



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for June 20, 2010
Released on Wednesday, June 16, 2010**

"Encouraging One Another"

Lesson Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Background Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Memory Verse: "Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith" (1 Thessalonians 3:7).

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

- 1 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;
- 2 And sent Timothy, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:
- 3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.
- 4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.
- 5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labor be in vain.
- 6 But now when Timothy came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:
- 7 Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:
- 8 For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.
- 9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;
- 10 Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?
- 11 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.
- 12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:
- 13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that the children sticking with Jesus not only benefit themselves but also give joy to those concerned with their spiritual welfare.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

- 1.** Teach what concerned Paul - that trouble had caused the Thessalonians to turn from following Jesus.
- 2.** Teach what Paul wanted - that they would continue holding to what he had taught them.
- 3.** Teach what made Paul glad - news that believers were continuing with Jesus and serving others, all in spite of opposition.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, you could use pictures of Jesus and His disciples in the upper room, Paul, a crowd of troublemakers, and a crowd of believers.

For Telling the Lesson, make a scroll from typing paper and two dowel sticks or plastic straws. Bring a picture of Paul and also one of young Timothy. Make a flash card reading "Comforted."

For Helping to Remember, cut a 15-inch length of thick brown yarn, and bring a white paper plate for each student. Bring glue, safety scissors (blunt tip) and crayons.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: A.D. 51

Place: from Corinth

A pastor once made this insightful comment: "The best-kept secret of the twentieth century is that doing the will of God makes you happy." One wonders whether that is not the best-kept secret of the twenty-first century too.

We do not always remember, though we really do know, that obedience to the Lord always benefits us in some way. Did not David write, "Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways" (Psalm 128:1)? We look back at those times when we chose God's way instead of our own and feel a deep sense of satisfaction.

Others are blessed through our obedience too. Obviously, when we do for other people what God has told us to do, the recipients of our actions are blessed. The Lord intended that to happen when He sent them across our path.

There may be another group of people we do not often think about, though. These are the ones who have contributed to our spiritual progress, perhaps over a period of years. They are the ones who would say with John, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 1:4) and "I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth" (2 John 1:4).

What more satisfying news can there be than word that a child we once taught in Sunday school presently heads some Christian ministry, or today is teaching Sunday school, or has established a beautiful Christian home? Such news tends to make us feel like Noah's father, who said Noah would comfort him concerning the toil of his hands (Gen. 5:29).

Indeed, doing the will of God does bring happiness.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Just before Jesus died for us and went back to heaven, He had a long talk with His friends. (Show Jesus and disciples.)

He told them that the "world"-that is a name for the people who do not believe God sent Jesus—was going to hate Jesus' people. They were not to be surprised at that (John 15:18,19). He said, "Remember that the world hated Me first."

You and I should not be surprised at what we heard in the Bible lesson last week. (Show Paul.) When Paul brought the news of Jesus to the city of Thessalonica, what happened? (Accept answers.)

Some people believed that the news Paul was telling was true. Others did not like what he said at all. (Show troublemakers.) They did not believe it, and they did not want anybody else to believe it. They made so much trouble that Paul left and went to another city. The Thessalonians who had believed the news about Jesus were still there. (Show believers.) Also, the troublemakers were still there, making trouble. (Show troublemakers.) What was going to happen? Because of all the trouble, would the believers just give up?

TELLING THE LESSON:

Paul kept wondering and wondering what was going on back in Thessalonica. Then he heard some news that cheered him up, and right away he decided to write them a letter. (Show scroll.) He wanted to tell them three things.

First, Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know how much he had been thinking, even worrying, about them. He had been their Bible teacher. (Show Paul.) He was the one who had first taught them about Jesus and how Jesus wanted them to live. He cared about them. He cared about how they were getting along. Were they sticking with Jesus, or had they given up?

He also wanted them to know that they were doing something that made him very, very glad. That was the second thing.

Third, Paul wanted them to know what they should do now.

"I have been worrying about you," he wrote. He knew about the trouble they were having; so he had wanted to know how they were doing. When he could not stand not knowing any longer, he had decided to stay where he was and send Timothy back to Thessalonica to find out. (Show Timothy.)

