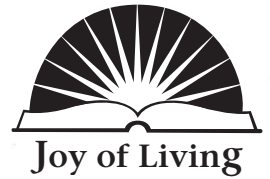


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1 Thessalonians

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga

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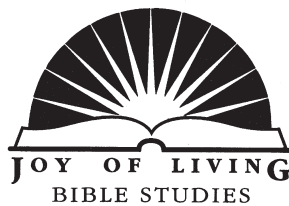
Joy of Living 1 Thessalonians Youth Bible Study

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1 Thessalonians

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga



Before you begin

An ideal curriculum for home-school, Bible class, Sunday School or personal Bible Study, **Joy of Living Youth Curriculum** is flexible and easy to use. Each lesson covers the same scripture passage as the adult Joy of Living Study.

Age:

This course encourages students of various ages to develop a habit of personal Bible study. Since the study requires reading the Bible and writing answers to the questions, the minimum age should be about 6 years old. Although the questions are geared to about age 10, older students will profit by gaining a basic knowledge of the Bible. Students over the age of 14 may be mature enough to study the adult **Joy of Living** course.

The lessons:

The study is divided into weekly units. Each week is divided into three sections:

- a suggested class schedule including craft and game ideas
- leader's lesson sheets (these contain the answers for the lesson completed by the students during the previous week)
- student questions for the next lesson (these are passed out at the end of the class)

Students complete the written lessons at home and are encouraged to do a few questions each day rather than trying to complete all the questions in one day. This will aid the students in developing a pattern of daily Bible Study. The "HARD" and "RISKY" questions are to inspire the student to think and reason and help them dig deeper into God's Word.

For homeschool or personal Bible study:

The curriculum may be used in a variety of ways:

- Lessons may be completed by the individual student and graded for accuracy. Discussion time is optional, although it is encouraged.
- Students within the same family or group may work on the lessons together. A discussion time with a parent or other adult is suggested.
- Adults may work one-on-one with the student(s) while they complete the lesson.
- Lessons may be used as part of family devotions. Read the portions of scripture aloud and use the questions to prompt discussion of the Bible passage.

For use with groups:

There is great flexibility in implementing this curriculum. Since each class has its own needs, space, finances, and time frame the class schedule is supplied as a general outline and can be changed to suit specific situations and needs.

Each class session has free time, recreation/snack time, question discussion time, and craft-time.

Remember - Keep the pace moving to avoid boredom and trouble, while providing continuity.

Suggested time SCHEDULE to be adapted to individual group:

- 15 - 20 minutes. - unstructured free time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - game/snack time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - discussion time
- remaining time for craft

Helpful Hints for Groups

Facility/Equipment

- Whatever the class size, access to a gym or large game room is worthwhile for team play and group activities.
- If the church has the room, a separate cupboard for supplies is a plus.
- A volleyball or similar ball is good to have on hand for a variety of games.

Discussion Time

- Use the counting off system to divide the class into groups for discussion time. (Avoid, if possible, separating into groups according to age or family.)
- Each discussion group should have an adult leader. Older children should not be used (unless absolutely necessary) as leaders or sitters; they are there for fellowship and learning, too.
- With many of the questions there is no right or wrong answer. The questions are to encourage the student to think and reason and to dig deeper into God's Word. However, since discussion time is also a form of teaching, the leaders are given answers on their question sheets to aid them in the discussion, with occasional commentary insights added in brackets.
- As you discuss the lesson be careful not to belittle a student's opinion or idea. Even if the answer is wrong you can encourage the student by saying something similar to, "I like to see that you're thinking, do you think perhaps... (then give the correct answer)" or "I can see that you are thinking about the question, does anyone else have thoughts on this question?"

Teachers/Leaders/Helpers

- The number of leaders and helpers is determined by the size of the class. The ideal situation is one discussion leader per every 5 children.
- In addition to the main leader, it is helpful to have a game leader, and craft leader.
- Responsibilities are determined within each class structure.

