

LIVING
THE WORD

CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS



Leaders

Adults • Ages 19 and Up • Teacher Guide

September • October • November • December • 2022





Adult • Age 19 and Up • Teacher Guide

The *Adult Teacher Guide* provides suggestions for teacher preparation, a step by step teaching plan for adult Bible study, an alternative teaching plan for young adults and suggestions for applying the lesson. Each adult teacher needs a copy of the *Adult Learner Guide* in addition to this *Adult Teacher Guide*.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



“...I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health just as your soul prospers” (3 John 2:2; NKJV). It is a privilege to have you sojourn with us through this final quarter of **Caribbean Bible Lessons (CBL) Bible Leaders Teacher Guide**.

Brethren we are on the final leg of 2022. Can you believe it? It has been an interesting and challenging year so far, “but God.” But God has brought us this far and will see us through to the end: Amen. One of the Greek words for prosperity is “evimeria”, which means among other things, prosperity, well-being and prosperousness. As we journey through the remainder of this year, let us be reminded that God wants to prosper us in good health spiritually, physically and in our everyday lives. But let us not think only of our well-being but that of others. Thus may we all seek to prosper holistically in mind, body and soul while looking out for the well-being of our neighbours. Further, I extend warm and sincere commendations to all teachers, particularly amidst the challenges of Covid-19. Continue to be faithful in your service to God. Let us use the Christmas season to reach out to those members who have been absent or not attending classes as regularly as before.

It is my hope that the **Bible Leaders Learner Guide** will serve to foster your spiritual prosperity. In **Unit 1** we will delve a little deeper into 2 Timothy. This is a follow-up from last quarter’s study of 1 Timothy in the **Bible Leaders Guides**. **Living Faithfully**, is the title of **Unit 1** it should persuade us to be more committed and consistent in sharing the gospel. The theme for **Unit 2** is **Practising Spiritual Disciplines**. Here we will focus on the spiritual disciplines we must develop in order to improve our relationship with God and daily live more sanctified lives for His glory and purpose

As we seek to prosper holistically in our walk with God, we must take care of ourselves. **Taking Care of Me** is the title for **Unit 3**. In it we will be reminded that God wants us to grow holistically, as He is concerned with the whole person. We close the year with our last unit, **Unit 4**, entitled **Knowing that God Is...** This unit will focus on the multi-dimensional character of the Living God.

We encourage you to read the supporting articles in this issue: Purpose-Driven Teaching, Biblical Context of 2 Timothy, Christmas Devotion, Bible Background: God—Our Lord. They prove to be inspiring and thought-provoking.

Wishing you and your loved ones a holy and blessed Christmas and a Jesus-conscious New Year! The God of peace be with you.

Jetu Green

MEET OUR WRITERS

UNIT ONE: Atlee Rodney, Antigua & Barbuda

Mr Rodney serves in the police force of Antigua and Barbuda. His greatest interest is leading others to understand God's law of love through faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He enjoys teaching and encouraging others. Mr Rodney welcomes every opportunity to teach about spiritual gifts and values. He is a deacon and Sunday School teacher of young adults and adults.



UNIT TWO: Derek Archer, Guyana



Mr Archer has served as a teacher of young adult Sunday School in Georgetown, Guyana. He passionately desires to see spiritual growth in the lives of people with whom he works. He is a former lecturer in French and English Literature in the Department of Language and Cultural Studies at the University of Guyana. Mr Archer has been an elder at his church and engaged in the church's praise, theological training and administration ministries.

UNIT THREE: Joan Mars, Jamaica

Mrs Mars spent most of her working life in human resource management and occupational health. Eager to impact lives in a holistic way through the Word of God and service; she is actively engaged in the healing, music and care/support ministries of the church where she worships. She is also a Sunday School teacher of seniors.



UNIT FOUR: Dahlia Fraser, Jamaica



Miss Fraser accepted Jesus at an early age and has remained active in His service. She is a writer and publishing consultant whose greatest passion is prayer, as she regards it as a powerful resource, which God has given us to impact the world. Ms Fraser has served in a wide range of ministries of the church in Jamaica and in Canada. These include: administration at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto, teaching Sunday School, involvement in the prayer ministry, counselling and Christian communications in local congregations.

