

The Last Days

2 Timothy 3:1-9

MEMORY VERSE

2 TIMOTHY 3:1

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many balloons as the number of children in your class and markers.

As many lunch size paper bags as the number of children in your class, markers or crayons.

A few very large button front shirts, a box of “props” which might include purses, rolled newspapers, a dish towel, a wooden spoon, a storybook, glasses, hats, etc.; be creative.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Out of Control

You will need balloons and markers.

Give each child a balloon to blow up. Use markers to write their names on them. Let them blow them up without tying them off. On the count of three, let them all fly at once.

Wow, that seems crazy does not it? But did you know that God knew where each balloon would go before He even made the world? That is right. And even though the last days will be very bad, and times might even seem “crazy,” **God is still in control.**

LESSON TIME!

Times are bad. Every day we see news in the paper about gangs, drugs and violence. Some of it is in our own neighborhoods and schools. The world thinks it is cool to be “bad,” to lie and steal and get away with it. They feel it is only wrong if you are caught; yet there is no loyalty. They will turn on you and each other when things go wrong.

We should not be surprised that the world is this way. God warned us that it would be like this almost 2,000 years ago in His Word. He said that the world would get very evil in the last days.

The world in which we live is very much against the ways of the Lord. We have to be careful not to be a part of the evil around us. We need to say no to those who would lead us astray. We should be careful about the TV programs that we watch or what type of things we allow to come into our minds and hearts.

We know that, as we get closer to Jesus’ coming this world will get worse and worse. But we also know that God loves His children and wants the very best for us. His way is the only way that will truly make us happy and keep us safe in an unsafe world. **Even though the last days will be bad, God is still in control.**

2 TIMOTHY 3:1

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

Times will be difficult and confusing. It will not be easy to live a good life. Perilous means, “full of trouble.” The last days will be troubling. A lot of people will be worrying about how bad the world is getting. But we should not be surprised that the world is getting worse. God wants His people to know so that we can put our hope in Him.

2 TIMOTHY 3:2

For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

People will be lovers of themselves. “Me first” will be the motto. They will be very selfish and greedy. Making more money will be their goal in life. They will be proud, mean, ungrateful and sinful. Children will not mind their parents anymore.

In some ways, you could say that people have always been this way but as we see the Lord's coming getting closer we are going to see an increase in these things. More and more people will begin to act this way. We can look at our world today and see that the description in this verse unfortunately describes a lot of people.

How are these attitudes different from the attitudes that Jesus wants us to have? We need to be careful not to live our lives like those in the world. We should be considerate of others, not self centered. We need to be people who are humble, obedient, thankful and holy. When we live our lives according to the Bible then others will see Jesus in our lives.

2 TIMOTHY 3:3

unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

They will be without love. They will be liars, troublemakers, rough and cruel. If they feel they have been wronged, they will do anything to get even. They will sell stories they know are lies to get money. They will not care who they hurt. They will make fun of those who try to be good. They will only think about doing what benefits them without ever caring about anyone else.

2 TIMOTHY 3:4-5

traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

They will do anything, no matter how mean or cruel, to have fun. They will be proud and think that they are very smart. They will think they do not have any need for God because they have everything figured out. They will love to do whatever makes them feel good and will devote their lives to that. They will not even care about what God says or if He thinks it is wrong. They will chose sin over the love of God. **Even though the last days will be bad, God is still in control.**

Many people will go to church or say that they are Christians but they will not live a Christian life. It is hard to believe that people might even say that they know the Lord yet will refuse to obey Him. This verse says not to associate with people like that. They will lead you astray.

Puppets

You will need lunch size paper bags and markers.

Decorate the bags as puppets by using the bottom of the bag as the face and the edge of the bottom (which is folded toward the top) as the top lip. Draw the puppet face while the bag is still folded flat.

We are not puppets but God does promise to come to live inside us when we ask Him to. So even though the last days will be very bad, we do not have to worry, because God is in control, and He will never ever leave us.

2 TIMOTHY 3:6

For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,

Be careful of these people. They will pretend to be your friend and will tempt you to follow evil desires that can do you harm. Sometimes these types of people will try to trick you into doing what is wrong.

Satan will always try to make sin look good. He will try to make all of the bad things listed above seem to be fun or something we should do. Be very careful! If you know other children who live their lives according to the world do not allow yourself to become like them. Instead, have a good influence on them and tell them about Jesus. Jesus is coming back soon and they need to hear the good news of His salvation.

2 TIMOTHY 3:7

always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

They may be pursuing knowledge or even have a lot of schooling but in their hearts they have no desire to come to the truth. So they will twist the truth and cause others to believe in lies. They will not acknowledge the love of God because they love their sin.

2 TIMOTHY 3:8

Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;

Jannes and Jambres are the magicians in Pharaoh's court who tried to duplicate all of the miracles that God was performing through Moses. In the last days it will be important to be careful about whom we listen to because there will be false teachers who will want to duplicate what God is doing, but in their hearts they only want to lead people astray. How do we test what someone is telling us? We use the Bible to test all things.

2 TIMOTHY 3:9

but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

People really do not get away with doing wrong. They always pay for their sins in one way or another sooner or later. Everyone knows what kind of people they really are. They only fool themselves. Since God warned us how the world was going to be, we can know with certainty that God is still in control. **Even though the last days will be bad, God is still in control.**

If we follow God's way, through faith in Jesus Christ, He will take care of us. He has promised that no matter what happens He will always be there with us to help us. We can trust Him.

“Story Time”

Form pairs of boys and pairs of girls. Bring several very large button-front shirts for them to wear (you do not need one for each pair, just for the one telling the story but having several could really speed things along). The shirt must go around both kids in the story telling pair. Bring a box of “props” for the story-tellers to use such as purses, rolled newspapers, a dish towel, a wooden spoon, a storybook, glasses, hats, etc.

Show them how they will be presenting the stories. One will sit or stand behind the other. The person in front will tell the story and keep his hands hidden while the person in the back will not show his face but will put his hands through the sleeves of the shirt and do the hand motions of the story.

Give the pairs time to make up a story or write choices on slips of paper for them to draw from a hat at random. Do not give them much time to rehearse, let them choose props just before they present their story, then return them to the box for the next team.

After all are done, ask each partner how it felt to not be in control of their hands while trying to tell the story (or vice versa). Ask the class what they think it might be like. It shows us that we want someone we trust to be in control of the important things in our lives. When God is in control of things we never have to worry and He will always do what is best for us.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust in the Lord, especially in the last days. Also it is important to pray that the Lord would help us through His Holy Spirit to live a committed and godly life in these times. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.