



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for August 1, 2010
Released on Wednesday, July 28, 2010**

"Stand Firm in Trouble"

Lesson Text: Philippians 1:18-29

Background Scripture: Philippians 1:1-30

Memory Verse: "Let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27).

Philippians 1:18-29

18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretense, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;

26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach how Jesus' people are to respond to having trouble, as demonstrated by Paul.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Paul was thankful that God was using his trouble to bring about something good.
2. Instead of worrying about himself, Paul thought of what would help other people.
3. Trouble did not make Paul change his mind about Jesus.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, you will need a scroll, a picture of Paul, and a picture of a Bible-time crowd. Make signs using extra large first letters: "Thank," "Ask," and "Stay."

For Helping to Remember, each student will need a sheet of yellow construction paper and three 2-inch circles—one blue, one red, and one green. Also bring crayons, glue, and the signs with "Thank," "Ask," and "Stay."

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

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: A.D. 61

From: Rome

"Behave in a way that fits with the gospel you believe," urged Paul. Implied is "even when your situation is not to your liking."

Probably without realizing what he was doing, Paul modeled that desired behavior for us when he was imprisoned. No feeling sorry for himself or finding fault with God was evident. His trust in Jesus was unshaken. God was using Paul's situation to do something good, and he rejoiced.

Children as well as adults experience trouble. By using Paul as an example, this lesson will help them know better how to cope.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

The Apostle Paul never stayed in one place for long. He was always thinking of the people who lived farther down the road. He knew they had not heard about Jesus yet, and he wanted to tell them. So Paul had gone to many different places.

After he had done a lot of traveling and preaching, Paul's enemies put him under arrest. Now he could not go anywhere to teach anybody. His enemies thought that would stop his preaching.

There was something Paul *could* do, though, even while he was shut up under arrest. In fact, what he did will tell us three important things we can do when we have trouble.

TELLING THE LESSON:

As Paul (show Paul) sat in confinement, he thought about the different places he had been. He thought about those people in Philippi who believed in Jesus now. (Show crowd.) He wanted to help them stick with Jesus. But how could he help? He decided he would write them a letter. (Show scroll.)

Later on, God would put his letter into the Bible. It is called "Philippians" because the people it was sent to lived in Philippi. (Show Philippians in your Bible.) But at first it was just a letter that probably looked like this. (Show scroll.)

Close to the start of his letter, Paul told the Philippians he was glad he was in jail. (Show Paul.) Now, why would someone in jail feel glad? Paul said he was glad because God was using the trouble that had happened to him to do something good for someone else.

You see, when the news got out that it was because of what Paul had been preaching that he was imprisoned, it made even more people begin thinking about Jesus. Being imprisoned was not a good thing, but God was using it to make something good happen. And if God could use what happened to him to help other people, that made Paul glad. He said he rejoiced. His trouble was helping somebody else. That was enough to make him feel like saying thank You to God for letting him be where he was! (Show "Thank.")

Paul did not feel sorry for himself. He did not complain. Paul did not blame God for his trouble. He knew what God does is always right. He did not give up and say, "Pleasing the Lord is too hard." Paul had made up his mind. He was going to stay (show "Stay") with Jesus no matter what trouble came.

Then Paul reminded his friends in Philippi that they were Jesus' people now; so they needed to be careful to do the kinds of things that friends of Jesus *should* do—good things, right things. Even when God allowed them to have trouble, they were to do what fit with being in His family.

What Paul did while he was imprisoned showed the Philippians the kind of things that were right for Jesus' people to do when they had trouble. One thing was to be glad – even to thank (show "Thank") God for what He was doing.

God can always take trouble and do something good with it. When something happens that Jesus' people really do not want to happen, it is always right to thank (show "Thank") God for whatever good thing He wants to do. It is always right to ask (show "Ask") Him to do it. And it is always right to stay with Jesus. (Show "Stay.") Paul told the Philippians to do that.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

T, A, S—remember those three letters the next time something not very good happens to you. (Point to each first letter as you read the word.) *Thank* God that He can use your trouble to make something good happen. *Ask* Him to do it. *Stay* with Jesus no matter what happens!

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Tell the students to fold their yellow papers in half lengthwise first and then crosswise to resemble greeting cards that are wider than high. Have them print the letter *T* on one circle, *A* on another, and *S* on the third. They should print "What to Do" on the cover and "When I Have Trouble" on the inside left. On the inside right they can glue the circles with *T, A,* and *S*. Remind them of the meaning given under Telling How to Live.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"Let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27)

Two old words are in this verse. "Conversation" means the way a person behaves. "Becometh" means that what a person does is right for who he is and where he is. So the verse is saying, "Keep doing the kinds of things that fit with believing the good news about Jesus."

CONCLUSION:

Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians while imprisoned for preaching the gospel of Christ. However, he did not let his situation discourage him or cause him to stop encouraging the people of God. Paul continued to stand firm, even in his trouble.

Paul's actions show us that trouble should not change our mind about Jesus. Even in trouble, we should live lives that are guided by the gospel. We should trust God and stand firm!

PRAYER:

Dear God, we are grateful that You are always with us – even in trouble. Help us to always behave in a way that shows our faith and trust in You, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "**Serving Others**" and reminds us that Jesus devoted His life to doing what was good for others and left us this example to follow. It should be our goal to love and serve others. Study Philippians 2:1-3:1.

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

"Stand Firm in Trouble" (Philippians 1:18-29)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

ASK	LETTER	STAND	BELIEVE
REJOICE	TROUBLE	PAUL	ENCOURAGE
WRITE	PHILIPPIANS	JAIL	GOSPEL
EXAMPLE	IMPRISONED	PREACHING	THANKFUL

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

SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

“Stand Firm in Trouble” (Philippians 1:18-29)

E X A M P L E

T R O U B L E

P L U F K N A H T

L A P R E A C H I N G S

E U A N E

T L S E A N

T K T I C

B E L I E V E I P O

R R D P L U

D E N O S I R P M I W N I I R

E C I O J E R A L A A

T I J G

S H G O S P E L E

P