- Parent volunteers may be requested when extra help is needed. If there is a large number of children, the parents have to volunteer only once or twice the entire year.
- Scheduling parents to bring treats is a financial bonus. Keeping cost to a minimum is being a good steward of God's resources.

Game Time

Although board games, puzzles, hidden pictures, crosswords, coloring, and quiet activities do not keep the attention of active children, they should not be ruled out as alternative game time activities. Ball games, races, or tag games are suggested and favored to holding everyone's interest.

Suggestions for obtaining craft ideas & supplies:

Garage/yard/rummage sales

library craft books

children's magazines

YMCA, Park & Recreation Dept., churches (almost every city has a summer program for children, which includes a craft time; they may have leftover craft supplies they would like to donate)

Supplies to have on hand for crafts not in kits:

glue, glue sticks, glue gun

scissors (at least 1 pair for every 2 students)

paint (tempera-washable)

paint brushes

paper towels

newspapers

construction paper

crayons

colored markers

colored pencils

paper cups, napkins (snack time)

various items to pass in relay races

balls, basketball, nerf, etc.

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- Treasure Chest of Crafts*. Gospel Light Publications, Ventura, CA. 93006, 1990.

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The Holy Bible, New International Version, Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 1986

1 Thessalonians — Game & Craft List

	Game	Craft	Page
Week 1	Stepping Stones	Daisy Flower	8
Week 2	Indoor Bowling	Paper Bead Jewlery	11
Week 3	Chain Tag	Recipe Card Holder	15
Week 4	Ball Call	Sand Terrarium	20
Week 5	Hide & Seek	Stained Glass Window	25
Week 6	Car Lot	Popped Pussy Willows Tree	31

1 THESSALONIANS – WEEK ONE

NO LESSON DISCUSSION

15 – 20 minutes free time – games, fellowship

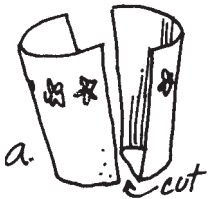
15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: STEPPING STONES

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

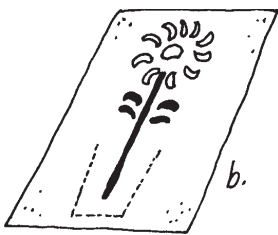
to end of class CRAFT: DAISY FLOWER*

MATERIALS:



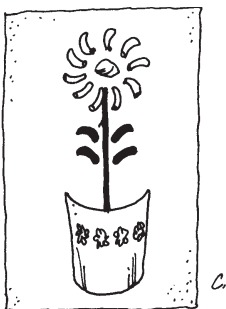
small paper cups
small shell macaroni
glue
scissors

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



felt-tip pens
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.

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.

1 THESSALONIANS – WEEK TWO

DISCUSSION LESSON 1

15 - 20 min. free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: INDOOR BOWLING

You will need 10 plastic bottles, for bowling pins, and a basket-ball. Arrange like the pins in a bowling alley (4 in front, 3 in the next row, 2 behind them, and 1 in back). Line up the pins about 25 feet from the bowling line. Each player has two tries. Give points equal to the number of pins knocked down with each ball.

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 1

to end of class CRAFT: PAPER BEAD JEWELRY

MATERIALS

pencil	8 1/2" x 11" white paper
ruler	scissors
waxed paper	small sponge brush
juice box straw	32" string or dental floss
Gloss Mod Podge, or white glue	
cardstock or heavy paper to make patterns (see next page)	
newspaper	
colorful magazine or catalog pages	

Prior to class: From cardstock or heavy paper make 1 triangle pattern for each student. (One copy of pattern makes enough triangle patterns for 4 students.)

In class: Cover work area with newspaper and then the waxed paper or old plastic table cloth. Using the triangle pattern trace and cut out 20 triangles from the magazine and/or catalog paper (this makes 20 beads). Lay a triangle with the side you *don't* want showing face down. Cover the triangle with modge podge or watered down glue. (Modge Podge makes the beads shiny.) *Turn the triangle over.* Place the straw at the wide end of the triangle and begin rolling. Remove the straw from the center of the tube. Continue making beads until all are done. Allow to dry then string the beads. Tie the ends tightly together and you've made a necklace.

