



Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for June 27, 2010
Released on Wednesday, June 23, 2010

"Working Together"

Lesson Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Background Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Memory Verse: "As ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so...abound more and more" (1 Thessalonians 4:1).

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor;

5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his Holy Spirit.

9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

TEACHER'S NOTES

Paul's letter to the Thessalonian believers began with encouraging words. His message for them was "You have done well. Now persevere in spite of the persecution you are suffering from unbelievers."

Then Paul wrote, "Furthermore," that is, "I also want to say." In 1 Thessalonians 4, as his letter was drawing toward a close, he turned to giving counsel concerning their daily living.

Jesus would return. But what should be the lifestyle of believers as they waited for His coming? Paul summed it up in two words: "Please God."

During the time Paul had spent in Thessalonica, he had not just evangelized. He had also disciplined the believers. They knew more than the basic gospel. They already knew about the Second Coming. And they had learned from him how to walk to please God.

Now Paul told them, as it were, "Do it. Please Him, and keep doing it. Abound in pleasing Him. Abound more and more."

The term "abound" really implies superabounding, either in quality or in quantity or in both. Perhaps we would express it today as "over the top." Paul wrote that they should please God that way. Also, as he put it, their abounding was to take place "more and more" (1 Thess. 4:1), that is, to an even greater degree as time went on.

It is worth noting that Paul was not writing to an individual but to a church. The entire body of believers in Thessalonica was being addressed. Super-abounding in pleasing God is to be the lifelong project of all God's people, including those of the twenty-first century.

The application for your boys and girls is easy to see. Please Jesus. Whoever said that "pleasing Jesus is a child's best rule of right and wrong" spoke well.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God wants to see His children working together toward the same goal, which is living to please Him.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Paul's good rule for living was to please God.
2. This rule is for all believers—those living in Thessalonica and those who believe in Jesus today.
3. One way we can please God is to love others by seeking the betterment of one another.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, find pictures showing a boy at a desk or table and the Apostle Paul. Also make a scroll (from paper towel tubes).

For Telling the Lesson, you will need a large red question mark, the pictures of a boy and Paul from Beginning the Lesson, a picture of a crowd of Bible-time believers, and flash cards reading "Rule Number 1" and "Please Jesus."

For Helping to Remember, each student will need a 5-inch circle drawn on yellow construction paper, safety scissors (blunt tip), and crayons. Take a supply of small safety pins for attaching the badges they will make (applied by teacher).

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Dickie folded up his letter to Grandma. (Show boy at desk.) Then he printed her name and address on an envelope. After that he put the letter inside and stuck a stamp in the corner. There!

He had finished telling Grandma his news, and now the letter was ready to go.

The Apostle Paul's letter to his friends in Thessalonica was almost ready to go too—but not quite. (Show Paul.) Paul had two more things he wanted to write about before he rolled up his letter and had somebody take it to them. (Show scroll.)

We have been talking for a while about this letter Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. (Show 1 Thessalonians in your Bible.) We have learned things from it—exactly the same things the Thessalonians learned when they read what he wrote to them long ago. (Hold up scroll.)

We learned that God is pleased when we provide a good example for other people by doing what is right.

We learned that when people want us to do one thing and God says to do another, it is always better to do things God's way.

Last week we learned that sticking with Jesus is good not just for us and the people we help but also for the people who have taught us about Him and prayed for us.

Now Paul was going to give the Thessalonians a kind of rule for living. (Show Paul.) What could it be?

TELLING THE LESSON

The rule Paul was thinking of would help all of them live while they were still here on earth, waiting for Jesus to come back. What made this rule so important was that it was something that Jesus wanted *all* His people to be doing.

You see, when Dickie wrote his letter to Grandma, he was writing to just one person. (Show boy.) But Paul was not writing to just one person. (Show Paul.) He was writing to all the people who belonged to Jesus in the city of Thessalonica. (Show crowd of believers.)

