



**HOW TO BE AWESOME TEACHING SERIES  
LESSON 4**

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## HOW TO BE AWESOME TEACHING SERIES

Focus: Loving and serving people this school year.

Lesson 4: Teachers

Bible: <sup>1</sup>I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. <sup>2</sup> Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is good and pleases God our Savior,<sup>4</sup> who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. <sup>5</sup> For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time. 1 Timothy 2:1-6 (NLT)

Bottom Line: You love and serve your teachers by living a life that reveals God's kingdom to them.

### OPENING GAME (IN-PERSON VERSION): Crazy History True or False

#### Supplies:

- A printout of the “Crazy History – True or False” sheet for the game leader (in lesson 4 folder).

#### Game Prep:

- The game leader has a copy of the handout.

#### How to Play the Game:

Say

- I hate history. [You could say you love history if that's true, but makes you weird!]
- I didn't do well in history in school, and still don't like when my dad puts it on the History Channel.
- But some of history is surprising.
- I'm going to read some facts from history, and you're going to guess if they're true or false.

Read one T/F fact at a time. Mix up the order to have with it. You decide if your group can use their phones or not 😊. You don't have to use them all. It's always best to end a game before the room is tired of it.

### OPENING GAME (ONLINE VERSION): Crazy History True or False

**Game Prep** - Same as above.

**How to Play the Game** - Same as above.

## TEACH

What's up y'all! Welcome to the last week of our series, "How to be Awesome!"

Everybody, stand up and go "high five" at least five people. Tell them, "Hey! You're awesome!"

[For virtual groups, say: "Everyone point at someone on your screen, give them a virtual "high five," and tell that person, 'Hey! You're awesome!'" ]

This is the last week of this series. Did anyone bring an old yearbook for us to look at? [Depending on your group size, this could be a fun few minutes of sharing old photos from yearbooks. If your group is virtual, have students hold their yearbook photos up to the camera.]

Every week of this series, we've talked about yearbooks because the things that show up in the yearbook that you'll get at the end of the year or next year are the things you start doing today.

And the way people will remember you at the end of the year starts with how you're living now.

The best way you can live—if you want to be awesome—is to love and serve the people around you; that's what this series is all about.

Does anyone remember how we defined "love"?

[Give students a chance to share. If someone gets it right, make a big deal out of it and restate the definition. If no one gets it right, share the definition again.]

There are lots of ways you can define "love," but for this series, we're keeping it simple: you love someone when you want that person to live his or her "best life."

The "best life" is ultimately a life chasing after Jesus, but it includes things like love, joy, peace, and purpose.

Our series isn't just about loving others; it's also about **SERVING** others.

Does anyone remember how we defined "serve"?

[Same drill: Give students a chance to share. If someone gets it right, make a big deal out of it and restate the definition. If no one gets it right, share the definition again.]

There are lots of ways you can define "serve," but for this series, we're keeping it simple: you serve someone when you **HELP** that person live his or her best life.

And like we said last week, there's not a formula for this. It requires you to get to know someone and get to know what they're like.

Two weeks ago, we talked about how you can love and serve your friends.

Last week, we talked about how you can love and serve your enemies.

Does anyone remember a particularly good idea from last week that you'd like to share about how to love and serve your enemies?

[Same as above: Give a few students a chance to share as time allows.]

This week we're talking about how you can love and serve your teachers.

When I say "teachers," I also mean all the adults at your school: administrators, custodians, cafeteria crew, bus drivers, etc.

For some of you older students, you've probably already discovered this, but for some of you younger students, what I'm about to say may come as a surprise.

Are you ready?

This is big news.

[I would build this up like you're going to share some radical, earth-shattering information.]

Ready?

Here it is ... you might want to write this down: teachers are people, too.

I know, I know...it's shocking to hear.

You see your teachers, and you think they must live at the school and only think about algebra or history.

Do you remember when you were little and you saw a teacher in the grocery store for the first time?

It was like seeing Mickey Mouse or Michael Jordan.  
Most of us get really shy when we see them ... "Hi Mrs. Jennifer."

We forget that teachers are people.

It's like we expect them to ask us to turn in an assignment or give us a dress code warning.

But they're just shopping.

Because they're people.

They have families, and hobbies, and lives outside of school.

Which means they also have struggles, heartache, and brokenness.

Most teachers do a good job of keeping those things private, which is appropriate.

Teachers want to teach, not worry their students with personal struggles.

But just because you don't know what difficult things are going on in their lives doesn't mean they don't have difficult things going on in their lives.

And you can be awesome by loving and serving your teachers.

This week's message is a little different.

Instead of looking at a few different passages, we're going to focus on one passage: **1 Timothy 2:1-6**.

It's called 1 Timothy because it's the first letter written to Timothy from Paul.

We've talked about Paul before.

Paul had a crazy experience that led to him following Jesus.

His faith led him to go all over the known world telling people about Jesus.

It was on one of these trips when Paul went to the city of Lystra and met a young pastor named Timothy.

It was on one of these trips when Paul went to the city of Ephesus and helped plant a church there.

It was on one of these trips when Paul instructed Timothy to stay in Ephesus and help pastor the church.

