



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for June 13, 2010
Released on Wednesday, June 9, 2010**

"Pleasing God with Our Lives"

Lesson Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Background Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

Memory Verse: "We speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts"
(1 Thessalonians 2:4).

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

1 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:

2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

3 For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

5 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:

6 Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Help the boys and girls understand that when what God wants and what people want do not agree, pleasing God is the Christian's way to go.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Paul was courageous, wise, and kind for the benefit of others and did not ask to be rewarded.
2. What God wants is more important than what people want.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, make two flash cards: "Thessalonica" and "Thessalonians." Bring a Bible also.

For Telling the Lesson, make three flash cards: "Remember," "What God Wants," and a cross. Bring pictures of Paul and Silas, a mother and baby, and a father with his son.

For Helping to Remember, you will need crayons and a sheet of light-colored construction paper for each student. Take spring clothespins and hang a strong string on a bulletin board or wall for displaying the students' work.

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

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: A.D. 51

Place: from Corinth

One word could probably sum up what Paul said to the Christians in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. It is the word "remember."

One can almost hear him saying, "Remember—think about—my first visit to you." He and Silas had suffered mistreatment in Philippi shortly before coming to Thessalonica. Opposition to what they were preaching had turned violent. They were beaten and thrown into jail. In spite of that, when they came to Thessalonica, Paul risked being beaten again. He bravely preached the gospel to the crowds even when, once again, many began to oppose the message he brought. He said God made him bold. God had given him good news to tell, and it was God he wanted to please, not people. He wanted the Thessalonians to remember that.

He wanted them to also remember that the news he had brought them was indeed good news. The gospel brought them nothing but benefit. He had not craftily deceived them with a message that was somehow unclean.

He called on them to remember that he had asked for neither money nor acclaim for himself. He had not tried to make himself someone important so that he would receive honor. Rather, he was like a mother caring for her newborn, just wanting their welfare and demanding nothing in return. He had even taken a job to care for his personal needs so as not to burden them. According to Acts 18:3, Paul's trade was tent making. It is likely that was the work he took on.

Paul's ministry, his behavior, and the Thessalonians themselves, who had seen him in action, all witnessed to his personal integrity and the integrity of his message.

Paul reminded them of what he had taught them. This time he likened himself to a father teaching his children. He had taught that they were in God's family now. For that reason, they were expected to walk worthy, that is, to live in a way that fit that new relationship. It was fitting that they too should seek primarily to please God rather than man.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

That city with the long name—what was it? (Print "Thessalonica" on the chalkboard, or show the flash card.)

Paul was traveling from one place to another, telling of Jesus wherever he went. Many people in Thessalonica believed the good news when they heard it; so they were God's people too.

There were some people who did not believe, however. They made so much trouble that Paul had to go somewhere else. After a while he heard that those in Thessalonica who had believed in Jesus still believed, even though the troublemakers were busy. Paul was glad to hear they were sticking with Jesus. He thanked God for them, and he decided to write them a letter.

That letter is in our Bible. We call it— what? (Print "Thessalonians" on the chalkboard, or display the flash card.) We call it "Thessalonians," and here it is. (Open your Bible.)

TELLING THE LESSON:

Some letters start by asking, "How are you?" Some say, "The weather is hot here." But Paul's letter asked the Thessalonians to remember something. (Show "Remember.")

Remembering is thinking about something you have done or seen or heard or heard about or read. Paul told his friends in Thessalonica to think about the trouble he had experienced even before he came to their city.

You see, just before Paul came to Thessalonica, he and his friend Silas had been in another town, telling the news about Jesus there. (Show cross.) Some people in that place did not want to hear about Jesus dying for them. One day they beat Paul and Silas with whips and then put them in jail. (Show Paul and Silas.)

The next morning, though, they were let go, and Paul went down the road until he came to Thessalonica. He knew that what God wants is for people in every place to know about Jesus. (Show "What God Wants.") That is why he started telling God's good news to the Thessalonians. He did that even though once again not everybody wanted to hear it.