Purpose-Driven Teaching

The Master Teacher, Jesus Christ, is the standard and example for the Christian teacher and teaching.

As a teacher of adult Sunday School, your priority is to bring honour and glory to God through your imparting of the lesson and in your interaction with your adult students. Make every effort to encourage and engender in the adult members, qualities and habits, which glorify God.

Teaching Concepts

The following are concepts of which every Sunday School teacher should be aware:

- ☛ Teaching is trusting the Holy Spirit to work through you.
- ☛ Teaching is getting across the truths of the Word of God to the members.
- ☛ Teaching is the creative use of methods.
- ☛ Teaching is the proper use of Sunday School curriculum material.
- ☛ Teaching is bringing your Christian knowledge and experience to bear on the lessons.
- ☛ Teaching is interactive learning. Interactive learning is cyclical— allowing the students to learn from you, guiding the free expression of the students, allowing them to express themselves, learning from your students and imparting a mix of your knowledge and what you have learnt from the students.

Each concept is not independent of the others. They must be considered as inter-related and vital components of the teaching process.

Adult Sunday School Tips

Use nametags for everyone:

Use nametags for your adult students and yourself. This is a helpful reminder to the students that everyone is important and it is a kind gesture to acknowledge each other by name.

Celebrate when a non-Christian gives his or her life to Christ:

This celebration can be as simple as reporting the event to the class. The members might wish to stand with the person when he or she makes a profession of faith. Celebrating victories like these will communicate to adult students that reaching people with the hope of salvation is the priority for the Sunday School.

UNIT ONE OVERVIEW

Living Faithfully

Unit Aims: 1) To increase the awareness of adults on the qualities of faithful disciples of Christ, by exploring 2 Timothy. 2) To encourage adult learners to embrace the Word of God and its importance for their spiritual development, and the spiritual and numerical growth of the Church.

Lesson 1: Safeguarding Your Call

The study outlines that a Christian who is loyal in serving Christ not only learns from and faithfully follows the teacher, Jesus; but also faithfully delivers the message of salvation from sin. Through the lens of 2 Timothy in which apostle Paul advises Timothy, the lesson encourages adults to cherish and protect their testimony, integrity and Christian witness. Lesson 1 outlines that an exemplary Christian life reflects our appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice, which Jesus made for us.

Lesson 2: Pursuing Godliness

The Lesson highlights godly living as a life-long commitment and pursuit. It guides adult learners to take the necessary steps to develop a reliance on the Holy Spirit, Who will empower them to resist temptation and live their Christian life boldly, in the face of trials. Lesson 2 reminds adults that a holy life is one that is lived in accordance with the teachings of the Bible.

Lesson 3: Preparing for the Last Days

The study underscores the truth that though we live in dangerous and troublesome times, opponents of the gospel cannot deceive or persecute Christians for longer or more intensely than God permits. The Lesson examines Paul's exhortation to Timothy not to be afraid to suffer for the gospel. Learners will explore the ways in which Christians can remain strong in faith in the face of challenges and persecution.

Lesson 4: Passing the Baton

By highlighting Paul's godly mentorship of Timothy, the Lesson helps adults to recognise the importance of providing Christian leadership and mentorship for others who are younger in the Christian faith. Lesson four highlights the fact that discipling and succession planning are hallmarks of a church, which is faithful to God and maturing spiritually. The study will guide adults in assessing whether they have been living a life characterised by God-inspired evangelism and mentorship.

Safeguarding Your Call

Desired Outcome

Through discussion and self-assessment, adults will be guided to take steps to actively respond to God's call for them to be holy, faithful messengers of the gospel; while protecting their integrity in Christ through exemplary living.

PREPARE FOR SUNDAY

• 2 Timothy 1:1-14

• For Introduce the Lesson:

1) Familiarise yourself with the THAT'S LIFE story and questions listed after the story.
2) Know the definition for *safeguard*.

