



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for November 30, 2008  
Released on Wednesday, November 26, 2008**

**"Power for Living"**

**DEVOTIONAL READING:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** 2 Corinthians 11:17, 21b-30; 12:9, 10.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

**2 Corinthians 11:17, 21b-30**

**17 That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.**

.....

**21b Howbeit, whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.**

**22 Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.**

**23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool,) I am more; in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.**

**24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.**

**25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;**

**26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;**

**27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.**

**28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.**

**29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?**

**30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.**

## **2 Corinthians 12:9, 10**

**9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

**10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.**

### **TEACHER'S NOTES**

Hudson Taylor, a pioneer missionary to inland China in the 1800s, commented on the hard experiences that come to God's children: "What though God send great trials? Will He not then send great grace also?" God says He will.

We have the joy of introducing that truth to our children this week. It is comforting truth that will serve them well for a lifetime. It is truth based on the goodness and faithfulness of God. It is truth that should encourage us all.

### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach from Paul's experiences that no matter how big our trouble or what kind, God has promised to always give enough help.

### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Unhappy things happen even to people who are doing what God wants them to do.
2. When living is not easy, God is there to help, and the help He provides is always enough.

### **PLANNING VISUAL AIDS**

For Beginning the Lesson, find a picture of Paul.

For Telling the Lesson, take pictures of Paul preaching and men aboard a ship. Make four signs: "Why?" "How?" "grace," and "enough."

For Helping to Remember, each child needs a sheet of construction paper cut lengthwise. Print "ENOUGH" in large capitals across the entire length of each. Take crayons and a generous supply of gummed stars.

### **BEGINNING THE LESSON**

He started off by trying to keep Jesus' friends from talking about Him. (Show Paul.) Then he himself believed in Jesus and began going everywhere telling people that, yes, Jesus is the Saviour. That man was Paul, of course. We are about to find out some things that happened to Paul, and you may be surprised.

### **TELLING THE LESSON**

Churches started in many of the places Paul visited. Once in a while he wrote letters to help those churches and to find out how they were doing. His letter called 2 Corinthians is here in the Bible. (Show 2 Corinthians.) In it he 'tells some things that had been happening to him.

He said not everybody liked the good news he was telling. Some people even took whips and whipped him, not just once but five different times. But Paul kept on telling about Jesus anyway. (Show Paul preaching.)

"Three times," he said, "they beat me with sticks because of the truth I preach." But Paul did not stop. People needed to hear that Jesus had come, and Paul told them.

"And one time," he wrote, "they tried to kill me by throwing stones at me." But Paul got up and went on to the next town to preach. He knew God wanted the people there to hear the good news too.

Sometimes Paul traveled by boat. (Show men in ship.) Three different boats he was on sank to the bottom. Once he was in the water for a whole night and a day. Wherever he went, there was danger—danger on the ocean, danger from robbers, danger from his own Jewish people, danger from Gentile people, danger from people he thought were friends, danger in the city, danger in the country. Often he was hungry and thirsty. Sometimes he could not sleep.

If things were so hard, why did Paul not just quit telling any more people that God had sent a Saviour? (Show Paul preaching.) Sometimes he probably did feel like giving up, but he never did.

Why not? (Show "Why?") The big reason Paul did not stop preaching was that God had given him the job of letting people hear Jesus had come. Although hard things can happen even to people who obey, Paul wanted to please God. That was why.

But how? (Show "How?") How could Paul keep obeying when he had the kinds of troubles he had? His letter here tells us. Paul was praying about a certain problem one day, thinking he could do better if God would just take it away. But then God spoke to him and said, "My grace is sufficient for you." (Show "grace.") Now "grace" is the special help God gives, and "sufficient" is just a big word that means "enough." (Show "enough.") In a way, God was saying, "No matter how hard it is for you, Paul, I will always take care of you. My help is enough."

And that was how Paul could keep doing those hard things God asked him to do. (Show "How?") God gave him His special help, and God's help was enough. (Show "enough.") The Lord said His strength shows up best when the people who are in trouble are not strong themselves. The people who see them will say, "God must be helping them," and they will think good things about Him.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE**

That is the kind of God we have, boys and girls. Our God is good and strong. He stays with us in our hard places, and the help He gives is enough. (Show "enough.") Can you remember that the next time you have problems? Some problems are bigger than other problems. But if the problem is big, His special help will be big too. Never forget that God's help will always be—what? (Show "enough.") He says so.

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER**

Distribute enough gummed stars for each student to outline his "ENOUGH" letters. Have the children add crayoned floral or other decorations to their starry signs.

### **EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT**

**"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness"** (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Jesus wants us not to worry when He gives us something to do that is just too hard. It is not too hard for Him, and He says He will give all the help we need. His help will be "sufficient." Remember that means enough.

Jesus says His help shows up best when we are not strong. The people who see us will say, "The Lord must be making them able to do that." And they will think good things about Him.

### **ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:**

Next week starts a new quarter. Prepare for next week's lesson by studying Study Luke 1:46-55 **"Mary's Choice to Obey."**

**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.

**Double Puzzle "Power for Living"**  
(2 Corinthians 1:17, 21b-30; 12:9, 10)

Part 1: Unscramble each of the clue words.

SEKPA	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
TINGABSO	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 3
LOFSILHYO	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
LODB	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
CIHRST	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
DORL	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
LEIRSP	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 2
SALFE	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
AGREC	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
GOLYR	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
JESW	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 1
SONTRG	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 4

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<b>U</b>	<input type="text"/>
1	2	3	4	

Part 2: Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

**Answer Key to Double Puzzle "Power for Living"**  
(2 Corinthians 1:17, 21b-30; 12:9, 10)

**Part 1:**

SPEAK  
BOASTING  
FOOLISHLY  
BOLD  
CHRIST  
LORD  
PERILS  
FALSE  
GRACE  
GLORY  
JEWS  
STRONG

**Part 2:**

JESUS