

# TITUS: TRUTH & GODLINESS



## Chapter One

### 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 always does what is good, right, and beautiful. Let's live like that's true!

### Starter

- **Evidences 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.

- **Ask:** Do you think you look/act more like your mom or your dad? When you're around friends, do you start to act like them? Why do you think we act like the people around us?

### Sing Together

## Story - from Titus 1

Paul went all over the world telling people about Jesus. One of these people was a young man named Titus. Titus was Greek, not Jewish, yet he became a leader in God's church. He helped Paul a lot on his missions, and he himself was sent to start churches. While Titus was on an island called Crete, Paul wrote a letter to encourage and coach him.

Cretan people were known for being *"always liars, evil brutes, and lazy gluttons"* (v. 12). In fact, one of their very own poets and philosophers said this exact phrase about them! This was because their culture followed after Zeus, who they believed lived this way. They believed Zeus was originally a man, who became a god. They also believed Zeus often lied and manipulated to get his way, took advantage of women, and attacked those who opposed him. These were things they worshipped! They wanted to be like Zeus — so they did just that.

Unfortunately, even the communities of people who had believed the good news of Jesus and started churches would sometimes get sucked into these ways of living. Not only that, but there were Jews who came and started teaching them that if they wanted to be Christians they had to live exactly like the Jews and follow all of the Jewish customs. Titus was an example of the opposite! He was fully Greek and Paul never made him follow Jewish customs in order to be saved... he only needed to follow Jesus.

So Paul wrote to Titus to encourage him with truth and to teach the Christians in Crete that the true God was way different from the Cretan gods.

He said he was writing to:

*"further the faith of God's people and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not and cannot lie, promised before time began."*

See how this God stands out from the god Zeus? The true God is not a liar. The true God promises life, not violence. The true God does not take advantage of people, but gives promises and He always keeps them.

They thought Zeus was a man who became a god, but Jesus was God who became man. He came down to us to rescue and save.

Because of this truth, Paul wanted Titus to help others live it out. He wanted them to live in God's ways. To not be angry and violent, or puffed up with pride, or give in to greed or taking whatever they wanted, or lying and manipulating to get their way. Don't represent Zeus or the Cretan way. Instead, represent the true God by being faithful to your spouse and caring for your children, welcoming people into your home, loving what is good and right, and practicing self-control. Be like your God, who always does what is good, right, and beautiful.

This message is still for us today.

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- We may not live in Crete or worship Zeus, but what are some other ways our culture is like Crete?
- What are the ways our culture teaches us to live?
- How can we better represent what God is like in our world today?
- How is God asking you to live out what is good, right, and beautiful?
- If you struggle with living this way, what can you do to change?
- Let's come to Jesus together and ask for his help...