• For BIBLE STUDY:

Do background reading on Timothy, including knowing the feature on page 9 (TG), so you can adequately introduce the BIBLE STUDY.

• For LIVING THE LESSON:

1) Have members of the class share their testimonies.
2) Be prepared to lead non-Christians to experience the gift of salvation. Know the information on page 64 (LG), to aid non-Christians in their steps to have a born-again experience.

TRUTH FOR THE DAY

The believer has a responsibility to value and protect the truth of the gospel by living a life of holiness and integrity, and by sharing the gospel and his or her testimony.

TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

Introduce the Lesson 5 minutes

Welcome the members. Begin the lesson by relating the THAT'S LIFE story about Elder Mark. Take responses to the question after the story. Then, **ask:** *What does it mean to safeguard something or someone?* After a few answers, point out that *to safeguard* means to *protect, defend, cherish or to put measures in place to prevent something undesirable from taking place.*

Inform the class that today we will be exploring how we can safeguard God's call for us to live a holy, faithful Christian life and be His witnesses. Indicate that the lesson will examine passages from 2 Timothy and Highlight ways in which we can cherish our salvation and the gospel of Christ, guard our Christian integrity and value the call by Jesus to share the gospel.

BIBLE STUDY 25 MINUTES

Have a volunteer read 2 Timothy 1:1-5. Providing background information on Timothy, outline that Timothy was the son of a Gentile father and a mother and grandmother who were Christian Jews. Highlight that Timothy was one of Paul's leading partners on his missionary journeys, as well as he was sent by Paul to be the leader of the church in Ephesus. Note that Timothy and his relatives probably became Christians when Paul first went to the town of Lystra (Acts 14). Mention that all the Christians in Lystra and in the church in the town of Iconium said good things about Timothy. Emphasise the

importance of Christians having a reputation of integrity. Citing Paul's statements in 2 Timothy 1:1-5, highlight Paul's affection and respect for Timothy, who had distinguished himself in faithfully serving God (vv. 2, 4,5).

Show how thankful Paul was for the spiritual upbringing of Timothy (v. 5). Encourage members to see as very important, the role of training their children, siblings and other young ones with whom they interact, to serve God and to know their spiritual calling.

Explain that 2 Timothy 1:1-5 makes mention explicitly and implicitly of God's grace. **Ask:** *What is sincere faith (v. 5)?* After a few answers, explain that *sincere faith* is a trust in God, which acknowledges salvation from sin as a gift from God, and entails the person's surrendering of their entire self to God. Note that someone with sincere faith exercises confident trust in God's power, wisdom and goodness.

Advise that if we live, mindful that salvation is a gift, we will not be arrogant about the Christian life. We will, instead, encourage others to accept this gift. Point out that by living a humble, Christian life, we safeguard or cherish the gospel and help in expanding God's kingdom on Earth.

Invite the class to explore

2 Timothy 1:6-10; 11-14. Take note of Paul's exhortation to Timothy in verse 6, to use his spiritual gift. Explain to members the importance of using their spiritual gifts in a proactive manner, so that they and the church will grow spiritually.

Highlight that apostle Paul reiterated the essence of the Christian life by declaring that God has delivered us from sin and called us to a holy life. Such a life is consecrated or set apart for carrying out God's purpose. Mention that Paul emphasised that it is because of God's grace (unmerited favour) and purpose why we have been redeemed from sin, given eternal life and called to holy living (v. 9). The apostle declares that Jesus had brought eternal life and destroyed the power of death. This is the core message of the gospel of Jesus Christ (vv. 9-10).

Emphasise that to carry out our call to share and safeguard the *good deposit* of the truth of the gospel (v. 14), we may encounter difficulties including persecution. However, the Holy Spirit is always present to guide, guard and strengthen us.

LIVING THE LESSON 10 MINUTES

Encourage members to share their experience of salvation with the class. Next, emphasise that we cherish and defend the truth of the gospel by sharing the good news of salvation with as many persons as possible, wherever we are; and by living exemplary lives. Invite non-Christians to experience salvation.

