
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 15, Bible Truth 2

The Case of the Faithful Leader *Acts 16:1; 1 & 2 Timothy*

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. Paul was an old man, soon to die. He was in jail in Rome for telling people about Jesus, and now they planned to kill him. Paul made the best of the little time he had left. He shared the good news of Jesus with his guards. He prayed and wrote letters to little churches of believers.

2. How Paul loved those churches of believers! Many of them had become Christians through Paul sharing the good news of Jesus with them. He had taught them to gather each week to worship God and love one another. Soon, there were churches of these new Christians all over.

3. Paul also helped these churches choose godly leaders. Some leaders were called "deacons." They spent extra time caring for the needs of others in the church. Men like Stephen made sure everyone had enough to eat. Women like Phoebe spent their days serving others, too.

4. Other leaders were men called "pastors" or "elders." They prayed and preached God's Word when the church gathered together. They led everyone in loving God and living for Him. They comforted those who were discouraged. They urged others to keep fighting against tempting sin.

5. A young man named Timothy would become one of these godly pastors. Paul met Timothy on one of his traveling trips and Timothy became his helper. Timothy helped care for Paul's needs as Paul shared the good news of Jesus. He was just the helper Paul needed.

6. But most of all, it was Timothy's love that made him such a good helper for Paul. Timothy loved God, Paul, and God's people so much that he put them first, instead of himself. After a while, Paul treated Timothy not just as a helper, or good friend, but like Timothy was his very own son.

7. Timothy was a big help to Paul, but Paul was a big help to Timothy, too. As Timothy travelled with Paul, he was learning about God and His Word, and how to care for God's people. God was preparing Timothy to be a pastor --exactly what he was about to need in the big city of Ephesus.

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8. "Help! We have no pastor!" the believers in Ephesus told Paul. "We need a pastor to preach God's Word and lead us." Paul knew who to ask: Timothy! "Timothy, stay and be their pastor. You are young, but God will help you," Paul said. So, Timothy stayed in Ephesus, while Paul travelled on.

9. Many years passed since Paul left Timothy in Ephesus. And now, alone, in jail, shivering in the cold, and soon to die, Paul wanted Timothy to come care for him. Timothy could bring Paul's warm cloak and books. He could cheer him with his company. How good it would be to see his old friend!

10. So, Paul wrote Timothy a letter and sent it off to Ephesus by messenger. Timothy opened Paul's letter, and read: "Timothy, my dear son," Paul wrote "I thank God every time I think of you. I long with tears to see you."

11. "Be a faithful pastor to the little church in Ephesus," Paul wrote. "Sometimes people won't want to hear what the Bible says. But keep teaching them what is true, no matter what. Don't forget these things!" Paul urged Timothy. "And please, come see me soon --before winter comes. Paul."

12. Did Timothy make it to Paul before he died? We don't know. But we DO know that Timothy did what Paul wanted him to do most of all: be a faithful pastor of the little church in Ephesus, teaching them and helping them live out God's Word.