



Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for July 4, 2010
Released on Wednesday, June 30, 2010

"God's Plan for Salvation"

Lesson Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Background Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 5:28

Memory Verse: "God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

- 1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
- 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
- 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
- 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
- 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
- 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
- 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.
- 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.
- 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.
- 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Help children understand God's good plan for saving people for Himself and heaven.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God loves us and wants us, but our wrongdoing would keep us from ever living with Him.

2. God planned a way to punish our wrongdoing without punishing us: He would take the punishment Himself, through Jesus.
3. Those who do not think they need Jesus will be very sad someday, but Jesus' people will be safe and happy.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson and Telling the Lesson, make a sign reading "God's Plan."

For Telling the Lesson, bring pictures of a modern crowd, an angel, the manger scene, and a cross.

For Helping to Remember, each pupil will need a half sheet of green construction paper, crayons or markers, glue, and two gray paper strips about ½ inch by 3 inches. Print on each strip "Blame for My Sins."

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: A.D. 51

Place: from Corinth

What a happy lesson this one is to teach! First Thessalonians 5 opens the way to clarifying why there needs to be a plan of salvation, why every human being needs what God has planned, why there can be salvation in no one other than Jesus, that our debt has already been paid, and what God's one requirement is for us to reap the benefits of His sacrifice.

You may find yourself experiencing a new surge of gratitude as you are reminded that the work of making salvation possible is something only God could do - and He did it, as our children would say, "all by Himself."

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Have you ever planned how to do something? I know you have, because everybody makes plans. Planning is just deciding on the best way to do something that you want done. Mom plans what she will cook for dinner. Your teacher plans how she will teach you reading. People plan what to do on their vacations.

God knows what He wants done, and He plans too. But He never has to wonder, *What is the best way to do this?* He always knows. Long ago God made a wonderful plan. (Show "God's Plan.") What do you suppose it was?

TELLING THE LESSON:

God loved the people He made. (Show crowd.) He liked having them with Him. He wanted all of them to live with Him someday in His beautiful home. But even before God made the first people, He knew that soon there would be trouble. So He planned what He would do about it.

You see, God knew the people He made would not listen to Him. He knew that soon all of us would be doing just what we wanted instead of what He wanted.

That was a big problem. God wants us to be with Him in heaven. But His home is a perfect place, and there are no perfect, good-all-the-time people. That means He would have to shut all of us out, and He does not want to do that. He loves us! He wants us!

God always knows what to do, though, and this is what God planned. (Show "God's Plan.") If somebody would take the blame and punishment we deserve, we would not have to be punished. God could take us to His home to live with Him, just as He wanted to do.

This somebody would have to be a perfect person. If he was going to be punished for what we have done wrong, he could not have done anything wrong that *he* needed to be punished for. But there was nobody like that in the entire world (show crowd), for everybody has done wrong things. An ordinary man could not do it.

How about an angel, then? (Show angel.) But an angel is not a human person; so an angel could not do it. God knew He would have to pay for our doing wrong all by Himself.

That was what God planned to do. (Show "God's Plan.") God would come down and be born as a baby named Jesus. (Show manger scene.) He would grow up to be a man, but He would still be God too. Jesus' dying (show cross) could pay for the wrong things all of us have done, for He was a perfect man and God at the same time.

God planned something else too. (Show "God's Plan.") He planned that if people would just believe in what Jesus did for us, He would give them everlasting life with Him in heaven someday.

God planned more. (Show "God's Plan.") Someday He is going to make right all the wrong things in the world. But first, Jesus will come back. He will say, "Come," and will take all His people up to be with Him forever.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

If you have never done it before, you can believe what God says about Jesus right now. Believe you do need Him. Believe He died so that you will not be punished. Believe He is the only one who can give you life forever in heaven. Then remember to say thank You to God for His wonderful plan.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Have the children fold their paper in half crosswise and then in half again so that it resembles a greeting card. On the front they will print "My Story." The inside left panel will show a sad-faced stick figure with a prepared paper slip glued across it and "Me" printed underneath. On the inside right panel will be a large cross with a paper slip glued across it and "Jesus" printed below. The back panel will show a smiling stick figure and the words "I Am Forgiven."

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

"Wrath" tells us that a time of punishment is coming. The people who think they do not need Jesus will have to be shut away from Him forever. But all who believe that Jesus Christ died for them will be saved from that punishment. God planned it that way.

CONCLUSION:

What does the future hold? When people came to know the Lord as Paul shared the gospel at Thessalonica, God used him to tell them about God's plan for the future.

The Thessalonian believers were to comfort themselves, take heart, and build each other up in the power of the Holy Spirit as they waited for their complete salvation in Christ. Believers should do the same today!

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for Your wonderful plan for salvation. Help us to encourage others and tell about your amazing love, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "God's Plan for the Church" and teaches that God has planned how his people are to live now and has also planned wonderful things for us when Jesus returns. Study 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12.

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

"God's Plan for Salvation" (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

Find the following keywords from the lesson:

EVERLASTING

JESUS

BELIEVE

PUNISHED

BLAME

SALVATION

WRATH

PREPARE

ANGEL

PERFECT

READY

PLAN

CROSS

HEAVEN

LIFE

MANGER

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

Solution to Word Search

"God's Plan for Salvation" (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

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