Close with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's gift of salvation.

FOR YOUNGER ADULTS

PREPARE FOR SUNDAY

• 2 Timothy 1:1-14;
*Ephesians 2:8-9
(*not used in LG)

• For BIBLE STUDY OPTION:

1) Be knowledgeable of all the Scripture references so you can interrelate them.
2) Be prepared to repeat and comment on the **KEY VERSE**, and to explain the term *good deposit*—the truth about the gospel (the good news about God's saving grace) and the experience of God's salvation.

• For APPLICATION:

Plan to encourage adults to share on how their prayers have impacted the lives of others.

ON SUNDAY!

BIBLE STUDY OPTION

Invite two students to read the following passages: **2 Timothy 1:1-5; Ephesians 2:8-9**. Next, **say:** List some of the special elements of Paul's letter found in the passage. If the following are not suggested in the list, mention them: **1)** Paul acknowledged himself as a messenger of God (v. 1a). **2)** Paul gave God the credit for his spiritual life and everything he is (v. 1b). **3)** The Apostle conveyed greetings of God's grace, mercy and peace (v. 2). **4)** Paul was thankful to God that he could remember to pray for Timothy (v. 3a). **5)** Paul prayed frequently for Timothy and his family (v. 3b). **6)** Paul was longing to see Timothy (v. 4). **7)** He acknowledged that Timothy's mother and grandmother had strong faith in God and now Timothy had exemplified that faith (v. 5).

Comparing 2 Timothy 1:1-5 with Ephesians 2:8-9, highlight that God, through His grace provided salvation to us as a gift because He loves us, and not because we deserve salvation.

Citing 2 Timothy 1:6-14, highlight that Paul reiterated that Timothy was not to be embarrassed about the message of God's plan of salvation (vv. 9-10). Mention that the apostle reminded believers that they should share the gospel with boldness because of the power of God, which saves them and calls them to be holy. Commenting on verse 14, the **KEY VERSE**, point out that when we safeguard the *good deposit*, we will cherish and declare the truth of the gospel of Christ. Caution that our actions in declaring the gospel should not be based on our own doing but on the undeserved favour of Jesus which saves and empowers us, through the Holy Spirit.

APPLICATION 15 MINUTES

Refer to Paul's faithfulness in always praying for Timothy and his family (v. 3b). Invite young adults to share their experiences of how their prayers have impacted the lives of their friends, family, church family or associates. Mention that faithfulness in praying for others is one way of safeguarding our faith in God. Highlight that we also safeguard the truth of the gospel by consistently telling others about the good news of Christ's death and resurrection which redeems sinners.

Close with a prayer of thanksgiving and commitment.

Biblical Context of 2 Timothy

The Pastorals

Apostle Paul is believed to be the author of 2 Timothy. This is one of three letters, which Paul wrote to pastors, advising them about church administration and doctrine. This focus of the letters has resulted in them being termed “pastorals”. The other two letters are 1 Timothy and Titus.

Timothy the Disciple

Timothy is introduced as a disciple at Lystra (Acts 16:1). It is not clear if Paul was responsible for the conversion of Timothy or Timothy was already a believer when Paul arrived. However, references in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 4:17 and 1 Timothy 1: 2) could lead to the conclusion that Paul was the agent of his conversion. Timothy’s father was not a convert to Christianity but his mother and grandmother were reported as faithful Christians (2 Timothy 1:5).

Timothy the Missioner and Pastor

Paul took Timothy as an associate when he passed Lystra on his second missionary journey. Timothy stayed in Berea with Silas when Paul was forced to leave suddenly (Acts 17:14). He rejoined Paul at Corinth, where it appears that he remained during the period of Paul’s preaching there. He was sent to Macedonia with Erastus before Paul’s third missionary journey (Acts 19: 22) and was among the company with which Paul returned from his third missionary journey (Acts 20: 4).

