

TITUS: TRUTH & GODLINESS



CHAPTER THREE

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

Remember that this was a letter written to Titus while he was in Crete thousands of years ago. We are reading someone else's mail! And yet, the Spirit inspired these words, and God has preserved them in order to still speak to us through them today. Pray for wisdom to understand the context this was written in, and ask the Spirit to speak to our kids now.

- **Big Idea:** God has rescued us not because we did good, but so that we can do good.

Starter

Evidence of Grace

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

Discussion:

- Have you ever felt like you had to be a good girl or boy in order to be loved by your mom or dad or God?

Sing Together

Story

In Titus 3, Paul continues his message to Titus on how to teach and lead the people of Crete. Paul wants Titus to teach and model to the people of Crete what it looks like to live as God's people in their culture and world. Paul reminds Titus that the Christ-following people of Crete are to live by the rules and laws of the land and obey what the leaders are telling them. Paul didn't want the Christian people of Crete to do whatever they wanted and disobey the law. He wanted the followers of Jesus to be kind, to live peacefully with others, not to talk badly about other people, and to do good things.

If you have chosen to follow, trust, and obey Jesus with your life, He has saved you. You have been washed clean. The Bible talks about how you are a new creation. This means that before Jesus, you probably did things for your own benefit. You see, before we knew about Jesus and decided to trust Him with our lives, our main motivation in life was to live for ourselves. That means that when we did good, kind, or loving things, those were primarily at of our heart that wanted to glorify ourselves. We wanted all of the fame, glory, and recognition for the good things that we did. We wanted to be praised. We wanted to get something in return for our good works. But now, in response to what Jesus has done for us in sacrificing Himself so that we could know how much God loves us, we are able to do good things out of a heart of gratitude, not out of a heart of self-gratification.

It means that the blood of Jesus Christ makes us new so that we can do good things for others in order that they might know who Jesus is, what He is like, and what He has done for them. When you choose to trust Jesus, He sends the Holy Spirit to live in and through you. You now have the power of the Holy Spirit to do good things not just so that people will like you, or see what you are doing and think you are such a great person, but so that everyone will see the good that you are doing and you can tell them it is because of Jesus in you. The good news of the gospel of Jesus is for everyone. God wants everyone to know who Jesus is and to give their lives to serving and living as Jesus did.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- ▶ Do you think God would love you more if you were a perfect kid? Do you think that God loves you less when you do bad things? (Since God's love, grace, and mercy do not depend on the good or bad things I do, there is nothing I could do to make God love me more or less. That is the gift of God's grace.)
- ▶ How does that make you feel? Does that change in any way how you view your behaviour?
- ▶ Does knowing that, make you want to do whatever you want because God will love you anyway, or does it motivate you to love Jesus in return by living how He lived? (Leave room for honest responses, but point the kids to responding in love because of the love they have been given.)
- ▶ What are some ways you could be a display of God's kingdom at school or home?
- ▶ Is there someone at school or home that is hard for you to be kind to? What might be something you could do that would be kind toward that person?

Breakout Time

Pray:

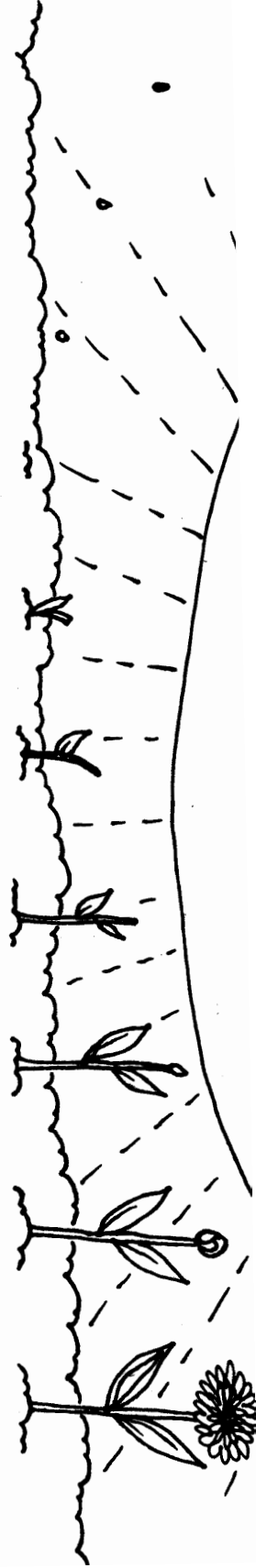
God, I know that you are the one true living God who created all things. You created the earth and everything on the earth. You created me. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus so that I can be forgiven of worshiping other things. Forgive me for sometimes worshiping other things than you. I repent. Holy Spirit, please work in my heart to love God and love others in a way that points them to Jesus and your Kingdom. May our hearts be filled with love for you and for others in response to what you have done in and through your Son Jesus and the story you have invited us to now participate in. Help me to think of my community this week and how I can love them well so that they might know you more.

