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Go & Do

Living the Gospel Provides Safety from Spiritual Danger

2 Timothy 3

As a family, read and discuss 2 Timothy 3. Paul prophesied that the last days would include “perilous times” (2 Timothy 3:1), but he also taught that the Lord has given us the gift of the holy scriptures to help us during perilous times and provide safety from spiritual danger.

Activities for Families

Staying Afloat Object Lesson:

- Two oranges
- An orange peeler
- Two containers of water

Start with both containers about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water. Show your family the orange and explain to them that this represents us, have your family give the orange a name, like “Susie.” The two containers of water represent the world as explained in 2 Timothy 3:1-7. Show your family the first orange. Tell them that this represents Susie when she is doing all the daily things that she has been taught to keep her safe in the world, like daily prayer, scripture study, getting along with her family, going to church, serving others, etc... Place the orange in the first container- it will float at the top of the water.

Pick up the second orange, start to list things that will affect Susie’s spiritual protection if she doesn’t do them, like not saying her prayers, staying home from church to sleep in, not reading her scriptures, fighting with a sibling or parent or lying to a teacher. Each time you list something peel off a chunk of the peel. Keep listing things until the orange is about half way peeled. Ask your family how they think “Susie” is doing. Is she going to be protected when she goes into the water? Place the orange in the second container of water. It will sink but not all the way.

Take the orange out of the water and continue with, “Susie was too tired to get up for early morning seminary and figured that missing one day surely wouldn’t hurt.” (Peel off another piece.) Continue listing these seemingly small infractions until you have peeled the entire orange then place it in the water and it will sink.

Teach your family that an orange peel has very tiny air pockets in it. These small, barely noticeable air pockets are what keep the orange afloat and protected. When we have small routine directors in our lives, such as daily prayer, seminary, church and youth night attendance, scripture study, obeying the guidance given by parents, leaders and For the Strength of Youth pamphlet, words from our prophet, etc. that keep us afloat but if we “peel them off” by not doing them or disregarding them, we are slowly sinking ourselves. Remind your family to keep doing those things that will keep them protected from the world and keep them afloat and not pulled down.

