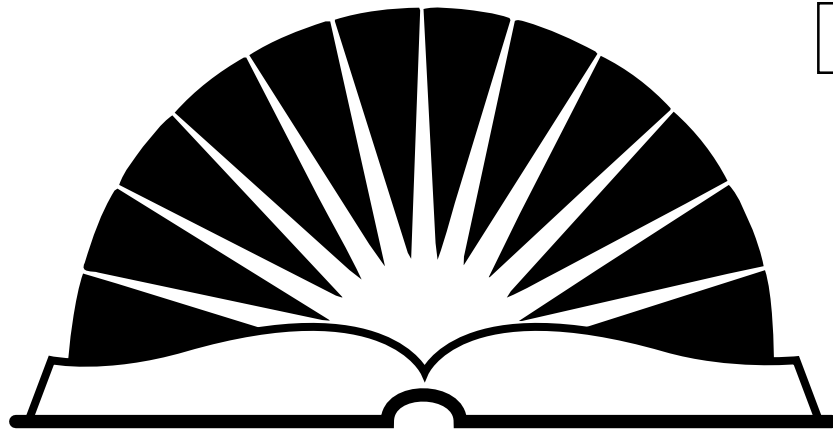


1THEEL



JOY OF LIVING
BIBLE STUDIES

1 Thessalonians

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga

Sample
Lesson

1 THESSALONIANS - WEEK ONE

NO LESSON DISCUSSION

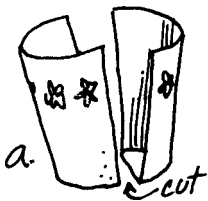
15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: STEPPING STONES

You will need four sheets of paper (construction, newspaper, etc.) of any size, any color. Divide class into two teams. Give the first person of each team two sheets of paper. Draw the start line and the finish line on the playing area with masking tape. At the signal the first person of each team must throw one sheet of paper onto the floor and jump onto it. He then throws the second sheet forward, steps on it, turns around and picks up the first sheet of paper. Rotating papers in this manner until he reaches the finish line. Then he runs back to his team, tags the second in line, and game continues until all have raced.

15 - 20 minutes discuss class rules

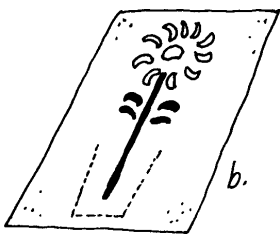
to end of class CRAFT: DAISY FLOWER*



small paper cups
small shell macaroni
glue
scissors
felt-tip pens

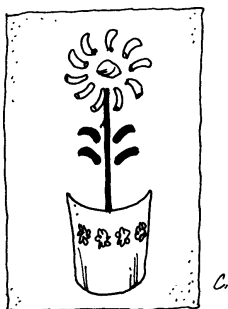
MATERIALS:

large elbow macaroni
spaghetti or green pipe cleaners
spray paint (optional)
pencils



6" x 9" colored construction paper or poster board
styrofoam meat trays (to hold glue for dipping)

If colored flowers are desired, spray paint macaroni & spaghetti before class.



Cut one paper cup at a time in half from top to bottom (sketch a). Draw outline of cup on each piece of construction paper (sketch b). Glue pipe cleaner or spaghetti piece onto paper with end extending into "vase." Use shell and elbow macaroni pieces to make flower and leaves on stem. Use felt pens to decorate cup. Glue cup onto construction paper for vase (sketch c).

*from *A Treasure Chest of Crafts*, Gospel Light Publications, 1985, page 21. Used by permission.

1 THESSALONIANS - LESSON 1

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 1.

1. a. If you have a world atlas find Thessalonica, or Salonika, as it is called today. It is in the country of Greece. It is called a port city. The dictionary defines port as "(a) place where ships may dock and load or unload; (b) town or city having such a place" (Holt).

b. RISKY: Using the above definition of "port", and your imagination, what do you think Thessalonica was like in Paul's day?

2. What do you learn about Paul from Acts 7:57—8:3, 9:1-9, 19-20?

3. What does Acts 15:22-26 tell you about Silas?

4. a. Silas risked his life to tell others about Jesus. The Thessalonians were also willing to follow Jesus no matter what happened to them. Do you know anyone who does this today?

b. PERSONAL: Do you risk anything to tell others about Jesus Christ?

5. What does Acts 16:1 say about Timothy?

6. a. What does Paul consider rich gifts? See verse 1 for your answer.

b. Who does verse 1 say gave these gifts?

7. In what way did the missionaries bring the Good News to the Thessalonians?
See verse 5.

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 2.

1. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 2:2 that he and Silas were mistreated in Philippi. According to Acts 16:22-24, how were they treated?

2. Paul reminds the Thessalonians they spoke words of truth, and didn't use flattery (so many compliments a person can become proud) to be accepted. How did they treat the Thessalonians according to 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8?

3. How do we know these missionaries were not a burden to the Thessalonians?

4. According to 1 Thessalonians 2:13, how did the Thessalonians react to the Good News?

5. The Thessalonians believed as a result of hearing the Word of God. What do these verses say about God's Word, the Bible?

