



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for June 6, 2010  
Released on Wednesday, June 2, 2010**

**"Be Examples to Others"**

**Lesson Text:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

**Background Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

**Memory Verse:** "Ye were ensamples to all that believe" (1 Thessalonians 1:7)

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timothy, Unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father, and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

9 For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

**THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that God is pleased when the behavior of His children makes them good examples for other believers.

**TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Paul said the Thessalonians' faith, endurance, concern for others, allegiance to God, and expectation of Jesus' coming make them good examples for other Christians.

2. When those qualities are seen in us, we are good examples too. Jesus is pleased.

### **PLANNING LESSON AIDS:**

For Beginning the Lesson, find a picture of a young girl (seven or eight years old).

For Telling the Lesson, make five signs: "believing," "helping," "sticking," "pleasing," and "waiting." Make a scroll using typing paper and two dowel sticks or plastic straws. (Save the scroll for use in later lessons.)

For Helping to Remember, cut out a 1-by-6-inch brown tree trunk and five ½-by-3-inch green branches for each child. Provide glue, crayons, and a sheet of light blue construction paper for each student.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student.

### **TEACHER'S NOTES:**

Time: A.D. 51

Place: from Corinth

Paul's recent experience in Thessalonica lay behind his first letter to the believers there. His ministry had met with such success that jealous Jews from the local synagogue instigated a riot. Paul had to leave the city (Acts 17:1-10), and he was concerned for the new church he had left behind. Would their faith hold under persecution? When Timothy reported that the Thessalonians were actually doing well, Paul sat down to write them a joyful letter.

His relief and pleasure are apparent at once. He began by commending them for being examples worthy of imitation by other believers in the entire region.

First, Paul thanked God that they had recognized truth when they heard it. They had taken the first step of believing the gospel.

Although they were new believers, they were already doing something about Jesus' command to love. They were pursuing the betterment of other members in the body. They were involved in a labor of love.

They were persevering too, holding to their hope in Jesus in spite of the negative pressure. Paul interpreted their faith, their love in action, and their perseverance as an indication that they were indeed chosen of God.

He said they were specifically examples of unbelievers who had turned away from their idol worship of the past to worship instead the true God, the God who is alive.

Now they had a bright future to look forward to. They knew God's Son Jesus would come back, and they were anticipating His return.

What they had done and were doing was being reported far and wide. People everywhere seemed to have heard their story. The Thessalonians were modeling behavior that pleased God and was appropriate for others in His family to imitate.

### **BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

Sara was getting a new sister. (Show picture of a young girl.) She would not be a baby sister, though. Sara's new sister would be seven years old – almost as old as Sara herself. You see, Sara's father and mother were adopting Julie, a little girl who did not have a family of her own.

"Julie will not be used to doing things the way we do them in our family," Sara's mother told her. "She will need to learn. You can help her, Sara, by being a good example."

Sara knew exactly what her mother meant. Do you know what she meant?

One day Jim's father said to him, "When we take your little cousins out to eat, we want you to be a good example of how people in our family behave when they are in a restaurant." Do you know what he meant? Sure you do!

So what is being a good example? (Let students tell you.) Being a good example is showing somebody else what is good and right to do by doing what is good and right yourself. The Bible talks about that. (Open your Bible and point to 1 Thessalonians 1.) Here it is. Let us find out what the Bible says.

### **TELLING THE LESSON:**

This book of the Bible has a long name. It is called Thessalonians because it was sent to some people who lived in a town that had a long name, Thessalonica. You see, Thessalonians was a letter. Jesus' friend Paul had just been preaching in that town. Many people there had believed that God sent Jesus to die for them; so now they were in God's family too.

Even though Paul was now somewhere else, he was thinking about his friends back in Thessalonica. He decided to write them this letter. (Point to 1 Thessalonians again.) In those days a letter would not fit in an envelope. It probably was rolled up and looked like this. (Show scroll.)

Paul's letter started off a little like this: "Dear people of God in Thessalonica, we wish you God's good help and quiet happiness, and we keep thanking God for you."

So what were those new believers in Jesus doing that Paul was thanking God for? He told them. First he said, "We thank God that you believe in Jesus." (Show "believing" sign.) Then he said, "We thank God that you keep thinking about what other people need and are helping them." (Show "helping.") Next he said, "And we thank God for the way you are happily sticking with Jesus."