Overview of 2 Timothy

Second Timothy is both like and unlike First Timothy in that both emphasise sound teaching of the gospel of Christ. Both letters call for the preservation of sound doctrine (1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 1:13-18). However, 2 Timothy is more personal. Paul is in prison (1:8, 16-17) and is expecting to die soon (4:6). 2 Timothy, therefore, reads like a farewell letter in which Timothy is commissioned to continue what the Apostle Paul has begun.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul regards as opponents, persons such as Hymenaeus and Philetus who were teaching false doctrines, for example they taught that the resurrection was already past (2:17-18). The letter refers to the reason and the way to counter false teachers (3:10-17). Paul strongly encourages Timothy to faithful ministry (4:1-5).

Paul’s Farewell

At the time of writing 2 Timothy, Paul was experiencing his second Roman imprisonment for the gospel. The preliminary hearing of his case had already taken place (4: 16-17) and he was then awaiting the full trial. Death appeared to him to be inevitable (4:6-8).

Pursuing Godliness

Desired Outcome

By identifying and discussing godly and ungodly qualities and their impact, adults will be led to commit to grow in godliness through loving speech and actions, exercising perseverance and obeying the teachings of the Bible every day.

PREPARE FOR SUNDAY

• 2 Timothy 2:1-16, 22-26; *James 1:12; 3:5-10; *Revelation 2:10 (*not used in LG)

• For Introduce the Lesson:

Know the THAT'S LIFE (LG) facts on the Caribbean Olympians and the related questions.

• For LIVING THE LESSON:

1) Create and display two *charts*, each with two-column tables. The *first chart* should be titled **Ungodly Qualities**, and have the following respective column-headings: *Ungodly Qualities*; *Impact*. *Chart #2* should be titled **Godly Qualities**, and have the following respective column-headings: *Godly Qualities*; *Impact*.

2) Provide *markers*.
3) Provide sheets of *writing paper* and *pens* for Reality Check (LG).

TRUTH FOR THE DAY

We grow in godliness when we spend time in regular Bible study, Christlike conversations and actions; and persevere in trials.

TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

Introduce the Lesson 5 minutes

Greet the members. Discuss the THAT'S LIFE (LG) facts on the Olympics. Request that members respond to the questions related to the information in THAT'S LIFE. Inform them that the lesson will examine values and habits which characterize our life when we desire to live a godly lifestyle.

BIBLE STUDY 25 MINUTES

Ask a member to read **2 Timothy 2:1-10**. Point out some of the main requirements for attaining and pursuing godliness. Examples: *Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus* (v. 1); an eagerness to please God and not desiring sinful pleasures (v. 4).

Explain to the class that believers are expected to be prepared to face suffering for the cause of Christ. Invite the class to list some trials that they are going through or that others whom they know are experiencing, because they are living for the Lord. After the responses, cite verses 3-4, to remind the class that the Christian life is described as a race and warfare and both types of activities call for sacrifice and determination. Note that, a *crown of life* (the gift of eternal life) will be awarded to those who endure challenges for Christ, until physical death (Rev. 2:10).

Indicate that the Bible teaches that at the end of the hard work, or sacrifice for God, like a good farmer the harvest will be reaped (v. 6). Make mention of **James 1:12** and **Revelation 2:10** to support your discussion.

Refer to 2 Timothy 2:8-9 to indicate that though Paul was incarcerated and his movement further restricted with chains, he had an attitude of boldness, faith in God and triumph. He expressed the belief that no one could restrict the Word of God and he would continue to share the gospel even behind bars. Note that Paul had confidence in God's ability to strengthen and protect him during the suffering for the gospel, and eventually reward him in the life after physical death.

Invite a member to read **2 Timothy 2:11-13**. Explain to the group what is meant by "if we died with Him". Say that when we die with Christ, it means we die to sin. Emphasise that our death to sin signifies that we no longer allow sinful behaviours to dominate our daily life. Stress that the death of Christ on the cross gave us victory over the power of death and sin.

Inform the members that the Scripture instructs us that if we die with Christ, spiritually, we will live with Him in eternity (v. 11). Note that the passage declares that if we suffer for the gospel of Jesus, we will reign with Jesus in heaven.

