

My Sunday School Lesson Plan - **Older Grades**
Books of Thessalonians 1 and 2
DATE: January 19, 2019

<p>Preparation: <i>(What I need to do and items to gather before I begin to teach.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles to use in class • Items for different occupations such as a calculator, tool belt, apron, hammer, iPad, etc.
<p>Lesson Title:</p>	<p>The New Testament Book of Thessalonians Continue your NEW Testament Wall display by hanging the “Thessalonians 1 & 2” wall cards.</p>
<p>Scripture Reference(s):</p>	<p>1 Thessalonians 1:7-8 “so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you . . .”</p> <p>2 Thessalonians 3:13 “Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right” <i>(Message: Work hard to please God.)</i></p>
<p>Emphasis or Theme:</p>	<p>We Work Hard to Please God until Jesus Returns</p>
<p>Introducing the Story: <i>(What you might say or do before the story to help create an interest or curiosity.)</i></p>	<p>(Hang your “Thessalonians 1 & 2” wall cards on your New Testament wall display.)</p> <p>BEFORE CLASS: Place at the front of the room items for different occupations such as a calculator, tool belt, apron, hammer, iPad, etc.</p> <p>SAY: The Books of 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians are 2 more letters written by apostle Paul.</p> <p>Thessalonians 1: The church in the city of Thessalonica was growing. The members were loving one another, standing firm in their beliefs, and holding up under persecution for their faith. Paul is overjoyed to hear this! He writes the Thessalonians one of his most positive letters to encourage them. He commends them for their excellent example and goes on to list ways that they can “excel still more” until Jesus returns.</p> <p>Thessalonians 2: The world just won’t let up! The poor Thessalonians were having problems from unbelievers, so Paul writes a second letter encouraging to keep growing in faith and love, and to “work hard” until Jesus’ return.</p>
<p>LESSON: Telling the Story Through the Bible: (Outline the story here. Then describe the method you will use to tell the story. Examples might include showing pictures, props, visuals, drawing as you tell, using puppets, costumed characters, dramatic storytelling or any number of other methods.)</p>	<p>SAY: If you woke up today and your ONE job was to Please God what would you do? <i>(Pause for responses)</i></p> <p>SAY: Right – when we do things like <i>(repeat students’ responses - include: visit the sick, pray to God, love others, help the poor, go to Sunday school and church, etc.)</i>, we please God.</p> <p>SAY: Now, everyone here goes to school, right? When you are at school you have a job to do.</p> <p>ASK: What happens at school if you do a good job? What do you get? <i>(Good grades, etc.)</i></p> <p>SAY: Right - You might get an A on your report card or if you’re younger, maybe a “gold star!” Or, you might not get recognized at all. That can be frustrating, can’t it? To work hard and not get recognized at all?</p>

A lot of people think the only way to find happiness is to get a good grade at school or a promotion at work or make lots of money. If all we do is aim to please people we will be frustrated and disappointed.

But the Bible says that we should aim to please God. So that in everything we do we should work to please God and not others. When we live to please God we will have a full and happy life. In God's eyes you are so much more than the grade on your report card. In God's eyes you are covered with gold stars!

ASK: Besides going to school, do any of have another job where you get a paycheck? *(Pause for students to share any jobs that they currently have.)* What are some of the jobs that the adults you know have? *(Pause for responses.)*

SAY: The grownups in your life work hard every day to take care of you. They work to make sure you have a place to live and food to eat.

SAY: I can remember one of my first jobs. *(Tell what you did.)*

ASK: What about at home – do you do any work at home? Ware some of the jobs you have at your home? *(Pause for responses.)*

SAY: It isn't always easy to work, and sometimes we can be lazy. But God wants us to work hard, because one day Jesus will return, and we should be ready for that great day! We should work hard on doing good things for others, like helping around our homes, sharing, and listening to the grownups in our lives. When we work hard like this, we are helping our families keep our homes running happily and nicely!

SAY: Let's think about some of the jobs that people do around our church. ***(Name people and tell what they do. Then ask the following question for up to three people.)***

ASK: What would happen if ***(name of person)*** didn't do the job of ***(name of job)***?

SAY: Well, we can see that if all these people did not work hard around our church, things would get messy, disorganized, and confusing.

SAY: The Bible tells us that it's a good thing that all these people work hard, and we should work hard too. We are doing our best work when we are doing work to please God and not others.

READ: 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12: "For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living."

SAY: Paul wrote that there are some people who refuse to work. They do nothing. And they busy themselves in other people's lives. Paul commands, in the name of Jesus, that those people to work quietly and earn money to pay for their own food and clothing.

SAY: Wow! This is pretty serious! God says that we need to do our work quietly—that means without complaining or arguing. Let's remember not to complain or argue this week when we work at home, at school, at our jobs (if we have one!), and to help our

	families. Finally, the Bible also teaches us to never become tired of doing good, because it is when we are doing good for others that we are wide awake and full of energy!
Learning Activities: (Games, crafts artwork, songs, memory verses, or other activities that bring fuller meaning to the scripture or make application to the lives of the students.)	1. Pay Day! Activity 2. "Get to Work" Construction cones
Review: (Solidify learning by repeating facts, themes, or even the story itself through games, crafts, activities, or visual aides.)	1. The Books of Thessalonians were written by which apostle? PAUL 2. How many books of Thessalonians did Paul write? 2 3. Who are some people who work hard in our church? (Answers from earlier) 4. Why is it important to work hard? The Bible teaches us to work hard; one day Jesus will return, etc.
Closing: (Prayer, last song, . . .)	Repeat and recite together Recite: <i>Hayr Mer</i>