Romans 1:16

Psalm 119:9

6. What gives Paul, Silas, and Timothy great joy?

7. PERSONAL: Have you told someone about God's gift of salvation through Jesus?

1 THESSALONIANS — WEEK TWO

DISCUSSION LESSON 1

15 - 20 min. free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: CHAIN TAG

Two players are chosen to be IT. They join hands and with their free hands try to tag the other players. The first player tagged joins hands between the two IT. The remaining players, when tagged, join the tag line between the original two IT. Only end players (IT) may tag. It is permissible for a player to break through or go under the joined hands of the line. When the chain has been broken, it must unite again before tagging resumes. The game ends when the last player is caught or when a time limit has been reached. The last two players tagged become IT. Set boundary lines to restrict play to a small area.

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 1

to end of class CRAFT: RECIPE CARD HOLDER

MATERIALS

small lid from any spray can
plaster of paris
plastic fork
acrylic paint/brushes (optional)

Paint a small design on outside of lid (optional). Mix plaster of paris according to directions. Pour into lid. Quickly stick the plastic fork handle, prongs sticking up, into the plaster. Allow to dry. The recipe 3 x 5 card slips into the fork for easy reading while cooking.

1 THESSALONIANS LESSON 1 — ANSWERS

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 1.

1. a. If you have a world atlas find Thessalonica, or Salonika, as it is called today. It is in the country of Greece. It is called a port city. The dictionary defines port as “(a) place where ships may dock and load or unload; (b) town or city having such a place” (Holt).
 - b. RISKY: Using the above definition of “port”, and your imagination, what do you think Thessalonica was like in Paul’s day? [After giving the following information, further discussion of city life may be helpful. Thessalonica was a large city of about 200,000. It was the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia. Its world history goes back to 315 B.C., or the time of Alexander the Great. There were many Jews living there as well as many Gentiles who left the Greek paganism and joined in with the God-fearing Jews. The Gentiles were ready for the Gospel. Obviously, this was a busy city. All kinds and types of people lived and worked here. Most likely, there was great wealth as well as great sin in Thessalonica. Salonika of today probably looks very much like old Thessalonica, just more modern.]
2. What do you learn about Paul from Acts 7:57—8:3, 9:1-9, 19-20? The clothes of those who stoned Stephen to death were laid at Saul’s feet as he watched Stephen die. He thought killing Stephen was the right thing to do. He did all he could to destroy the church. He threw people into prison. He asked the high priest in Jerusalem for a letter requesting help from the Jews in Damascus to bring believers to trial. He was converted by Jesus as he travelled to Damascus. He began preaching almost immediately.
3. What does Acts 15:22-26 tell you about Silas? He was a church leader. He and Judas accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Antioch with a letter for the Christians there. He risked his life for the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. a. Silas risked his life to tell others about Jesus. The Thessalonians were also willing to follow Jesus no matter what happened to them. Do you know anyone who does this today? Missionaries.
 - b. PERSONAL: Do you risk anything to tell others about Jesus Christ?
5. What does Acts 16:1 say about Timothy? Paul and Silas met Timothy in Derbe. He was a believer. His mother was a Jewish Christian, and his father was Greek and not a believer. Timothy was well liked by other believers.
6. a. What does Paul consider rich gifts? See verse 1 for your answer. Grace and peace.
 - b. Who does verse 1 say gave these gifts? God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.
7. In what way did the missionaries bring the Good News to the Thessalonians? See verse 5. Words, power, the Holy Spirit, and conviction.

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 2.

1. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 2:2 that he and Silas were mistreated in Philippi. According to Acts 16:22-24, how were they treated? “A crowd was quickly formed against Paul and Silas. So the judges ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden whips. Again and again the rods slashed down across their bare backs. And after that they were thrown into prison. The jailer was told he would be killed if they got away. So he took no chances, but put them into the inner dungeon. And there he clamped their feet into the stocks.”
2. Paul reminds the Thessalonians they spoke words of truth, and didn’t use flattery (so many compliments a person can become proud) to be accepted. How did they treat the Thessalonians according to 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8? “But we were as gentle among you as a mother caring for her children. We loved you dearly. And we gave you not only God’s message, but our own lives too.”
3. How do we know these missionaries were not a burden to the Thessalonians? verse 9: “Don’t you remember, dear brothers, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled and sweated to earn enough to live on. That way we would not be a burden to anyone there. That is how we preached God’s Good News among you.”
4. According to 1 Thessalonians 2:13, how did the Thessalonians react to the Good News? “We will never stop thanking God. For when we preached, you didn’t think the words we spoke were our own. You accepted what we said as the very Word of God. It was God’s Word. And it changed your lives when you believed it.”
5. The Thessalonians believed as a result of hearing the Word of God. What do these verses say about God’s Word, the Bible?

Romans 1:16 “I am not ashamed about Christ’s Good News. It is God’s powerful way to bring all who believe it to Heaven. This message was first preached only to the Jews. But now everyone is asked to come to God in the same way.”

Psalms 119:9 “How can a young person stay pure? By reading Your Word and doing what it says.”

6. What gives Paul, Silas, and Timothy great joy? verse 19b, 20. “It is you when we stand together before our Lord Jesus Christ. For you are our trophy and joy.” [“What the believer has achieved for God’s glory, God recognizes in His great faithfulness with rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ.” (Unger’s Bible Dictionary, p. 926) These Thessalonians came to salvation through the preaching of these missionaries. And these three will receive God’s reward for their service to Him. Just as believers today will receive a reward for those who come to salvation as a result of service to the Lord.]
7. PERSONAL: Have you told someone about God’s gift of salvation through Jesus?