



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for July 11, 2010
Released on Wednesday, July 7, 2010**

"God's Plan for the Church"

Lesson Text: 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

Background Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Memory Verse: "We pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling" (2 Thessalonians 1:11).

2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God has planned two things for His people: for later, wonderful things to enjoy when Jesus returns; for now, that we should make Jesus attractive to others by what we say and what we do.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God has planned a wonderful future for His people.
2. God has planned how we are to live while here on earth.
3. God has planned for our living to attract others to Jesus.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson and Telling the Lesson, have a picture of Paul.

For Telling the Lesson, you will need a flash card reading "God's Plan" and a cross (picture or cutout). You will use the picture of Paul again.

For Telling How to Live, bring two pictures representing Eunice and Dorcas. Use "God's Plan" from Telling the Lesson.

For Helping to Remember, take for each child crayons, glue, glitter, and two 3-by-12-inch strips of red construction paper. You will need scissors and masking tape for your own use.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: A.D. 51

Place: from Corinth

Apparently the persecution Thessalonian believers were experiencing had led some of them to think the time of judgment had surely come. Paul wrote them a second letter to tell them that God's judgment would not come until Jesus returned. At that time they would be involved not in the judgment of unbelievers but in His glory.

Then Paul turned to their not-so-wonderful present. He said, as it were, "I am praying that now you will live right, in a way that is appropriate for people who have such a glorious future in store for them."

He went on to tell them what kind of living was appropriate. They were to behave consistently in such a way that the Lord Jesus would be glorified, or thought well of, because of the way those who professed faith in Him handled life.

That was God's message to the Thessalonians through Paul. It is His message to believers in the twenty-first century as well. God has promised a future that is glorious beyond human capacity to understand. While we wait, He urges us to live in a way that is appropriate for people given such a promise. Trust, obey, and be patient.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Last week we learned that Paul (show Paul) wrote a letter to God's people in Thessalonica. We learned too that his letter is in the Bible. (Show 1 Thessalonians in your Bible.)

After a while Paul wrote them another letter, and it is in the Bible too. (Show 2 Thessalonians.) This time he told them other important things about God's plan. They are things God wants us to know; so let us find out what they are.

TELLING THE LESSON:

Again Paul started his letter by saying he thanked God for them. (Show Paul.) He said he had heard they were doing things God's children *should* be doing. They were staying with Jesus. They believed God even when people gave them trouble. And they were taking good care of each other.

Paul told them their troubles would not go on forever. A time was coming when the troublemakers would have much trouble themselves. The troublemakers had said no to Jesus, and a sad time was coming for them.

Paul said there would be no sad time for the people who *had* believed they needed Jesus. (Point to 2 Thessalonians.) God plans only good things for His people. He had invited the Thessalonians to be with Him and enjoy those good things forever. That was part of His wonderful plan. (Show "God's Plan.")

God's plan (hold high "God's Plan") to save people was good news for the Thessalonians. It is good news for us too.

Then Paul said he was praying that they would keep doing the kinds of things that people who would live with God someday *should* do - things that fit with being God's people and that helped others see that Jesus was very special. (Show cross.)

All that was Paul's way of saying: "You Thessalonians are in God's family now. So keep doing the kinds of things that fit with being who you are." That is still God's plan (show "God's Plan") for His people.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Have the students print "God's Plan: Tell and Do" on one red strip. On the other, they should draw six large, round jewels, smear them with glue, and sprinkle with glitter. Tape the strips together. Then tape each child's crown to fit, trimming or adding a section as needed.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

We know that doing good things is not what takes away our wrongness and gives us everlasting life; only Jesus can do that. But remember the rest of God's plan. After we belong to Jesus, it is right to do good things, things that can help others want to belong to Him too.

We do that both by what we say and by what we do. God has planned it that way. (Show "God's Plan.") Back when Paul was living, one lady helped people know Jesus was special by the good words she said. (Show Eunice.) She taught the Bible to her son, Timothy. When she heard about Jesus, she told Timothy about Him, and Timothy grew up to be one of Paul's good helpers.

Another lady helped others think right thoughts about Jesus by the good things she did. (Show Dorcas.) She made coats for poor people who needed them. What those ladies did fit with being God's children. God has planned (show "God's Plan") that all His people both tell and do.

Can you think of some things a boy or girl might say or do to show that they belong to God's family?

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"We pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling" (2 Thess. 1:11)

Paul had been talking about the good plans God has for His people when Jesus comes back. Because God had invited the Thessalonians to be with Him, Paul was asking Him to help them live in a way that fit with being invited to enjoy such a wonderful time.

CONCLUSION:

God has planned how we are to live while here on earth. We are to live lives of commitment to God until Jesus returns. Our lives should honor and glorify Christ for who He is and for what He does for us.

We give glory to God in the way we talk, the places we go, the friends we choose, the music we like, the books we read, and so much more. God should be glorified in every aspect of our lives.

God has planned these things and will fulfill them by working in the lives of those who believe in Him. For this, He receives all the glory!

PRAYER:

Dear God, You alone are worthy of all the glory and honor. Thank You for all the wonderful things You have planned when Jesus returns. Until then, help us to attract others by what we say and do, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "God Calls Us" and urges believers to stay with Jesus and not turn away to any other teaching. Study 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17.

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

"God's Plan for the Church" (2 Thessalonians 1:3-12)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

BELIEVERS

PAUL

FUTURE

EARTH

GRACE

TRUST

HELPFUL

HONOR

WONDERFUL

BEHAVE

GLORY

CHURCH

OBEY

LETTER

PLAN

FAITH

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

SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

"God's Plan for the Church" (2 Thessalonians 1:3-12)

R O N O H L
B H P U
E C O A F
H R B U P
T R U S T A U E L
V H E Y E
Y E C A L E T T E R H
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