

Response to God's Message

Materials I Need:



Legend:



-  = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade
 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV)

Hook:

Remember the Message; Remember the Messenger (Game). ,  Use this as a memory verse game and as a way to introduce this week's lesson. This is played just like the game of "concentration." Copy two or more sets of **1TH02.GF1** onto cardstock and cut apart. Write portions of the verse on the backs of the cards until the whole verse has been written out. Have the students turn all cards face down with the picture of Paul facing upward. Have them take turns trying to match two cards by turning them over one at a time. If no match is made, both cards are turned over and the next player takes a turn. Have the students continue to play until all the matches have been made. Next, divide the cards into sets and have the students take turns assembling the memory verse. Explain that Paul's message to the Thessalonian church made a big impact. People believed the Gospel message and respected the messenger. They persevered through persecution because they remembered the message and its original messenger, Christ. Knowing that the Gospel of Christ is true, we can have the hope that allows us to persevere through trials.

Stand up for the Truth (Game/Discussion). ,  **PREP:** Using a dictionary, choose three words--one word that all the students will definitely know, one that some may or may not know, and one that they probably do not know. Write down the correct definition for each. Make up two incorrect definitions for each. **PLAY:** Write one of the words on the whiteboard in large letters. Using a contrasting color of dry-erase marker, write the correct and two incorrect definitions in random order. Number the definitions 1,2,3. Read the word and the three definitions aloud, or call upon a student(s) to do this. Tell the students to choose the definition they believe is correct. Have them stand up when you point to the definition they have chosen. Then give them an opportunity to try to convince their neighbor/friends to agree with them (have a teacher try to convince the students of the wrong definition of the word that they know). Have a student read the correct definition from the dictionary. Give a small piece of candy to those who were correct in their choice. Do the same for the other two words. **DISCUSSION:** Ask the students why they did or did not change their minds about a word's definition—why they believed the dictionary had the correct definition. In today's Bible Adventure they will hear that the Thessalonians knew God's truth and stood up for it, even though they were persecuted because of it.



Persecuted Messengers (Game). 🦋 Play this game to open up today's Bible lesson topic: "persevering persecution." Paul persevered in proclaiming the Gospel despite the efforts of others to frustrate his message. Likewise, the Thessalonians persevered through the persecution of those around them who didn't like this new message. The students will attempt to persevere persecution in this game to stay in the circle as long as possible. Have the students sit in a circle on the floor. You may need to divide the class into two or more circles. The students will spread the message that "God is true." Designate someone to begin by taking one of his hands and crossing his forehead with a flat hand, almost like a salute, saying aloud, "GOD." If that person used his right hand, his fingers would be pointing to the person on his left in the circle; if his left hand, his fingers would point to the person on his right. He may choose either direction, but must move and speak quickly. The next person to whom he had pointed would also point either to the left or the right with a closed hand, but this time crossing flat across his neck. Concurrently with the motion, this person will say "IS." This final messenger might very well be the same person who started the message, since the second messenger had the option of pointing back to him. Whoever is the third in this chain will then make a motion by putting both hands together flat, outstretching his arms and pointing to someone else in the circle (not to his immediate left or right), all while completing the message by saying "TRUE." Whoever was pointed to will then begin the message again, crossing his forehead and saying "GOD." This process continues until someone makes a mistake. That person is then removed from the circle, and the message continues beginning with the person to the immediate left of the person just removed. Now the persecution part comes into play when those who were removed from the circle begin to "heckle" the players still in the game. Their objective is to cause others to mess up in this speedy game. They may shout (not in one another's ears) and mimic the proper motions from the outside of the circle, even leaning in between players, but they may not touch any player. This is meant to be goofy to add to the fun. Discuss the kinds of persecution that Paul and the Thessalonians really did endure. How might these have caused it to be difficult to continue proclaiming the message?



Parental Love (Discussion and Skit). 🦋, 🦋 Paul gives two great reasons for the church in Thessalonica to persevere through difficult times: first, God's message is true; and second, God's messengers are true. Paul compared their love for the Thessalonians with the love of a mother caring for her children. He did this to prove that the messengers God sent were true and that the Thessalonians should continue to persevere in their troubles. Explore this concept of paternal and maternal care with your students. Begin with a skit that demonstrates the comfort and instruction of a parent when teaching his or her child to ride a bicycle for the first time. Despite the knowledge of the coming pain of skinned knees and palms, the parent comforts the anxious child and gives him careful instruction for success. The child is filled with the hope of this goodness and delights in finally riding his bike independently. With this great vision before him and Mom's or Dad's comfort and encouragement behind him, he is ready to brave the suffering that may come. Discuss with the students the significant role of the parent in this vignette. For additional discussion, prepare several magazine pictures of parents caring for their children with such comforting, instructing and encouraging as mentioned above. In small groups, have the children discuss the picture and perhaps make up a story behind the picture. Ask them how their parents help them face persecution.



Book:

Presentation Ideas –




The Thessalonians Are Mistreated (Illustration/Coloring Page). 🦋, 🦋 1TH02.GF2.



The Thessalonians Eagerly Read God's Word (Illustration/Coloring Page). 🦋, 🦋 1TH02.GF3.



A G-Rated Picture of Martyrdom (Illustration).  Have the students draw a small slip of paper from a hat as they come into class. Have an even number of X's and O's printed on the slips. At the beginning of Book time, have a teacher enter the room in his roughest looking garb and divide the X's from the O's. As the two groups are divided, allow the teacher's disdain for the X's to show. They should know that they are in for a hard time. At this point, when the X's are not so excited about their identity, have one of the teachers or aides, not involved in the harassment, go to the X's declaring softly that there will be a reward for them AFTER the exercise is completed. Have a very nice reward ready for them after the exercise to demonstrate a promise kept. Continue the "persecution" and then ask the X's if any of them wants to renounce the inferior grapheme and become an O. If you would like to increase the intimidation factor in this exercise, develop all the nonsensical reasons why the letter X is an offensive marking compared with the letter O (i.e., one never has to lift his pencil when forming an O; an O has no sharp points or edges). Harass the X's with ludicrous and irrational verbal abuse and demand that they do various tasks that have no purpose, including such things as sit-ups, push-ups, holding arms out parallel with floor until it is unbearable, or moving chairs to another location and then back again. Those X's who cannot or do not keep up with the demands should be taken out into the hallway by another gruff teacher who is flaunting duct tape in a threatening fashion, appearing to be ready to fasten this child to a chair outside. Meanwhile, the O's are treated well on the other side of the room; perhaps even with refreshments or entertainment, although still in view of what is going on with the X's. After a reasonable period of persecution, you may choose to end this exercise and debrief before teaching the Bible lesson or you may wish to continue the illustration throughout the teaching, setting the X's in chairs around the back wall of the room in isolation from one another. Whichever your choice, be sure to debrief the students about the exercise in light of Paul's message to the Thessalonians. What did Paul really mean when he talked about persevering through persecution? How did the X's feel through this slight tribulation? Were there any X's that denounced their letter for an O? How did they feel about doing that? What were the O's thinking the whole time? If this were real persecution, what sorts of things might really happen? Don't forget to deliver the reward.

Bible Adventure for K-2nd Grades –

Paul loved the new Christians in Thessalonica very much. He wanted to stay with them and teach them wonderful truths about God. However, there were Jews who were jealous of Paul and lied to the city authorities, telling them that Paul was causing a huge amount of trouble. Wanting no one to upset their peace, the authorities ordered Paul and his ministry partner, Silas, out of Thessalonica at once. They had to leave suddenly and could no longer spend time with the Thessalonian believers.

After Paul and Silas left, trouble began for the Thessalonians. People mistreated them because they followed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Probably their old friends, family, and religious teachers were angry with them. The same government officials who ordered Paul out of the city were most likely against them, too. Paul wondered how this would affect the new believers in Thessalonica. Would they stay faithful to Christ even if they went to jail or their families forced them from their homes? Another problem was that those who opposed Paul told more lies about his ministry. They tried to convince the new Christians that Paul didn't really care about them. They accused Paul of just trying to get their money. Paul was concerned that the Christians might begin to doubt his love for them and the truth of his message about Jesus Christ.

It was out of this concern that Paul wrote a letter to the Thessalonians. In 1 Thessalonians chapter 1, Paul thanked God for the faith, hope, and love of these believers. In chapter 2, he began by assuring them that the lies told about him were false. Paul didn't come to them to get their money! In fact, he and Silas worked very hard to support themselves by their own work. Paul explained that he and Silas had been mistreated in another city (Philippi) for proclaiming the Gospel, yet they eagerly went on to share the Gospel with them in Thessalonica. Paul came to them out of love and set a wonderful example for them to follow by continuing to share the good news about Jesus even in the face of hardship. Paul said he cared for them like a gentle mother with her baby and he pleaded with them to follow God as their loving Father. Furthermore, the thing Paul wanted most was to see people become Christians and live their lives for God. The believers in Thessalonica could be sure that Paul was motivated by care and acted in all tenderness toward them.

Because Paul had suffered so much in giving his life to preaching the Gospel, he rejoiced greatly that the Thessalonians believed what he said. He was thankful for the fact that the Thessalonians didn't think he'd just made it all up. He thanked God that they treated his message as it really was, the very Word of

God (2:13). God's Word is the way people learn about Jesus and can be saved from their sins. In addition, when a person believes God's Word, he will obey it and live his life by it. Paul was encouraged because he knew that God had saved them and was working in their lives to keep them strong in their faith until they went to heaven to be with Christ.

One thing Paul wanted his dear friends to know about suffering was that they were to expect it. Suffering is something God uses in the life of believers to make them holy. It is not an accident that God is unaware of. He is not caught off guard or troubled by it. God has determined that all believers will suffer affliction. Non-Christians will want to know more about God when they see a Christian going through a time of deep trouble and sorrow, yet still having hope and joy in Jesus Christ. Satan is quick to tempt someone to abandon his faith when times get tough, but a true believer will cling to God and draw even closer to Him.

The Thessalonians had perseverance in their suffering. Perseverance means remaining faithful to God and doing what He asks from the time a person believes in Christ until the time he dies. It means being faithful to God when things get very difficult. The Thessalonians eagerly received God's Word and obeyed it even when people were against them. Paul also persevered in proclaiming the Gospel, through much suffering, to the Thessalonians and others. He did it to please and glorify God.

Do you remain faithful to God when times are difficult? It is an incorrect notion to believe that God saves us just to make our lives easier. He saves us to bring glory to Himself. Do you love your friends and neighbors enough to share the Gospel with them? Are you eager to hear God's Word and do what it says, even when it isn't easy? These are the things God wants you to persevere in. Trust in Him and He will give you the strength!

Bible Adventure for 3^d – 6th Grades –

We all know stories of people who keep on trying in difficult situations, even when others tell them to give up. We call this quality "perseverance," and your dictionary will tell you that it means to keep going in spite of opposition or discouragement. The Bible adds even more to the definition of perseverance. Our study today in 1 Thessalonians, chapters two and three, will show us more about the kind of perseverance God wants to see in our lives, and how He uses hard times to help us grow.

Let's review a little of what we know about the apostle Paul as he went from city to city sharing the Good News and starting new churches. Some people were very unfriendly to Paul and his message. In Philippi, Paul and Silas were beaten and then thrown into prison. In Thessalonica, they had to leave after a few short months when some unbelieving Jews went to the government officials and accused Paul of stirring up trouble in the city. The officials believed the lies and ordered Paul to leave. This was hard for him because he still had many things to teach the new Christians there. He knew that the unbelievers in Thessalonica would make trouble for his friends. The families and friends of the believers would not understand their new faith. Many would tell lies about Paul and about the Gospel message he brought. They would say things like, "Paul was just doing it for the money," or "If Paul really cared about you, why did he leave?"

With so many lies and such hard things to face, Paul was concerned that the Thessalonians might begin to have doubts about their new-found faith. He, Silas, and Timothy had invested so much time and effort there. Paul wanted so much to be there to encourage his new brothers and sisters in Christ to hold on to their faith. Paul knew that two things can happen to people who are going through hard times, or affliction, as the Bible calls it. They remember that God is in control and has a reason for allowing the affliction, or they turn their backs on God and walk away. What's that? God allows affliction in our lives? That's right. Affliction is one of the ways God uses to make us holy. Our suffering is not an accident that takes God by surprise. He is not troubled by it. Jesus went to the cross and went through incredible suffering because it was God's will. When God saved Paul and called him to be an apostle, God said, "I will show him (Paul) how much he must suffer for my name" (Acts 9:16). Paul had told the believers in Thessalonica that he, Silas, and Timothy would be persecuted. James 1:2 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, **whenever** you face trials of many kinds . . ." Not, "if" you face trials, but "whenever" you face trials. We should count them as pure joy because God uses them to make us more like His Son. When we respond to a trial or affliction with a deep trust that God knows what is best for us, we are being a witness to the world of God's power in our lives. When people see a Christian in times of deep trouble and sorrow, yet with a true joy in God, they wonder about the kind of God that person serves. A person who is pretending to be a believer won't have that kind of joy, and won't be able to persevere under

suffering. He or she will turn from God in a hurry when persecution comes, but a true Christian will not abandon God.

Paul tried to go back to Thessalonica several times but something always prevented him. When his concern for the new believers became so strong he almost couldn't bear it, he sent Timothy back to see how their friends were doing. When Timothy went back to Athens and reported to Paul, the apostle was happy to hear how the Thessalonians were doing. Paul sent them a letter, expressing his thanks and his joy that they were still strong in their faith. The way they lived their lives was proof that they had truly been saved. In spite of many who were against them in Thessalonica, these believers were boldly telling anyone who would listen about Jesus Christ.

Paul's joy also came from the fact that he recognized that God had taken his work in Thessalonica and made something wonderful happen. Not only were people saved after hearing Paul's preaching, but the church kept on growing after Paul was forced to leave. This was a sure sign to Paul that God approved of the things he, Silas and Timothy had done there. In his letter, Paul reminded the Thessalonians that it was God who had given him the Gospel message that he shared with them. Paul also wanted to answer the lies of those who said he wanted money for his preaching, or that he had abandoned the new church. Paul said that they had suffered for preaching in Philippi, but they still came on to Thessalonica and freely shared the Gospel there. They worked to support themselves so that the new church would not have to do that. They didn't preach to become famous. In fact, their preaching often brought them the kind of attention that ended up causing them to suffer. Paul wrote that they gently cared for the Thessalonians like a mother would her newborn baby. Paul taught them, just as a father would his own children, to follow God. The reason Paul shared his Gospel message was that it pleased God when he did so. His loving, caring ways were a good example for the Thessalonians believers to follow as they shared Christ with others.

Because Paul, Silas, and Timothy had sacrificed so much for the Thessalonian believers, they were filled with joy at the way these people responded to God's Word. Listen to what Paul wrote about them: "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe." Hearing Paul preach, the Thessalonians put their faith in Jesus Christ from the first, and kept on putting their faith in Him, which was proven by their changed lives. When a person believes God's Word and acts on it, it is sign that God is working in them. These believers kept right on sharing the Gospel and serving others, even when people tried to stop them. They were showing perseverance, the kind God approves of because the power to do it comes from Him. Paul was excited to see it because he knew that God would keep giving them the power to share and to serve. He wanted to see them grow even more in their faithfulness and their holiness. He wanted them to glorify God even more in their actions and in the kind of people they were. Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians was for them to remain faithful to the Lord and to be pure and holy.

Perseverance means staying faithful to God and doing what he asks from the time we become Christians to the time we leave this earth. It is staying faithful even when He asks us to do uncomfortable or difficult things. Many of us have bought into the lie that God saves us to make life easier for us. But God saves us to glorify Him. The troubles He allows us to face can be faced with His help and are used by Him to help us grow. A true Christian will turn to God during times of trouble and, though he may struggle, he'll remain faithful to God. That's our part. God's part is to give us the power to be able to persevere. It's a work He does in us. That's why it's important to pray for others when we see them going through suffering. We saw two great examples of perseverance in these chapters—Paul persevered in sharing the Gospel in Thessalonica. He did it to please and glorify God. The Thessalonians persevered after they had become Christians by continuing to share the Gospel with others and becoming servants to them.

How's your perseverance? Are you willing to suffer for being a Christian? Do you rely on God's power to stay faithful to Him when it's hard to do it? Do you love your friends and neighbors enough to share the Gospel with them, like the Thessalonians did in their city? When you hear God's Word, do you realize that it is Him speaking to you and do what He says? This is the kind of perseverance God wants to see in your life—the kind that helps you grow in your faith and trust in Him.

Aim Questions:

1. **Who forced Paul and Silas out of Thessalonica?** *Jews and government officials.*
2. **Where was Paul previously beaten up for preaching the Gospel?** *Philippi.*
3. **Why did Paul share the Gospel in Thessalonica?** *To please God; to see people come to Christ for God's glory.*
4. **How did the Thessalonians respond to the message?** *Like it came from God, not men, continuing to believe it even when they were persecuted.*
5. **How does a person persevere through persecution?** *By remembering the faithfulness of those who suffered before and remembering that God's Word is true.*
6. **Who do you know that needs to hear the Gospel even though it may bring persecution?**



Look:



God's True Word (Memory Verse Puzzle and Maze). 🍌, 🦋 Have the students complete the memory verse by filling in the blank spaces with the words provided. Have them help Paul's friends Silvanus and Timothy find their way to Thessalonica through the maze, **1TH02.GF4**.



1 Thessalonians 2:13 (Word Search). 🍌, 🦋 Find the missing words in today's memory verse in the word search puzzle, **1TH02.GF5**.



Perseverance Flip Cards (Scripture Reading). 🍌, 🦋 Each student will need:

1TH02.GF6 Pgs. 1-6 copied onto colored cardstock

one card for a cover from **1TH02.GF6 Pg. 7** copied onto contrasting cardstock

instruction sheet from **1TH02.GF6 Pg. 8**

half-piece of cardstock cut in half lengthwise (11½" x 4")

ribbons, yarn or rings

scissors

tape

Have them take turns reading the verses as they cut out each one of the cards. These will be used for the craft which can be completed during the TOOK time. Be sure to talk about times of persecution that perhaps you or some of your students have been through. Review the Bible Adventure, talking about how difficult it was for the early believers to keep the faith because there were so few of them to encourage each other. The reason that they could continue to do what they were doing was because they knew the messenger and knew the message was true.



What Is Real Persecution? (Discussion). 🍌, 🦋 When a friend makes fun of you at school or someone hits you in the middle of a sporting event, how do you react? Do you go home to your parents like you are the lone Christian and everybody picks on you? What is persecution? Persecution means being ridiculed, picked on, or physically harmed because of your faith in Christ. When someone makes fun of you because you follow Jesus, that is persecution. If they hurt you because a Christian is not supposed to hit back, that is persecution. But when someone makes fun of your hairstyle or clothes, that is not. In both cases our response will show the depth of our faith. Still we must be careful not to consider much of normal life as persecution. A bold witness for Christ will lead to persecution. That should cause us much joy, because Jesus' character is being shown clearly enough to offend those who don't want to follow Him.



Follow the Leader (Race/Game). 🍌, 🦋 Divide the students into two or three teams. Line each team up single file, with one teacher at the end of each line. When the race begins, the student at the end of the line must turn to the teacher who shows a pattern of 1-3 numbers with his or her fingers, depending upon the age of the students (i.e., for three numbers, close fists, 1 finger, close fists, 7 fingers, close fists, 2 fingers). That student must watch carefully and CORRECTLY repeat the pattern to the student in front of him as the teacher makes sure it is passed on correctly. If he is correct, he goes to the back of the line. If he is incorrect, he goes to the front of the line and will have to retry when it has reached him again. The first team with all of its members at the back of the line wins. Discuss with the students how the Thessalonians followed Paul and, in turn, followed Christ.

