher or coach may be unable to say your name without also mentioning theirs.

Paul could have been standing in your school hallways between classes when he wrote this passage. People got caught up in a lot of worthless things then, and they still do today. Think about the kids in your school. They care so much about their image, or what people think of them, or who their friends are. Ask someone who is out of high school though, and they'll probably tell you how much of a waste all that effort is. After you graduate, you'll probably never see more than a handful of the people that you're around everyday now.

That's why Paul tells Timothy to focus on what matters. In the end, it's all about love. Not everyone in his day had favorable genealogies, just like not everyone around you is proud of their family or even their own life. Who cares how many friends a person has, or what clothes they wear? Thank God he sees more in you than what's on the outside, and he calls us to look beyond the surface in each other as well.

Even in the church the devil gives us plenty to fight about. Whether its worship styles, social issues or what someone is wearing to church, we find it as easy today to get wrapped up in meaningless controversies and forget to simply love each other for who they are. Love doesn't always mean to overlook a person's attitudes, actions or even bad doctrine, but it does mean to approach everything, and everyone, with grace rather than judgment. Earnestly hope to see people come closer to God. Don't wish deep down inside for the drama that comes from controversies and disagreements. Always be willing to share the burden that a person is going through instead of looking for ways to make it heavier.

You can see this when Paul doesn't simply tell Timothy to stay away from those teaching falsely. He tells this young man to go and stop them from continuing to be counterproductive. He tells him to go in with love, a pure heart, a good conscience and sincere faith. With those principles as his guide, Paul is sure that Timothy will protect the church against both heresies and heretics. We, too, can help create a place of love, truth and faith in our schools, our churches and in the lives of those around us.

Ending Questions

- ❖ If you were Timothy, how would you have confronted people teaching bad doctrine in your church?
- ❖ What are controversies that happen in your life?
- ❖ How can you handle those controversies with love?
- ❖ How do you show faith and compassion to others at school? Who is hardest to show your faith to? Who is hardest to love?