Now, Paul did not really say "sticking," but that was what he meant. (Show "sticking.") What he meant was that the Thessalonians were not giving up. They were continuing to believe in Jesus, no matter what happened.

"You are an example to people everywhere," Paul said. He meant they were a good example too, because those are three things God always likes to see in His family: people believing, people helping, and people sticking with Jesus. (Point to each sign.)

Paul was not finished yet. He went on to say that they were good examples because they were not trying to please dead idols anymore. They used to pray to things made of gold and silver and wood and stone, but not now. Now they were praying to the true and living God. They believed in His Son Jesus, and they were doing what pleased Him. (Show "pleasing.")

All the time they were trying to please God while living here on earth, they were remembering that Jesus would come back someday and take them to heaven. They were waiting for that day. (Show "waiting.")

One, two, three, four, five – believing, helping, sticking, pleasing, and waiting. By doing those five things, the Thessalonians showed anybody who was watching what kinds of things God's people should be doing. The Thessalonians were good examples.

## **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

Now I have some questions for you. Are *you* a good example? The Thessalonians were.

Have you believed that Jesus was dying for you when He died on the cross? (Point to each sign as you refer to it.) Believing Jesus died for you and rose again is where you must start.

How often do you think about helping others? Or do you think only about doing what you want to do and getting what you want? Jesus said we should help other people get what they need. Do you do that?

Have you made up your mind that you will stick with Jesus whatever happens? Someday somebody may make fun of you because you want to please Him. Will you stick with Jesus anyway?

Are you trying to do the things that please the Lord? Do you ever think, *Would my doing this make Jesus happy or not?*

And are you waiting for Him to come back? He is coming someday. We do not know just when, but we want Him to look at us and say, "You were a good servant. You did well."

If you are doing those five things, you are showing others how God wants people in His family to behave in the world. You are being a good example!

## **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Tell the children they will be making an example tree. Have each print on his/her five branches the words "believing," "helping," "sticking," "pleasing," and "waiting." Next, glue the trunk to the center of the blue paper, and attach the branches. At the top they should print "My Example Tree" and draw grass and flowers as time permits.

## **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:**

### **"Ye were ensamples to all that believe" (1 Thessalonians 1:7)**

This verse is from the letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the people in a new church in the city of Thessalonica. It says that when Paul preached there about Jesus, they believed what he said and became Jesus' friends. This part of Paul's letter says some other people gave them a lot of trouble because they believed in Jesus, but God made them happy anyway. What they were doing made them good examples for any other people who heard about them.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Thessalonians has many important things to say to us. But can such a story say anything to children? It can say two things.

First, embracing Jesus as Savior is where everyone must start. Jesus is the only door.

Second, God likes to see certain qualities when He looks at His children: quickness to help others, determination to stay with Jesus, choosing to please Him rather than self, and happily remembering that He is coming back.

The Christian boy or girl who exhibits these qualities is a good example.

## **PRAYER:**

Dear God, we want to please You by being good examples for others. Thank you for helping us and showing us how to do what is good and right, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "Pleasing God with Our Lives" and tells that what God wants is more important than what people want. Study 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

**LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:**

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers

## WORD SEARCH

### "Be Examples to Others" (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

BELIEVERS

WORK

FAITH

GRACE

BELIEVING

PEACE

HELPING

EXAMPLE

PATIENCE

THESSALONIANS

WAITING

LOVE

GOSPEL

HOPE

LABOR

PLEASING

L B L E L E P S O G E E G B K R O W C P L L A  
E L O I N A N O R T O E N T E I X G E P A L P  
P E A C E V S A N O N C S L T L L G E E G R G  
A O L N E P T L L P E N N E E A I O A W N L T  
P E X A M P L E E P I E A O G P P E A R P A I  
L A I F A I T H O E N I I S E X C I V B L B I  
T P L E P F A H C C A T N E E P T G I I E O E  
E T E T G P T A A S S A O O L I B O T G N R O  
L A C S N I R G O L B P L W N T I L N A G G I  
H N E G I G E H S G S E A G T G V I K H I N I  
R O T I S P A F O S L I S H E P P C R I G R T  
E P L E A X I E V O L F S P X L I A E P I O N  
E G G O E M I P P A E H E R E C L N A O I T L  
E A B E L I E V E R S M H H V B I E S S E G S  
E P P E P N L O T W M L T H P L E F L O I A B  
M O L N E B E L B P N G N B I P K V W H N T P

