

Tim and Timothy

Remember that yesterday, while Pastor and Tim were on the way to see Mrs. Birch at the hospital, Pastor told Tim about all the different things a pastor does, and he finished by saying: “And you, Tim, could do it.” Let’s see what Tim thinks about that.

While Pastor Paulsen had a devotion with Mrs. Birch, Tim sat in a waiting room. He didn’t mind. It gave him time to think. He’d learned a lot just by talking to Pastor on the way to the hospital. He hadn’t realized pastors did so many different things. To tell the truth, it scared him a little. He didn’t know enough about the Bible to do a Bible class! And preaching sermons in front of a whole church? It was hard enough giving a book report in front of his class! And what did he know about counseling and giving advice to people?

Pastor ducked his head into the waiting room. “Ready to go?” Tim walked with him, silently. “You’re awfully quiet, Tim. What’s on your mind?”

“Well,” Tim said, “I don’t know if I could do all that stuff pastors do. I’d be too nervous. And I don’t know enough about the Bible either. I don’t think I’m cut out to be a pastor.”

Pastor nodded. “You remind me of another young man who needed encouragement. His name was Timothy too. The apostle Paul wrote two letters to him—”

Tim interrupted him. “First and Second Timothy?”

“Yep!” Pastor said. “Paul wrote to encourage Timothy in his work as a pastor. He told Timothy God had given him a spirit of power that was stronger than the shyness or nervousness he was feeling.

“We pastors can be confident because we get to tell people the best news ever! Besides that, Jesus promises to be with us! I think of Jesus standing right next to me when I’m talking to people about his Word.”

Tim had never thought about Jesus like that—actually standing there right next to him.

“And you’re forgetting one more thing,” Pastor added. “You’re only 12, kid! Give it time! You’ve got confirmation class, Lutheran high school, Martin Luther College, and then the Seminary. You’ll be learning a lot about the Bible in those years, and you’ll get lots of practice doing all those things we talked about. So just relax and be a kid. Play baseball. Have fun. And keep going to church, reading your Bible, and praying to Jesus.”

They were at the car. Tim grabbed the door handle and smiled. “Maybe I *can* do it,” he said.

Colossians 3:16 Let the message of _____ dwell
among you _____.

Discussion

1. Why did Tim start to get nervous as he sat in the waiting room? *He began to think he couldn't do the work of a pastor. He'd be too nervous to give sermons, and he didn't know enough about the Bible to teach others about it.*
2. Who did Pastor say Tim was like? *Pastor said he was like Timothy in the Bible. Timothy was a young pastor with big responsibilities who might have been tempted to feel unsure of himself sometimes.*
3. What did the Apostle Paul tell Timothy? *He said not to let people look down on him because he was young (1 Timothy 4:12) and that God had not given him a spirit of timidity, but of power (2 Timothy 1:7). Paul was a great help to Timothy. In the same way, the professors at MLC and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary encourage and mentor future pastors as they prepare for their ministries.*
4. What gave Pastor Paulsen confidence as he talked to the Birches and did his other "pastor work"? *He remembered that he had the best news in the whole world to tell people—that Jesus was the Savior from sin—and that Jesus was with him as he told people that good news.*
5. What was another reason Tim didn't have to worry about being a pastor yet? *He was only 12! He had many years of studying and learning in front of him. By the time he actually became a pastor, he'd be prepared.*
6. Let's look at Colossians 3:16: What two words are missing there? *Christ, richly.* Whether or not Timothy becomes a pastor, what will he always want to learn more about? *The Word of Christ.* The same is true for all of us. How can we let the Word dwell in us richly? *Encourage the students to always attend church and Sunday school and Bible class, and to read the Word on their own, and to pray with the Word, because nothing is more important than knowing Jesus and growing stronger through his Word.*
7. Picture yourself as a pastor or teacher. What part of that calling sounds difficult or makes you nervous? *Answers will vary: knowing enough about the Bible, speaking in front of people, knowing how to answer a hard question on the spot, and so on.*
8. Why do you not have to be nervous about those things? *You will have lots of years of training before you actually have to do those things. And God will be with you, giving you strength!*

Activity – Your Journey to the Ministry: You only need one copy of this worksheet. Cut the boxes apart and pass them out to your students at random. Then let the students ask you the questions, in numerical order or at random. They may have additional questions. Encourage it! *(This is the same activity that Grades 3-5 will do on Day 3.)*

Other options:

- Bring in college photos or your college yearbook to show your students.
- Trade classrooms after the interview so that the students can interview another teacher.
- Bring two classrooms together so that the children can interview two teachers at one time.
- Videotape the interviews and share them with other classrooms.
- **Videotape the interview and send a snippet to MLC. We would love to see you interact with your students, talking about your college years and your journey to the ministry. And we know that your words might encourage others as well!**

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for our Lutheran schools and Sunday schools. During our school years, help us to learn all that we can about you and what you did to save us. If you do call some of us to be pastors and teachers, we trust that you will prepare us so that we'll be well trained and ready to serve. Amen.

Optional Hymn: 919:1,4 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word