1 Timothy is the first letter Paul wrote to Timothy giving him encouragement and instruction on how to be a healthy pastor in the church in Ephesus.

Would someone read **1 Timothy 2:1-6** out loud for us?

[I LOVE having students read from the Bible. If it doesn't work for your group, feel free to read it yourself or have another adult read it.]

*<sup>1</sup>I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. <sup>2</sup>Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is good and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. <sup>5</sup>For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup>He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time. 1 Timothy 2:1-6 (NLT)*

What is the first thing Paul says we should do for all people in this passage?

[Give students a second to answer. If they don't remember, read the first part of verse 1 again, then repeat your question.]

Right, pray for all people.

Then what?

[Read the next part of the verse again. Then repeat your question.]

Ask God to help them.

Then what?

[Read the next part again. Then repeat your question.]

Intercede on their behalf.

Intercede means pray for someone, especially pray for relief from whatever their struggle is.

Then what's the last thing Paul says in this verse?

[Read the last part of verse 1 again, then repeat your question.]

Give thanks for them.

In this one verse, Paul gives a solid outline for how we should love people:

- Pray for them
- Ask God to help them.
- Pray for relief from their struggle.
- Give thanks for them.

But why would I pick this verse when we're talking about teachers?

Let's look at the first part of verse 2 again, "*Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority ...*"

I'm willing to bet none of us have kings in our lives ... other than Lebron.

But I bet every one of us has authorities in our lives.

Mandatory fun time: Who are some of the authorities in your lives?

[Give time for students to "shout out" their responses. Give clarity if their response is too vague. For virtual students, you could have them respond verbally or type in their responses in the chat window. Hopefully, someone will say "teachers" as an answer – if they don't, lead them there, then continue.]

If you're a student, your teachers are authorities in your lives.

Paul says we should pray and give thanks for them. That's one way we love and serve them.

He uses the phrase "so that" to connect what he just said—the WHAT—with what he's about to say – the WHY.

Would someone read **1 Timothy 2b-4**? [Again, if this doesn't work for your group, you (or another adult) read it.]

*2b ... so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. 3This is good and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.*

Paul gives two reasons that we should pray for our teachers and give thanks for them.

The FIRST reason is so that we'll earn their respect.

Let's take a little break for some mandatory fun time.

In most yearbooks, you can find the "senior superlatives": the list of things like "most likely to succeed," "best personality," etc.

Get in groups of two to three and figure out what "simple superlative" your teachers might give you.

Would be it, "always turns in homework on time," or "tries to cut corners"?

Is it, "most encouraging" or "picks on people to make themselves look good"?

If you were honest, how would your teachers describe you?

Get in your groups of two to three and come up with two or three ways your teachers might describe you, based on how you've acted so far at your school.

[Give a few minutes for students to discuss, then ask a few to share their responses. Interact with them as time allows. For virtual students, have students write a few descriptions in the chat, then pick a few to ask for a little more detail.]

Teachers may not have “favorites,” but each of us earns a reputation with our teachers by the way we act.

And Paul says we should live in such a way to earn their respect.

Then he gives another reason we should pray and give thanks for our teachers. Would someone read **1 Timothy 2b-4** again? [Again, if this doesn't work for your group, you (or another adult) read it.]

*<sup>2b</sup> ... so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is good and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.*

Paul says the SECOND reason we should pray and give thanks for our teachers is so God can use us to help our teachers begin a relationship with Jesus.

I'll give you a minute to chew on that: God wants to use your life to help your teachers know Him.

That's why Paul wraps up this passage like this in verses 5-6:

*<sup>5</sup> For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time.*

You love and serve your teachers by living a life that reveals God's kingdom to them.

Grades are important, so do good work and study hard.

Sports are important, so be a great teammate and give 100%.

Band is important, so practice your scales and be prepared.

Clubs are important, so get involved and do your part.

Other things that make middle school and high school great are important, so get out there and be awesome.

But the way you live your life is a way God wants to communicate with your teachers something even more important than anything else we just listed: Jesus purchased their freedom, and you are a part of delivering that message to your teachers.

You love and serve your teachers by living a life that reveals God's kingdom to them.

Remember, we started this series talking about yearbooks.

You'll get your yearbook for this school year at the end of this school year or the beginning of the next school year.

The way you live today will show up on those pages, so you've got a year to live a life that points others to Jesus.

This year, choose to be awesome by taking care of your soul, and loving and serving your friends, your enemies, and your teachers.

Go have a great small group ... and be awesome!

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is your favorite teacher of all time, and what is your favorite memory of her/him?
2. What “senior superlative” do you hope you’ll win one day? What are you doing now to make it happen?
3. Which of your current teachers is easiest to love and serve? What makes it so easy?
4. Which of your current teachers is most difficult to love and serve? [Stay on top of the discussion so it doesn’t get gossipy or slanderous.]
5. Why doesn’t God say, “Love the people that are easy to love, and forget about all the poopy-heads”?
6. What are some ways you can get to know your teachers better this school year?
7. How can you let your teachers know you are thankful for them?
8. How can you let your teachers know you are praying for them?
9. Why does the way you live your life in front of your teachers matter so much to God?
10. Who is one teacher from question three and one teacher from question four that you will commit to love and serve this year?