



Follow the Pattern!

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

The Apostle Paul told Timothy to 'avoid godless chatter'. (2 Timothy 2:16) What should Christians be talking about? The Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's the Good News that saves people and has eternal value! This lesson introduces the character of 'Dotty the Dressmaker' to teach the story but if you don't want to play a character use flashcards or a PowerPoint presentation. But I encourage you to wear something with a repeated pattern like checks, stripes or even paisley!

Bible Lesson: Hold Fast to the Pattern

Bible Reference: 2 Timothy 1:13

Character:

Dotty the Dressmaker

Dotty wears a costume with as many polka-a-dots as possible, from the headband in her hair to the sandals on her feet! This is not only because of her name. It reinforces the idea of a pattern.

Props:

Sewing equipment, fabrics with dot or circle patterns, and a pattern envelope with a pattern inside. Large 'dot' points.

Visuals You Will Need:

1. Sewing equipment
2. Fabric with a dot pattern
3. Dress pattern
4. Timothy
5. Collage of pictures of godless chatter (marriage/food/family tree)
6. Paul and Timothy
7. Dotty's dot points:
 - Bible
 - Witnessing
 - Faith
 - Love

Words:

1. Hello there!
Welcome to my workroom.
My name is Dotty.
I'm a dressmaker.
You might have guessed that when you saw my sewing equipment: scissors, cotton and patterns.
2. Do you know what a pattern is?
You're probably thinking a pattern is a design that is repeated.
Like the design on this fabric. (*Hold up polka dot fabric*)
I'm *crazy* about polka dot patterns.
After all, my name is Dotty!
3. But I'm talking about a different kind of pattern.
A pattern that is a guide.
Here, I'll show you what I mean.
This is a dress pattern. (*Hold up dress pattern*)
I couldn't make a great-looking dress without it.
The pattern gives me important information.
Cutting lines show me where to cut my fabric.
Notches on the pattern show me where to sew the fabric together.
The pattern shows me where to make the button holes and where to place the zip.
Without a pattern, the dress wouldn't fit properly.
Seems would be in the wrong place.
The size would be wrong.
What a waste of fabric and my time!
4. Did you know the Bible talks about patterns?
The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to a young man named Timothy.
Paul wasn't related to Timothy, but he treated him like a son.
Timothy had worked with Paul on mission trips.
He had visited countries and told people about Jesus.
Finally, Paul left Timothy at a church he'd started in Ephesus.
It was Timothy's job to take care of it.
5. Something had gone wrong in the church at Ephesus.
False teachers (teachers who were teaching falsehoods or lies) were spreading doctrines that were wrong.
It seemed all they did all day was talk, talk, talk.
Talk about myths.
Talk about genealogy (who their ancestors were).
Talk about who could marry who.
Talk about what food you could eat.

Paul called it **godless chatter**.

The church was side-tracked listening to men talk about things that did not help people.

They didn't talk about living for Jesus.

They didn't preach the Gospel, the Good News, about Jesus.

6. Paul sent a letter to Timothy.

I'll read you Paul's advice. (*Read the Scripture 2 Timothy 1:13*)

'What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.'

Paul was saying, 'Hang on to what you heard me teach, Timothy!'

Use my safe and stable words as a pattern to follow.

I preached the Gospel and that's what you must preach, too.

Be faithful to God and be loving.'

7. Don't waste time with godless chatter!

Here are some **dot points** for you:

- Study the Bible so you know what is right and wrong.
(The Bible is the best pattern book ever!)
- Tell people about Jesus
(That's the most important thing you can do.)
- Have faith in God
- Love God and people

8. Well, time to get back to work.

I'm not letting go of my pattern!

I'm going to use it to sew this dress beautifully and I'm not giving up until it's done!

Thanks for dropping by.

Ministry to the Children:

Paul knew the most important thing for Timothy to do was to preach the Gospel. What is the Gospel? It means 'good news'! God created humans to be in a relationship with Him. But humans sinned and that sin separated us from God. The good news is that God sent His Son Jesus to be born on the earth. Jesus lived a perfect and holy life and never once sinned. He took the punishment for everyone's sins. He suffered and died on the Cross to pay for them. Three days later God raised Jesus from the dead. Now God has given us the opportunity to be saved from being separated from Him. It's a free gift! Simply admit you are a sinner. Believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He paid the price for your sin. Ask Jesus to forgive you for your sin and turn away from sin. Confess you believe in Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and commit to following Him for the rest of your life!

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 1:13

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

Idea 1: Find the Dots

Create large dots (like those used as dot points in the lesson) and write a word of the Memory Verse on each one. Hide the dots around the room and ask Dotty to help the children find each dot and put them in the correct order. Recite the verse aloud together.

Idea 2: Catch and Repeat:

Use a large ball and ask the children to stand in a circle facing each other. Holding the ball, say one word of the Memory Verse and then throw the ball to a child. Continue throwing the ball saying a word at a time until the entire verse has been said aloud. Then repeat!

Game: Over and Under

You will need:

- A ball
- Large playing space

What to do:

The children pass back the ball either over their heads or under their legs alternating between the two. The first person passes the ball over their head, the second person passes it under their legs and the third person over their head etc. When the last person in the line gets the ball, they run (skip, hop, or jump) to the front of the line and pass the ball back over their head again.

Craft: Sewing

Machine Sewing: For older children

If one of your volunteers loves to sew ask them to bring in their machine and help with a simple sewing craft.

- Pot holders
- Placemats
- Fabric bunting

Hand sewing: For young children

- Sew button eyes onto a sock puppet
- Felt animal ornaments
- Pin cushion

Lacing: For youngest children

- Lace around animal or fish shapes made from cardboard
- Lace around a Cross shape
- Lace around a heart shape