Craft:

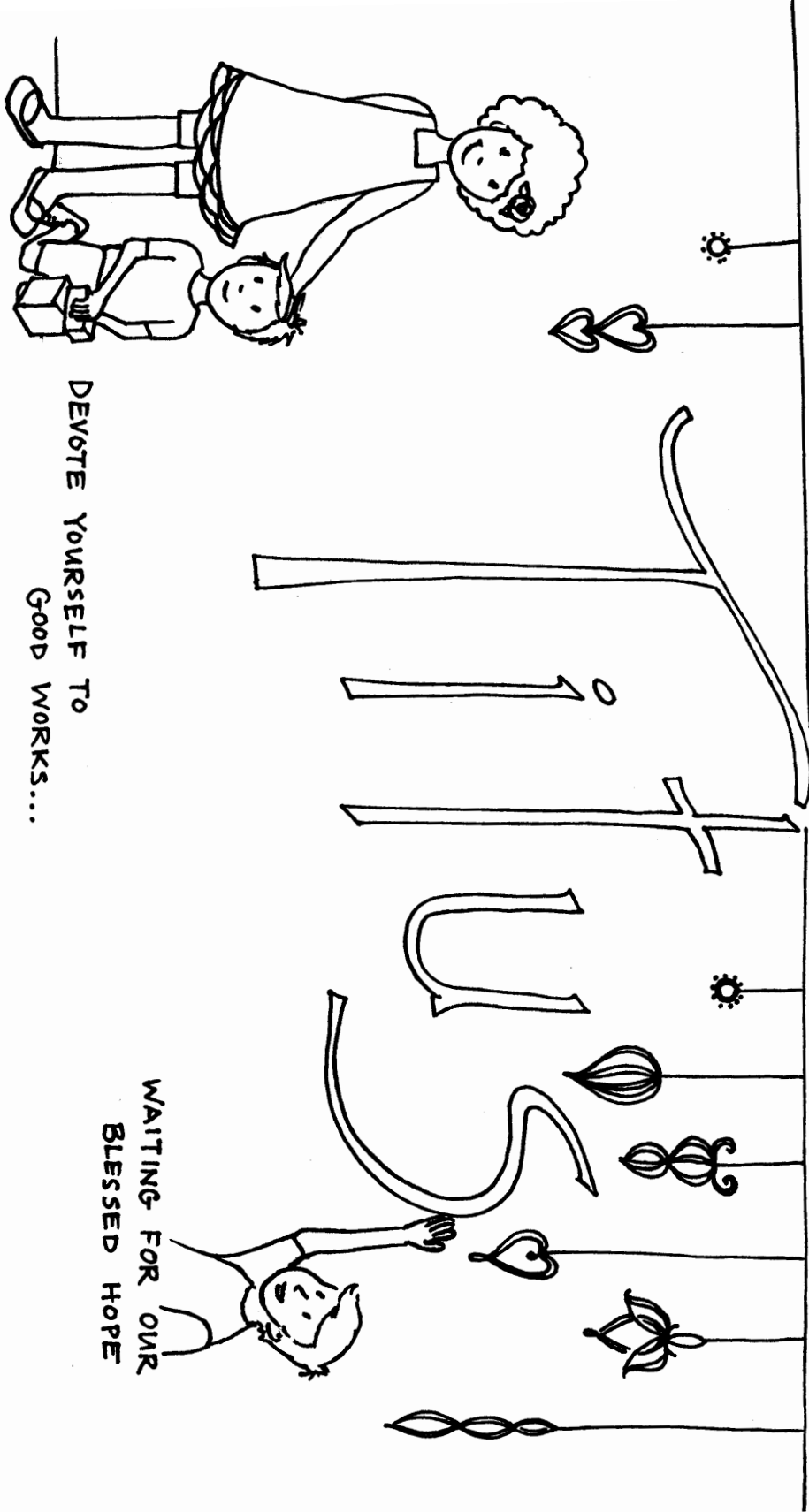
The kids can color the picture below.

BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the Speak rhythm. Maybe as you go to school, go to the store with your parent, go to your sports game or after-school activity, or even in your own home and think about who you might be able to speak the good news that the kingdom of God has come to earth in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.



... BE NOT UNFRUITFUL...



DEVOTE YOURSELF TO
GOOD WORKS...

WAITING FOR OUR
BLESSED HOPE