Allow two volunteers to read: **2 Timothy 2:14-16, 22-26**. Indicate that Paul began verse 14 with a stern reminder. He charged Timothy to warn Christians about engaging in or inciting conflicts. Draw attention to the fact that Paul's appeal is similar to the exhortation of **James 3:5-10** which urges Christians to use the power of the tongue wisely.

Ask members to examine and reflect on the kind of topics and ideas that occupy their time. Tell them to consider which of their thoughts are lacking in Christian values. To get them thinking about what you have asked, **say:** *Are most of those thoughts about relationships, sex, work, ways of tricking others, sports, politics, current affairs?* Invite members to share examples about the major focus of their thoughts.

Then, stress that Christians will demonstrate their loyalty to God, in the way they live. Emphasise that one of the key ways to pursue godliness is by learning what the Word of God, the Bible, teaches and living by its holy principles.

LIVING THE LESSON 10 MINUTES

Have the class list several godly and ungodly attributes and their corresponding impact. Allow volunteers to write their suggestions on the two **charts**. At the end of that exercise, ask two volunteers to share how godly or ungodly habits have affected their life and those with whom they interact.

Draw members' attention to the Reality Check. Allow for a time of quiet reflection and for members to do the activities in the Reality Check.

Close in a prayer of commitment for members to seek to live a righteous life.

FOR YOUNGER ADULTS

PREPARE FOR SUNDAY

- 2 Timothy 2:1-16, 22-26
- **For Attention Getter:**
 - 1) Familiarise yourself with the THAT'S LIFE (LG) facts.
 - 2) Invite the young adults to share the names of their **sports heroes**.
 - 3) Plan to show the attributes common to outstanding sports persons and the Christian.
- **For BIBLE STUDY OPTION:**
 - 1) Know the Scripture references so you can summarise and interrelate them.
 - 2) Study the information in *paragraphs two to five* of the BIBLE STUDY (TG) on *pages 10-11*.
- **For APPLICATION:**
 - 1) Create and display a horizontal **banner** with the KEY VERSE (LG).
 - 2) Prepare to lead a discussion on answers to the LIFE QUESTION (LG).

ON SUNDAY

Attention Getter 5 minutes

Welcome the young adults. Relate the information in THAT'S LIFE (LG). Invite the young adults to share the names of their **sports heroes** or **sports mentors** and the reasons for their choice. After some responses, state that sports should remind us that perseverance is required in living in obedience to Christ. Solicit some other characteristics, which would be evident in the life of an athlete and the life of a Christian. **Ask:** *How do we focus on the goal of spending eternity with Christ when there are so many distractions and obstacles in the Christian life?* After taking some answers, **say:** Today, we will be looking at some godly attributes needed in the life-race of Christians.

BIBLE STUDY OPTION

Summarise. Indicate that Paul is advising believers to avoid sinful behaviour and practices (vv. 14-16). Use paragraphs two to five of the BIBLE STUDY (TG) on *pages 10-11* to assist you with the highlights of the major points in the passage.

Invite a volunteer to read **2 Timothy 2:22-26**. Highlight that Paul appeals to Christians to use the power of the tongue wisely. Mention that idle and destructive chatter have destroyed several relationships and ruined people's emotions and professions. Invite members to share situations in which their words were a source of healing or a source of conflict resolution.

APPLICATION 15 MINUTES

Have the young adults repeat the KEY VERSE displayed on the horizontal **banner**. Then, **ask:** *What are some youthful desires which Paul is asking young Timothy to avoid? What are some of the youthful desires or lusts that you have been trying to avoid? How successful have you been in shunning those desires?*

Advise that we live righteously when we adhere to God's teachings. Point out that some key ways to live in compliance with God's teachings are to spend time in the Word of God and prayer, and to exercise self-control over our conversations.

Invite members to respond to the LIFE QUESTION (LG). Discuss. End the class by encouraging members to desire and pray about the godly qualities listed in verses 22-24.

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