- Paul's Little Instruction Booklet (Tract).** 🐛, 🦋 Using the Gospel message booklet, "Who's in Charge" (available from Children's Ministry), discuss with the students how to share the Gospel message. Encourage them to carry one of the booklets with them and study it so that they can be prepared to share the Gospel. Remind them to stand firm just as Paul and the Thessalonians did. "And we thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe" (1 Thessalonians 2:13).
 - Aim Questions (Worksheet).** 🐛 Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **1TH02.GF7**.
 - Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** 🐛, 🦋 This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **1TH02.GF8**.
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (Memory Verse Song).** 🐛 Words and music for today's memory verse are available upon request from Children's Ministry.
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Took:

- Perseverance Flip Cards (Craft).** 🐛, 🦋 This is the continuation of the craft from the LOOK time. See **1TH02.GF6 Pg. 8** for instructions. Have the students fold the half-sheet of cardstock paper in half widthwise and crease it, then cut on the crease. They should now have two long pieces of paper 11-1/2" x 4" which is enough for two cardholders. Fold this in half widthwise and crease it, then fold in 1" pieces from each end and tape into a triangle shape. Next, they should punch two holes in the top from which to hang the cards. Then they should punch the cards in the same spot they punched the hanger. Hold the tie all together with a piece of yarn or ribbon with just enough slack to be able to flip the cards around. Have the students take these flip card crafts home, and use them all during the study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Or better yet, if they know someone who is going through a difficult time, have them give it to him or her as an encouragement to persevere.
- Why Suffer? (Worksheet).** 🐛, 🦋 Discuss and ask questions of the students: Do you ever feel as though you are being persecuted? I am not talking about when someone takes your candy or toy. Or even if they hurt your feelings. I am talking about when you tell someone about how Christ died for them, and they get really mad at you and try to hurt you. In our Bible adventure today we heard about how Paul was commending the Thessalonians for standing firm and enduring persecution for their faith. Using **1TH02.GF9**, look up the verses listed. Think about how God uses persecution and suffering so that He may be glorified through us. Do you stand firm in these circumstances? Are you willing to suffer for Christ?
- The Solution to Persecution (Mobile Craft).** 🐛, 🦋 Each student will need:
 - 1TH02.GF10** on white cardstock
 - 9 short pieces (6") of yarn
 - 1 long piece (18-20") of yarn
 - scissors
 - hole punch
 - markers or crayons

Have the students cut out each of their cards and punch a hole where indicated. Next, have them color and tie each of the cards together with a short piece of yarn to create a long chain mobile. Ask the students if they have ever felt as though they were being persecuted for their faith in Christ. What should they do? Explain to them that, first of all, they should stand firm on the Word of God. They should run to Him and persevere. They must not give up. Have the students hang their mobiles in their rooms or on their mirrors as a reminder that "When the going gets tough, the tough get going. . . to God!"



Follow Through (*Discussion*). 🦋, 🦋 Ask the students the following questions for a time of discussion: Does a team play as the coach taught them when the coach isn't there? What do the students do when the teacher leaves the room during a test? Do the students obey their parents when they are out of the parents' sight? Do they choose to stand up for God's truth when others are doing the wrong thing or when they are being persecuted for it? Why would a person choose to do the right thing even when he or she is not being watched?