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.

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 THREE

DISCUSSION LESSON 2

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 2

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.

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.”

Psalm 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?

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 3, verses 6 - 13.

1. What was Timothy's report to Paul?
2. **PERSONAL:** In verse 10 Paul says he prays night and day for these people. The Bible is full of the prayers of people, and how often they prayed. Is prayer a part of your routine, like brushing your teeth?
3. How does love grow? See verse 12 for your answer.
4. **HARD:** What do these verses say about love?

Mark 12:31

Luke 6:31

Luke 6:32

Luke 6:35

John 15:13

5. **PERSONAL:** This is an exercise for you to practice this week. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. After reading these verses, replace the word “Love” or “it” with “Jesus”. Example: “Jesus is very patient”. Now, replace “Jesus” with your name. Then, this week practice all the things love is. Are you all the things love is? Was doing this a hard exercise?

6. Which verse talks about the heart, and what does it say?

7. When will we stand before Jesus with a clean heart?

8. **PERSONAL:** If Jesus returned today with His holy ones, can you stand before Him with a clean heart? Why not do what 1 John 1:9 suggests? Write the verse here.

1 THESSALONIANS WEEK FOUR

DISCUSSION LESSON 3

15 - 20 min. free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: BALL CALL

Players form a standing circle, with IT in the center. Give each player a number, starting with 1 and counting around the circle; tell each player to remember their number. IT tosses the ball in the air, simultaneously calling out a number of a player in the circle. That player tries to catch the ball before it bounces more than one time. If the ball is caught, that player becomes IT (and the former IT takes that player's number). If not, IT remains until the ball is caught.

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 3

to end of class CRAFT: SAND TERRARIUM

MATERIALS

colored sand (purchased at craft stores, or some paint/craft stores)

clear plastic cups, or baby food jars with labels removed
bowls (to pour sand in)

plastic spoons (to take sand from bowl and put into cup)

toothpicks or skewers

Pour a small amount of sand into bottom of plastic cup. Sand layers should vary in depth and color. Doing this creates unique and individual terrariums. Inserting the skewer at the first stage is used to form a repeated design, or you can wait for more layers. The scenes created will depend on the color sand used and the design created by using the skewer. To use the skewer, slowly push it into the sand making sure to keep it firmly against the side of the glass. Pull it away from the side of the glass and out, the sand will fall into the place vacated by the skewer. When you want to use a small amount of sand, a teaspoon or your fingers gives you more control to place the sand. As you add sand layers keep the center of the glass at the same level as the outside edges. Keeping the center full of sand holds your outside design in place.

1 THESSALONIANS LESSON 3 — ANSWERS

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 3, verses 1 - 5.

1. Where was Paul according to verse 1? Athens.
2. What did Paul warn the Thessalonians would happen to them? verse 4: “Even while we were still with you we warned you. We told you ahead of time that suffering would soon come. And it did come!”
3. Some Bibles may use the word “trials”. What does James 1:2 say about trials? “Dear brothers, is your life full of trouble and trials? Then be happy.”
4. Paul warns the Thessalonians all Christians will have troubles, especially when they talk about their faith to unbelievers. What does James 1:3-4 say? “When the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow! And don’t try to get out of your problems. One day, your patience will finally be in full bloom. Then you will be ready for anything. You will be strong in character, full, and perfect.” [God allows us to experience troubles, trials, and hard times so that we develop patience. Patience leads us to being mature Christians. Patience is also a fruit of the Holy Spirit. And patience also helps us to become more like Jesus Christ who was extremely patient in His three year ministry.]
5. Paul sent Timothy to comfort or encourage the believers in Thessalonica. How does Romans 15:2 show us we can comfort others? “Let’s try to please other people, not ourselves. Do what is good for them. Build them up in the Lord.”