He told them there was something all of them should be doing together. Paul did not know that someday we would see his letter and learn from it too.

So what is that thing that all Jesus' people are to do? (Show question mark.)

Paul started by saying, "When I was with you, I taught you how to live and please God. I know you are doing those things. Now just remember what we told you and keep getting better and better at—" At what?

"Keep getting better and better at pleasing God." That was Paul's good rule for living. We might even call it his rule number one. (Show "Rule Number 1.") Paul told the Thessalonians to make pleasing God their number one rule too.

"This is something God wants to see all His people doing," Paul told them. So it would be a good rule for us too, right?

You see, having a good time or getting lots of fun toys or always being the leader is not the most important thing for us to do. The most important thing is being what God wants us to be. And that means pleasing Jesus. (Show "Please Jesus.")

To please the Lord, to be what God wanted him to be, was Paul's rule for living. Wherever he was, he wanted to be pleasing to the Lord (2 Cor. 5:9). That rule would be a good rule number one for us too. (Show "Rule Number 1.")

Paul said to Jesus' friends in Thessalonica, "I told you how you ought to live and please God." (Show 1 Thessalonians 4:1 in your Bible.) He said one way they should do that was by loving one another.

Now, this was a different kind of loving. You see, Bible love is not liking. Bible love is doing. Bible love is not just something you feel but something you decide to do. Loving the Bible way is doing something that is good for someone else.

PRAYER

Dear God, help us stay away from sinful things and to work together to please You. Thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit to teach us to show love to one another, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

In next week's lesson, "**God's Plan for Salvation**," Paul told people to be ready for Christ's second coming so that they would be prepared. Study 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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WORD SEARCH

"Working Together" (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

ABSTAIN

COMMAND

HANDS

JESUS

MORE

SANCTIFICATION

AVENGER

DEFRAUD

HOLINESS

LACK

NOTHING

SPIRIT

BROTHERLY

GOD

INCREASE

LOVE

PLEASE

WALK

N S P I R I T C Z Y A S Y F D
O E C L Q P O X L L B L B E U
I W R Z O M T R H J S M X I A
T I B O M I E V O L T S Z D R
A X N A M H L W U V A L O Y F
C F N C T X A M D S I G G B E
I D R O R L H O L I N E S S D
F J R E K E X G M I O M T Z R
I B E Y G T A G N I H T O N E
T V S S F N G S R D E T H S K
C H M A U D E U E D W E A E C
N W H N H S A V O T T E N O A
A L X I Z A V O A N L D D O L
S M T Q V V I B D P I A S V S
E W F B A W V N Y Q L D S K W

18 words were placed into the puzzle.

SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

“Working Together” (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12)

N S P I R I T C + Y A + + + D
O E + + + + O + L + B + + + U
I + R + + M + R + + S + + + A
T I + O M + E V O L T + + D R
A + N A M H + W + + A + O + F
C + N C T + A + + + I G + + E
I D R O R L H O L I N E S S D
F J R E K E + + + + + + + +
I B E + G + A G N I H T O N E
T + + S + N + S + + + + H S K
C + + + U + E + E + + + A + C
N + + + + S + V + + + E N + A
A + + + + + + + A + L + D + L
S + + + + + + + + P + + S + +
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)

ABSTAIN (11, 1, S)
AVENGER (9, 13, NW)
BROTHERLY (2, 9, NE)
COMMAND (8, 1, SW)
DEFRAUD (15, 7, N)
GOD (12, 6, NE)
HANDS (13, 10, S)
HOLINESS (7, 7, E)
INCREASE (2, 4, SE)
JESUS (2, 8, SE)
LACK (15, 13, N)
LOVE (10, 4, W)
MORE (5, 5, NW)
NOTHING (14, 9, W)
PLEASE (10, 14, NE)
SANCTIFICATION (1, 14, N)
SPIRIT (2, 1, E)
WALK (8, 5, SW)

WORKS CITED

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The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers