



## **Mustard Seed Children's Summary for November 16, 2008**

**Released on Wednesday, November 12, 2008**

### **"Be Joyful in Christ"**

**DEVOTIONAL READING:** Psalm 46

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** Philippians 3:3 – 4:9

**MEMORY VERSE:** "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7)

**LESSON TEXT:** Philippians 3:17 – 4:9

#### **Philippians 3:17–21**

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

**18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:**

19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

**20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:**

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

#### **Philippians 4:1–9**

1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

**2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.**

3 And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow laborers, whose names are in the book of life.

**4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.**

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

**6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

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

Talk about some kinds of behavior the Lord wants to see in His children.

### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Believers please God when they hold to their faith in Jesus and work well with one another.
2. Believers please God when they are gentle, prayerful, not worriers, thinkers of good thoughts, and continually glad for their relationship with Jesus.

### **PLANNING LESSON AIDS**

For Telling the Lesson, print numbers from 1 to 8 on 3-by-5 cards. Take an example of a scroll, masking tape, and colored poster board large enough to hold the cards when scattered.

For Helping to Remember, each child will need a white doily, scissors (blunt tip), crayons, paste, and two disks the size of the doily centers drawn on different-colored paper.

Make a copy of the lesson activity for each student.

### **TEACHER'S NOTES**

It has been said that pleasing Jesus is a child's easiest rule of what is right. But how is a boy or girl to know what pleases Jesus? What can help is the store of Bible knowledge they have accumulated little by little from past teachings. This lesson, which allows you to point out different behaviors the Lord delights to see, is geared to adding to that store of knowledge.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Time: A. D. 61

Place: from Rome

Paul writes to the church at Philippi from Rome where he is imprisoned. This church was one that was established during Paul's second missionary journey. Acts 16:6-40 describes the vision that Paul had that led him and his missionary team to Philippi. It was here that they had the first European convert to Christ (Lydia), Paul and Silas in prison and their release, and the jailer and his family being won to Christ.

This week's lesson is part of the letter that Paul wrote to the Philippians. This lesson deals with following godly examples, being faithful and experiencing joy and peace.

### **BEGINNING THE LESSON**

Letters in Bible times looked like a scroll. (Show scroll.) Paul wrote one letter to friends of Jesus who lived in the town of Philippi. You can find that letter here in the Bible. (Show Philippians.) He told them about how God wants His people to behave. Now that sounds like something that would be good for us to know too.

### **TELLING THE LESSON**

Paul wrote that two kinds of people say they belong to Jesus. It made him cry just to think about one kind because those people kept thinking only about living here in this world. They forgot that heaven is the true home of Jesus' friends, not here. Someday Jesus will come back. He will make these bodies we live in like His wonderful resurrected body. Then He will

take us to live with Him in our heavenly home. But these people thought only about how to be happy now. That is really sad, and that is why Paul cried. He knew there is a way to live that is much better. He reminded his friends in Philippi about that better way.

He told them eight things, and he started with this one. (Attach "1" to poster board display with a circle of tape.) "Stay with Jesus." Second Kings 2 tells about the Prophet Elisha. He knew that God was going to take his master Elijah away in a whirlwind that day. Several times Elisha was told to stop following Elijah. But Elisha would not listen. He stayed with him all the way up until God took him away. Paul said we must stay with Jesus like that. We should never let anything stop us from trusting Him.

(Attach "2" to another place on the display chart.) Second, Paul said believers should always work in a friendly, happy way with Jesus' other friends. Let there be no fighting with them.

(Attach "3.") Next, believers should work happily not just with others in Jesus' family but should help any people who need help whenever they can.

(Attach "4.") Then, he said, be glad always, no matter what happens. You belong to Jesus. He is in charge. You can be glad in the Lord even when bad things happen, for you have a Friend and Helper. It is Jesus Himself. You can be sure He will take care of you. So keep thanking Him for who He is and what He does and what He is going to do.

(Attach "5.") Be gentle with your words. Be kind in the way you talk to others. Be patient when they do not please you right away.

(Attach "6.") Pray about troubles and scary things, and do not worry about them. Tell the Lord what you need. Ask Him to help. He will answer your prayer in the way He knows is best. And while you are waiting, He will make you happy and quiet inside.

(Attach "7.") Think about things that are right and true, Paul said. Think the kinds of thoughts that you would not mind God knowing about, because, of course, He does know.

And what do you suppose the last one might be? (Attach "8.") Here it is. Keep doing what you have heard is right for a child of God to do.

So those are eight things the Lord wants His children to be doing while they wait for Jesus to come back. (Briefly review each number.)

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE**

So do you belong to Jesus? Then be kind. Help people. Work and play nicely with all Jesus' friends. Do not worry. Pray. Think about good things. Thinking about Jesus will help you please Him. Be glad you belong to Him. Be glad He is with you. Be glad He hears your prayers.

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER**

Let the students cut out each disk, print "Worry? No!" on one, print "Pray? Yes!" on the other, and paste these to either side of the doilies.

### **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE**

**"The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).**

If you cannot stop thinking that something bad is going to happen, that is worrying. The Bible says, "Do not worry. Ask God to help with your trouble. Thank Him, knowing that He will do what is best." If you do that, God will give you peace. That is the quiet, good feeling that comes from knowing that the Lord will do what needs to be done and that whatever He does will be good. That quiet peace will keep you from worrying.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Paul encouraged the believers in Philippi to stop worrying. They were to pray instead. We can get discouraged when we focus on circumstances and stop looking at God. But as believers we can fill our minds with positive thoughts about life and live joyfully as we look for Jesus to return one day.

The prescription that Paul gave to the believers in Philippi will also work for us today. As believers we should always rejoice, be gentle and considerate of each other, do not be anxious and worry about things, pray, and concentrate (think) on good things.

## **PRAYER:**

Father God, thank You for Your son Jesus who will return one day. Help us to live joyfully, to love and to support one another. Help us to always pray and not to worry, in Jesus' name, amen.

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

Next week's lesson is "**Sharing the Good News**" and describes how those who hear and believe the message of Christ should pass along that good news to others. Read 2 Timothy chapters 2-4.

## **LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:**

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## **WORKS CITED**

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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

**Lesson Activities for "Be Joyful in Christ"**  
**(Philippians 3:17 – 4:9)**

**Fill in the blank:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice. (Phil. 4:4)
2. Let your \_\_\_\_\_ be made known unto God. (Phil. 4:6)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ through Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:7)
4. Circle those things that Paul tells us to think on. (Phil. 4:8)

mean	true	evil	honest	pure	just
naughty	lovely	good report	dishonest	unhappy	popular

**Find the following words**

TRUE	PURE	MINDS	PRAYER
PEACE	HONEST	LOVELY	EXAMPLE
REJOICE	HEAVEN		

O H M R N R S T T A M P P M S  
A U I I C E E O A E U P U I H  
V R H O N H O I P D P Y P O H  
J R Y E E D L E X A M P L E E  
H U M Y E M S L Y M S U L C E  
D L H L E C A E P E U N C U D  
N A O P E H O N E S T P E A N  
E N R E L I R O H E P U M E N  
Y C U H E A V E N O E R O E C  
L H I O C R V C N R M E M R S  
E O P O T L A E E P R C T R R  
V A T R J T R Y Y N L Y A V L  
O A U M O E A L C Y U A E C I  
L E T J A R R D N Y V P L R V  
E E O C P X L T X V E V R H S  
E L E P R J S L N S H H P X L

**Answer Key for "Be Joyful in Christ" (Philippians 3:17 – 4:9)**

1. Rejoice
2. requests
3. hearts, minds
4. true, honest, pure, just, lovely, good report

Solution to Word Search:

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M
  I
    N
      D   E   X   A   M   P   L   E
        S
          E   C   A   E   P
            H   O   N   E   S   T   P
              E                               U
                Y   C   H   E   A   V   E   N   R
                  L   I                               R   E
                    E   O   T   E
                      V   R   J   Y
                        O   U   E   A
                          L   E   R   R
                            P

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