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 3, verses 6 - 13.

1. What was Timothy’s report to Paul? verse 6: “[Timothy] brings welcome news that your faith and love are as strong as ever. He says you remember us with joy and want to see us. We want to see you too.”
2. **PERSONAL:** In verse 10 Paul says he prays night and day for these people. The Bible is full of the prayers of people, and how often they prayed. Is prayer a part of your routine, like brushing your teeth?
3. How does love grow? See verse 12 for your answer. “May the Lord make your love grow and overflow to each other. And may you love everyone else, just as we love you.” [The inference here is not that we love once, and stay in the same place. But, love keeps growing. It is active. It is not a feeling. It is more than being courteous to others. Our love should constantly be growing; we must show love to others at all times.]

4. **HARD:** What do these verses say about love?

Mark 12:31 “The second is, ‘You must love others as much as yourself.’ No other commands are greater than these.”

Luke 6:31 “Treat others as you want them to treat you.”

Luke 6:32 “Do you think you deserve praise for loving those who love you? Even the godless do that!”

Luke 6:35 “Love your enemies! Do good to them! Lend to them! And don’t worry about the fact that they won’t pay you back. Then your reward from heaven will be very great. And you will truly be acting like sons of God. For He is kind to the unthankful and those who are wicked.”

John 15:13 “And here is how to measure it [love]. The greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends.”

5. **PERSONAL:** This is an exercise for you to practice this week. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. After reading these verses, replace the word “Love” or “it” with “Jesus”. Example: “Jesus is very patient”. Now, replace “Jesus” with your name. Then, this week practice all the things love is. Are you all the things love is? Was doing this a hard exercise? “Love is very patient and kind. It is never jealous or envious. It never boasts or is proud. It is never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not angry. It does not hold grudges. It will hardly notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about things that are wrong. It is happy when truth wins out. If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him. You will always expect the best of him. You will always stand your ground and defend him.”
6. Which verse talks about the heart, and what does it say? verse 13. “May God make your hearts strong, sinless, and holy. Then you will stand before Him with no guilt.”
7. When will we stand before Jesus with a clean heart? “You will do this on the day when our Lord Jesus comes back with His holy ones.”
8. **PERSONAL:** If Jesus returned today with His holy ones, can you stand before Him with a clean heart? Why not do what 1 John 1:9 suggests? Write the verse here. “If we confess our sins, He can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins.”

4. How does a Christian keep pure thoughts, as God wants? Read Psalm 119:105, and 2 Timothy 2:22. Write what they mean to you.

Psalm 119:105

2 Timothy 2:22

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, verses 9 - 18.

1. Who teaches Christians to love others?
2. How do we show love? See Ephesians 4:32 for your answer.
3. Do you like to boss others around, and tell them what to do? What does verse 11 tell us about this?
4. If we do what verse 11 tells us to do, what does verse 12 tell us will happen?
5. **HARD:** A Christian doesn't have to be afraid to die, because he has a hope. What does John 11:25,26 tell us about this hope?
6. **PERSONAL:** What is your answer to Jesus' question?

1 THESSALONIANS – WEEK FIVE

DISCUSSION LESSON 4

15 - 20 min. free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: HIDE & SEEK

A small object is hidden by one leader as another leader distracts the players. Or, the players close their eyes as the leader hides the object. The object should be hidden so that it is visible to the shortest player. After it is hidden, the players are to seek and find it. Anyone seeing the object sits down and calls, “Hide & Seek”. However, players must be cautioned not to look at the object while calling out. The object of the game is not to be the last one to find the hidden object.

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 4

to end of class CRAFT: STAINED GLASS WINDOW

MATERIALS:

waxed paper	glue
scissors	warm iron
colored construction paper	old cloth for pressing
colored tissue paper or white tissue paper colored with crayons	
pens or colored pencils	

Cut or tear tissue paper into various shapes. Make a “window” shape out of two pieces of waxed paper; arrange tissue paper pieces on one piece of waxed paper “window,” cover with second piece. Place cloth over all layers and press with warm iron to seal layers together. Make a frame for “window” by cutting the center out of two pieces of construction paper. When waxed paper “window” is cool, place between construction sheets. Glue edges of construction paper inside and outside, enclosing “window.” Tape “window” to a real window so the sun can shine through.