Sure enough, some people started to make trouble there too. Paul did not know what might happen. Maybe he would be beaten again. However, he knew that what God wants is more important than what people want. (Show "What God Wants.")

God made Paul brave, and he kept telling about Jesus anyway. God had given him news to tell, and it was more important to please God than it was to please people. (Show "What God Wants.") Boys and girls, it still is.

Paul wanted the Thessalonian believers to remember how true and good the news of Jesus is. The news of Jesus was good for people in Thessalonica, and it is good for

people in _____ (insert your town or city). The news about Jesus is good for people everywhere.

Paul wanted the believers to remember that he had not preached to them so that they would give him anything. He was not hoping they would give him money or think he was somebody special.

No, instead he had been kind and good to them, like a mother caring for a new baby. That was what God wanted. And *you* know how kind and good a mother is with a brand-new baby. (Show mother and baby.) She does the things that new baby needs, and she does not ask the baby to do anything for her.

Paul wanted them to remember that he had even worked to earn money to buy his food. Paul knew how to make tents; so maybe he got a tent making job. He did not take anything from the Thessalonians. He just *gave* to them. He gave the news of Jesus. (Show cross.) That was what God wanted.

Then Paul asked them to remember one more thing. He had been like a good mother to them, but he had also been like a good father who teaches his children. (Show father and son.) He reminded them that he had taught them how God wants the people in His family to live. (Show "What God Wants.")

What God wants would certainly be a good thing to know. So what do you suppose Paul had taught the Thessalonians? What he had taught the people who believed in Jesus was this: You are God's child now. Do the kinds of things that fit with being in His family. Paul taught them that because what God wants is more important than what we or anyone else wants. (Show "What God Wants.") Paul said to remember that.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

If *you are* God's child, if *you* believe in Jesus, "Do the kinds of things that fit with being in God's family" sounds like a good rule for you to remember too.

When a friend wants to do something you are not sure you should do, just ask yourself, *Does doing this fit with being God's child?* What God wants is always more important than what people want. (Show "What God Wants.")

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Tell the children to fold their construction paper in half crosswise and then open it and draw a thick line down the crease and around each side, making two picture frames. Tell them that Paul did many different things that God wanted done. On the left side, have them draw Paul doing one of those things. On the right, have them draw themselves doing something God might want them to do. Clip their work to the string as they finish it. Then let each explain his/her drawing to the class.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"We speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts" (1 Thessalonians 2:4).

Paul had just told his friends in Thessalonica that God Himself had given him a job to do. His job was to let others know the good news about Jesus. Some people did not

like that, but Paul said it was more important to do what God wanted than to please other people.

The Lord could see what Paul was like inside. He knew Paul was trying to please Him. He knows when we are trying to please Him too.

CONCLUSION:

It is to be hoped that much of what Paul said he did is also true of each of us. God has given us a message to communicate. We must tell the good news of Jesus because that is what pleases God, not because we expect payment or respect. We should be like nursing mothers in that we tenderly minister to others, expecting nothing in return. And once they believe the good news, we teach them how to live in a way befitting being in God's family.

The overarching goal for us all is to please God. This lesson is intended to help us make that our aim.

PRAYER:

Father in Heaven, we want our lives to be pleasing to You. Help us to always do the things that You want us to do, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "**Encouraging One Another**" and tells about the good report that Timothy brought back to Paul after visiting the Thessalonian believers. Study 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13.

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

"Pleasing God with Our Lives" (1 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

GENTLE	BELIEVE	PLEASE GOD	FATHER
REMEMBER	HEART	TEACH	GLORY
PREACHED	KIND	THESSALONICA	GOSPEL
SPEAK	MOTHER	APOSTLES	WITNESS

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SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

“Pleasing God with Our Lives” (1 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

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H M O T H E R R I L

C E Y E T

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A E S I E E A P O S T L E S D

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