Paul told Timothy to comfort them. They were having troubles and needed to be cheered up. He told Timothy to give them the kind of teaching that would help them stay with Jesus no matter what trouble came.

(Show scroll.) Paul reminded the Thessalonians in his letter, "You can be sure that people who do not believe in Jesus will always make trouble for the people who do. I told you that would happen, and it has. Remember?"

"I just had to know whether our enemy Satan had used trouble to turn you away from sticking with Jesus. So I sent Timothy to tell you not to give up." Now Timothy had come back and told him what was happening in Thessalonica. Nobody was giving up. Everyone still believed the good news Paul had brought them.

In addition, they were doing what Jesus said His people should do—they were loving one another. That meant each one was not thinking only about himself but was doing what he could to help the others.

Besides that, they were happily remembering Paul. They wanted to see him again. Hearing that good news made Paul feel much better. The Bible says it comforted him. (Show "Comforted.")

Paul said he was having troubles in the new place. But he wanted the Thessalonians to know that just hearing all that good news about them cheered him up, made him glad, and made him feel good. He felt comforted. (Show "Comforted.")

"We cannot thank God enough for you," he wrote. "You have given us much joy. We keep asking God that He will make a way for us to come back to see you and teach you more."

Paul also prayed something else for the Thessalonians, and that was number three of the things he wanted them to know.

"I am praying," he said, "that you will spend more and more of your time doing what helps others and that when Jesus comes back, He will find you being just the kind of people He wants you to be."

That would make the Thessalonians themselves happy. It would make their teacher, Paul, be full of joy too. Best of all, the Lord Jesus would be pleased.

A lot of good things would happen just because the Thessalonians were doing what Jesus wanted.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Distribute the paper plates. Tell the children to draw a large smiling face to show how Jesus' helpers feel when they hear we are staying with Jesus and doing what pleases Him.

Snip lengths of yarn hair for each child's drawing (shorter if the face is of a man). They should then lightly apply glue to the plate and attach the yarn.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Boys and girls, you can be sure that something good happens every time you do what Jesus wants you to do. For one thing, other people get something done for them that needed to be done. That is always good. Next, when you obey, the Lord is pleased. That is good, for Jesus is the most important person to please.

Maybe you have never thought about this, but your parents and pastor and Sunday school teachers and others who have taught you the Bible and prayed for you are very glad when they hear that you are sticking with Jesus and living to please Him. When they hear that, they are comforted because they care about you. (Show "Comforted.") And that is good. You make Jesus' helpers glad. You cheer them up without even trying. It is Jesus you are trying to please, but cheering up the people who have taught you about Him happens too.

Those are just three of the good things that happen when you please Jesus. Now, let me tell you a secret. (Lower your voice.) Pleasing Jesus will make *you* happy too!

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith" (1 Thessalonians 3:7).

The people who believe in Jesus sometimes call themselves "brethren," which means brothers, because they all are in God's family. Even though Paul was having much trouble ("affliction and distress"), he said hearing that his friends were sticking with Jesus made him feel much better.

CONCLUSION:

When Timothy returned with the good news that the Thessalonians were standing strong in the Lord, Paul was filled with joy. Paul was encouraged by this good news because he cared for the believers and was praying for them.

Believers today need the same kind of prayer support that Paul gave the Thessalonians so that they can stand fast in the Lord. In return, Christians should learn that a very good way to encourage other believers, especially those who watch over their souls, is to stand firm in the Lord during hard times.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for being with us through good times and hard times. We praise You for those that You have sent to teach and lead Your people. Help us to encourage each other, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

In next week's lesson, "**Working Together,**" Paul reminded the Thessalonians to stay away from sinful things and to work together to please God. Study 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

Renee Little

Jesus Is All Ministries

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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

"Encouraging One Another" (1 Thessalonians 3:1-13)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

GOSPEL

TEMPT

CONCERN

ENCOURAGE

JOY

FAITH

SERVE

PRAYING

TIMOTHY

TEACHINGS

CONTINUE

STAND FAST

COMFORTED

MINISTER

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SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

"Encouraging One Another" (1 Thessalonians 3:1-13)

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