1 THESSALONIANS LESSON 4 – ANSWERS

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, verses 1 - 8.

1. Paul says the Thessalonians were instructed as to how to please God. What are the ways these verses give so we can please God?

John 14:15 “If you love Me, obey Me.”

Galatians 6:2 “Share each other’s troubles and problems. That’s what our Lord commands.”

Ephesians 5:2 “Be full of love for others. Follow the example of Christ. He loved you and gave Himself to God as a sacrifice for your sins. And God was pleased about this. Christ’s love for you was like sweet perfume to Him.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 “No matter what happens, always be thankful. This is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

2. Which verse tells us about God’s will, and what does it say? verse 3: “It is God’s will that you should be holy; that you should avoid sexual immorality.” (NIV) [Some Bibles use the term sanctification. “The literal meaning of the word ‘sanctification’ is to be ‘set apart for God.’ The moment a person is saved, he is set aside for God’s use.” (J. Vernon McGee) This is everyone, no matter what age. If a person is saved as a child, God sets him aside for His use. It is from the moment of salvation. The believer lives for God and confesses sin as soon as he realizes his disobedience. Paul also warns against sex sin, which was rampant in his day, just as it is today. Sexual temptation and immorality abounds everywhere. Even believers have become immune to its destructive power, physically and spiritually, and it has become acceptable behavior among some Christians. Sex outside of marriage hurts “God because it shows that we prefer following our own desires instead of the leading of the Holy Spirit; others because it violates the commitment so necessary to a relationship; it often brings disease to our bodies; and it deeply affects our personalities, causing us pain when we harm ourselves physically and spiritually” (Life Application Bible notes, NIV).
3. Only God, through His Holy Spirit can give Christians power and victory over temptation. How does 2 Peter 1:2,3 say this happens? “Do you want more and more of God’s kindness and peace? Then learn to know God better and better. Then His great power will give you all you need for living a good life. He even shares His own glory and His own goodness with us!”
4. How does a Christian keep pure thoughts, as God wants? Read Psalm 119:105, and 2 Timothy 2:22. Write what they mean to you.

Psalm 119:105 “Your words are a lamp to light the path ahead of me. They keep me from stum-

bling and falling.” [God’s Word tells us how to live. We use a flashlight when we walk in the forest at night so we don’t stumble over hidden rocks and tree roots.]

2 Timothy 2:22 “Run from anything that gives you the evil thoughts that young men often have. Stay close to anything that makes you want to do right. Have faith and love with those who love the Lord and have pure hearts.” [As soon as a bad thought enters your mind, think about good things. Let’s think of our head as a video camera. Before we take a video of something we need to insert a tape into the case. The tape acts like our brain; it records everything it sees and hears. (Our brains also record smells and tastes.) The lens of the camera sees the things it is pointed at and records them on the tape. Our eyes sees things and record the sights in our brain. The camera microphone records sounds on the video to accompany the visual. Likewise, our ears record everything they hear too. These sights and sounds are forever on our video to be replayed whenever we want until we record over them. So, whatever we see and hear is recorded on our brains to think about them. Therefore, we need to record only that which is good and pleasing to the Lord. And we do that by knowing His word and obeying it.]

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, verses 9 - 18.