### **Breakout Time**

#### **Pray:**

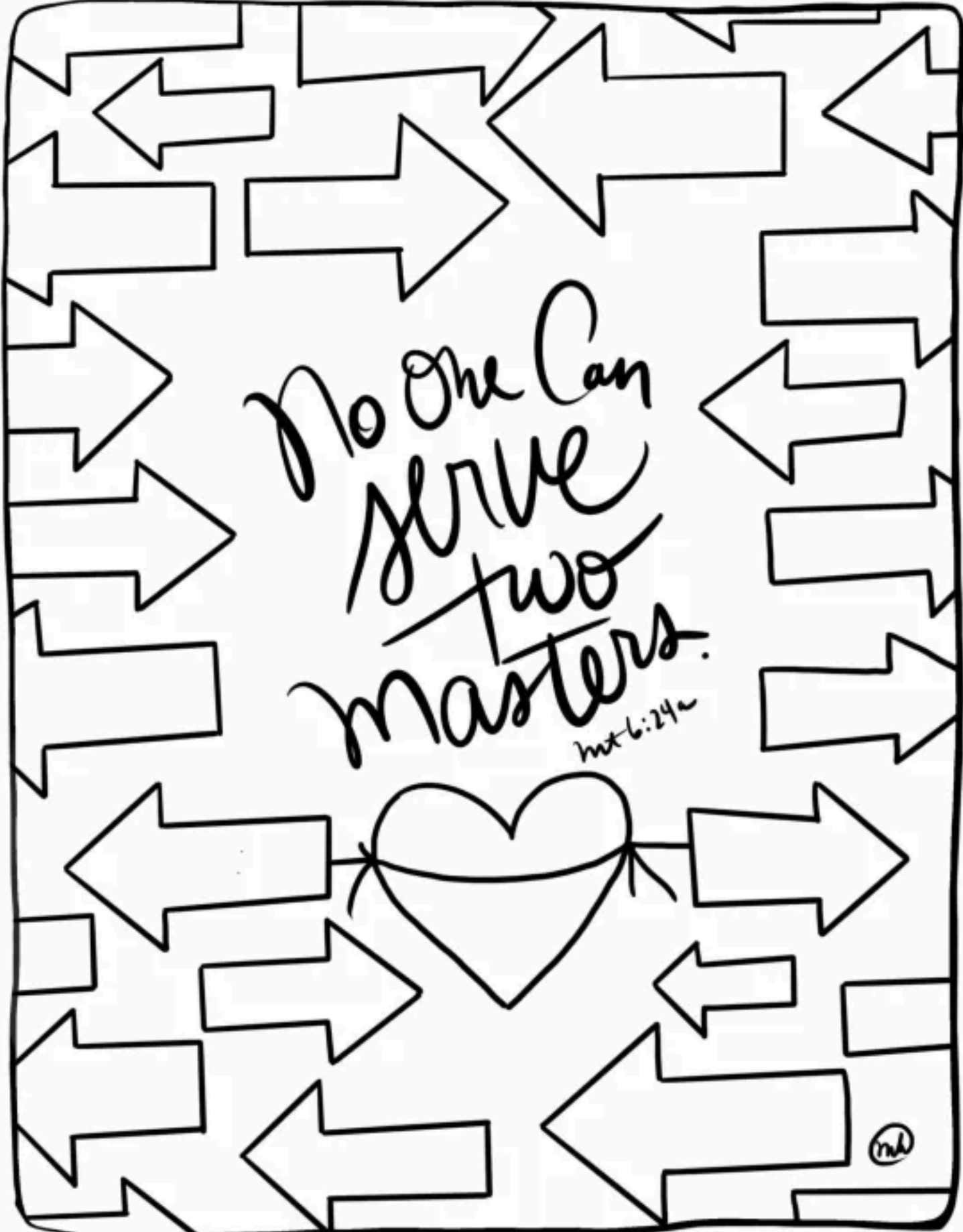
God, thank you for always doing what is good, right, and beautiful. Thank you for always being truthful and keeping your promises. Thank you for not destroying us when we rebel against you, but for Jesus coming down to rescue us. Fill us with your Spirit to help us live in your ways of godliness. Amen.

#### **Craft:**

- Use the coloring sheet attached
- Make a list of what God is like. Make a list of what you are like. Draw lines to connect the ones that are similar.  
Godliness = being *like God*. We need God's power to do that! Pray over your list and ask God to help you make your list look more like His.

### **BLESS Activity**

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Listen** rhythm. Take some time this week to ask God how He wants you to live at home, school, and everywhere you go. Listen for what He wants. Ask for His help to do it.



No One Can  
serve  
two  
masters.  
mat 6:24

Write down what God is like in the left column, then write what you are like in the right column (ask your friends what they say you are like too). Then, draw a line connecting the ways you and God are alike. Thank God for the connections, because it is Him at work in you to make you more like Him. Where there are things that don't line up, don't worry! We are all in a process of being transformed. Ask God to help you look more like Him.

### What God is like...

trustworthy

loving

faithful

...

### What I am like...

*"We are His workmanship, created in King Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

Ephesians 2:10