1. Who teaches Christians to love others? God. [Holy Spirit]
2. How do we show love? See Ephesians 4:32 for your answer. “Instead be kind to each other and tenderhearted. Forgive one another just as God has forgiven you because you belong to Christ.”
3. Do you like to boss others around, and tell them what to do? What does verse 11 tell us about this? “Your ambition should be to live a quiet life. Mind your own business and do your own work, as we told you before.”
4. If we do what verse 11 tells us to do, what does verse 12 tell us will happen? “So that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody” (NIV). [Some translations use the term “walk honestly.” We are to deal honestly with all persons. And with unbelievers we need to be extra careful to live as honest persons.]
5. **HARD:** A Christian doesn’t have to be afraid to die, because he has a hope. What does John 11:25,26 tell us about this hope? “Jesus told her, ‘I Am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me, even though he dies, will live again. He is given eternal life for believing in Me and will never die. Do you believe this, Martha?’”
6. **PERSONAL:** What is your answer to Jesus’ question? [YES]

1 THESSALONIANS — LESSON 5

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 5, verses 1 - 11.

1. **RISKY:** In verse 2, Paul says no one knows when the Lord Jesus will return. But, Matthew 24:36 says there is one who does know. Who does Matthew tell us is that person?

2. What does Matthew 24:42 say? Write the verse as it is in your Bible.

3. How will the Day of the Lord come according to 1 Thessalonians 5:2b?

4. **HARD:** The Bible says we are to be ready for the Lord's return. Since we are expecting His return, we won't be surprised when it happens. Who, then, do you think Paul is talking about in 1 Thessalonians 5:3?

5. What does Ephesians 6:11, 14-17 tell us about the armor of God?

6. What does 1 Thessalonians 5:11 say?

7. What does your dictionary say the word edify means?

8. **RISKY:** Using your meaning of the word edify, what does verse 11 mean to you?

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, verses 12 - 18.

1. According to verse 12, who are we to honor?

2. What are we to give them?

3. How are we to act towards each other?

4. How are we to act towards the following people?

the lazy, idle or unruly person

fearful, feeble-minded, timid

the weak

5. What are we to be to everyone?

6. **PERSONAL:** Do you find being patient is easy or hard, and why?

7. How often should a Christian rejoice, or be joyful?

8. How often should a Christian pray?

9. Why should a Christian always be thankful?

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, verses 19 - 28.

1. **HARD:** Paul says in verse 21 we are to test everything people say about the Word of God to be sure it is true. What does 1 John 4:1-3 say is the way we make this test?

2. What does Paul tell Christians to do in verse 22?

3. **PERSONAL:** What does this mean to you? What kind of evil do you think you should stay away from?

4. What does Paul ask the Thessalonians to do for him?

5. **PERSONAL:** Do you pray for others?

1 THESSALONIANS — WEEK SIX

DISCUSSION LESSON 5

15 - 20 min. free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: CAR LOT

Evenly divide into groups. Each group calls themselves by a name of a car. Choose IT. Draw a starting line upon which all “cars” are to stand, and a finish line that must be reached before being tagged. IT stands in center of the two lines and calls out a name of a car. That car group tries to reach the finish line before being tagged. If tagged, they sit where tagged. They also may tag other runners from their sitting position. If IT calls “Car Lot” everyone races to the finish line. Repeat game as many times as desired, choosing different players to be IT.

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 5

to end of class CRAFT: POPPED PUSSY WILLOWS TREE

MATERIALS:

12” x 18” construction paper	brown lunch bags
craft glue & glue sticks	paper cups
real or paper leaves	bowls
popped popcorn	

Rip the bags into strips, making a larger one for the trunk, the others are the limbs of a “naked” tree. Glue onto construction paper in the shape of a tree. Pour glue into bowls. Dip popcorn, one at a time, into glue and then glue onto the limbs. Add paper or real leaves, or draw them on the paper. You might want to try dipping the popped corn into food coloring for added affect. Allow to dry. Munch remaining popped corn.

Optional: Design your own picture with the popped corn, paper, and bags.

1 THESSALONIANS LESSON 5 — ANSWERS

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, verses 1 - 11.

1. **RISKY:** In verse 2, Paul says no one knows when the Lord Jesus will return. But, Matthew 24:36 says there is one who does know. Who does Matthew tell us is that person? “But no one knows the date and hour when the end will be. Not even the angels know this. No, not even God’s Son knows this. Only the FATHER knows.”
2. What does Matthew 24:42 say? Write the verse as it is in your Bible. “So be ready at all times. For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming.”
3. How will the Day of the Lord come according to 1 Thessalonians 5:2b? “The day of the Lord will come when you don’t expect it. It will come as a thief in the night.”
4. **HARD:** The Bible says we are to be ready for the Lord’s return. Since we are expecting His return, we won’t be surprised when it happens. Who, then, do you think Paul is talking about in 1 Thessalonians 5:3? [The unbelievers. The use of the pronoun in this passage indicates people who are not watching for Christ’s return. A thief comes unexpectedly. No one is waiting and watching for him to come. So if believers are ready for His return, His coming won’t be a shock to them, but it will be to the unbeliever. And it will be destructive for the unbeliever.]
5. What does Ephesians 6:11, 14-17 tell us about the armor of God? “Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.... Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (NIV).
6. What does 1 Thessalonians 5:11 say? “So support each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”
7. What does your dictionary say the word edify means? “To instruct and benefit, especially in morals, religion, etc.” (Holt Dictionary)
8. **RISKY:** Using your meaning of the word edify, what does verse 11 mean to you? [Remind other believers of God’s promises in His Word. Work with other believers. Encourage one another. Share with other believers how God helps us in our times of need, and what we learn from such times.]

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, verses 12 - 18.

1. According to verse 12, who are we to honor? “Brothers, honor those who work hard among you. They lead you and warn you against all that is wrong.” [We must remember when Paul wrote this letter, all the Thessalonians Christians became believers at the same time. Paul wanted to remind them that some had been given the gift of leadership, and therefore, should be followed and respected.]
2. What are we to give them? [Love]
3. How are we to act towards each other? “And remember, no arguing among yourselves.” [At peace with each other. There shouldn’t be fighting among the church. Every organization needs those who will lead and those who follow. If not, chaos develops.]
4. How are we to act towards the following people?

the lazy, idle or unruly person They are to be warned. [This means if someone is not following the way of the Lord, they should be warned they are hurting themselves and God’s name as well as His church.]

fearful, feeble-minded, timid Comfort them. [These are people who are afraid to take a chance on serving the Lord. They might be afraid to witness to a stranger. They need to be encouraged to take that step.]

the weak Support, help, or tenderly care for them. [These folks don’t know very much about being a Christian, and they need help in understanding the Word of God.]

5. What are we to be to everyone? Patient.
6. **PERSONAL:** Do you find being patient is easy or hard, and why?
7. How often should a Christian rejoice, or be joyful? Always.
8. How often should a Christian pray? Always. Without ceasing.
9. Why should a Christian always be thankful? “[For] this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, verses 19 - 28.

1. **HARD:** Paul says in verse 21 we are to test everything people say about the Word of God to be sure it is true. What does 1 John 4:1-3 say is the way we make this test? “Dearly loved friends,

don't believe everything you hear. Be careful even if someone says it is a message from God. Test it first to see if it really is. For there are many false teachers around. There is a way to find out if their message is from the Holy Spirit. Ask if they agree that Jesus Christ came to earth. Ask if they believe He was a man with a human body. If they believe this, then their message is from God. But if not, their message is not from God. It is from one who is against Christ. This is the 'Antichrist' you have heard is going to come. His hate against Christ is already abroad in the world."

2. What does Paul tell Christians to do in verse 22? "Keep away from every kind of evil."
3. **PERSONAL:** What does this mean to you? What kind of evil do you think you should stay away from? [Think of the head as a video camera. The eye is the lens, the ears are the microphone, the brain is the tape, the voice is the speaker. Whatever is seen and heard is recorded on the brain to be thought about now or later. So, what we see and hear eventually comes out of our mouth, either nasty words or encouraging ones. And someday our actions will show what is on our brain.]
4. What does Paul ask the Thessalonians to do for him? Pray.
5. **PERSONAL:** Do you pray for others?