*Remember The Message
Remember The Messenger*



*Remember The Message
Remember The Messenger*



*Remember The Message
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*Remember The Message
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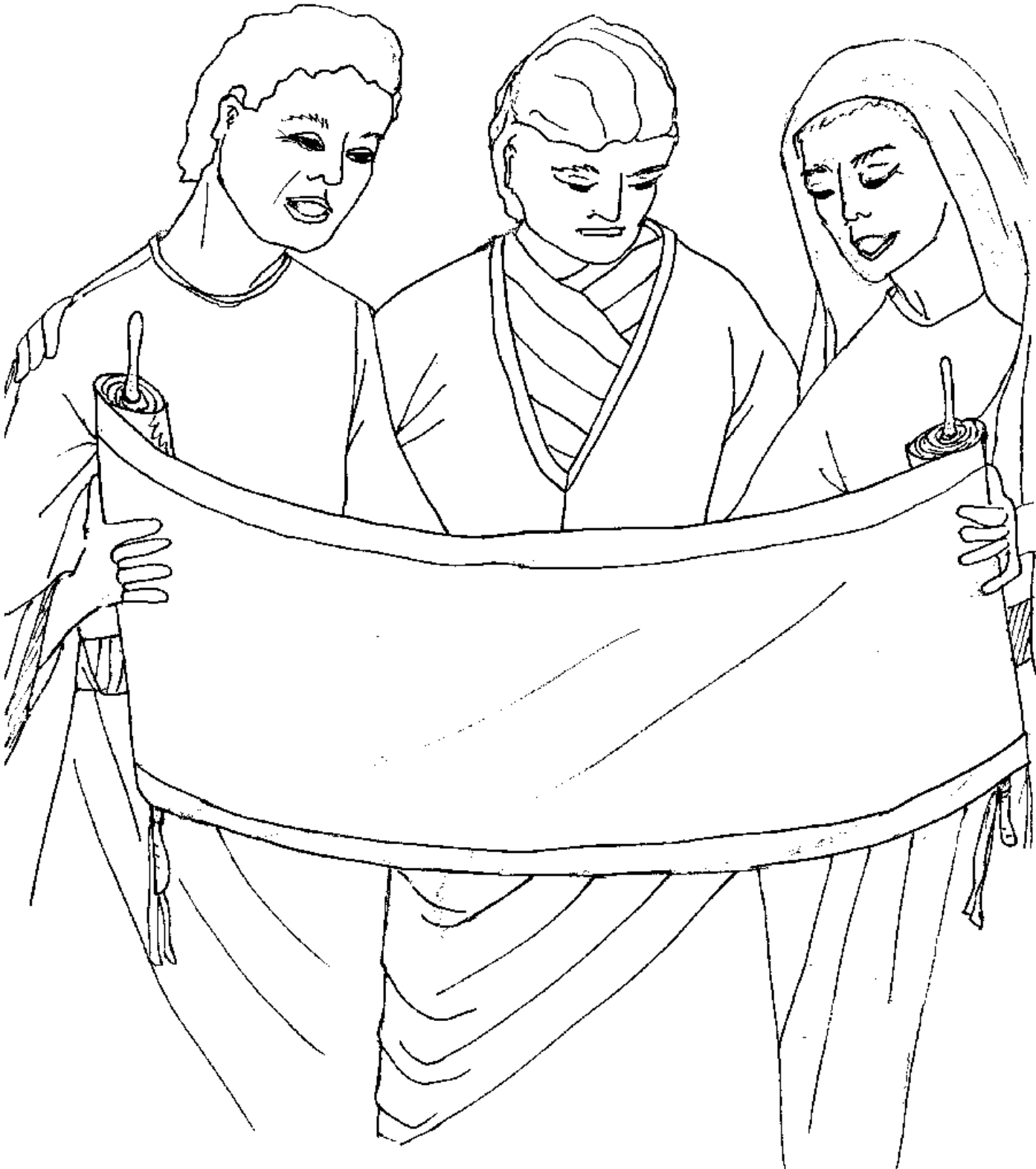


*Remember The Message
Remember The Messenger*

The Thessalonians Are Mistreated



The Thessalonians Eagerly Read God's Word



GOD'S TRUE WORD

Some words have been left out of today's memory verse. Can you put them back in the right place? Be careful or the verse will be wrong. You will find the words you need in the boxes below.

"And we also thank _____ continually because, when you received the _____ of _____, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the _____ of _____, but as it actually is, the _____ of _____, which is at work in you who believe."

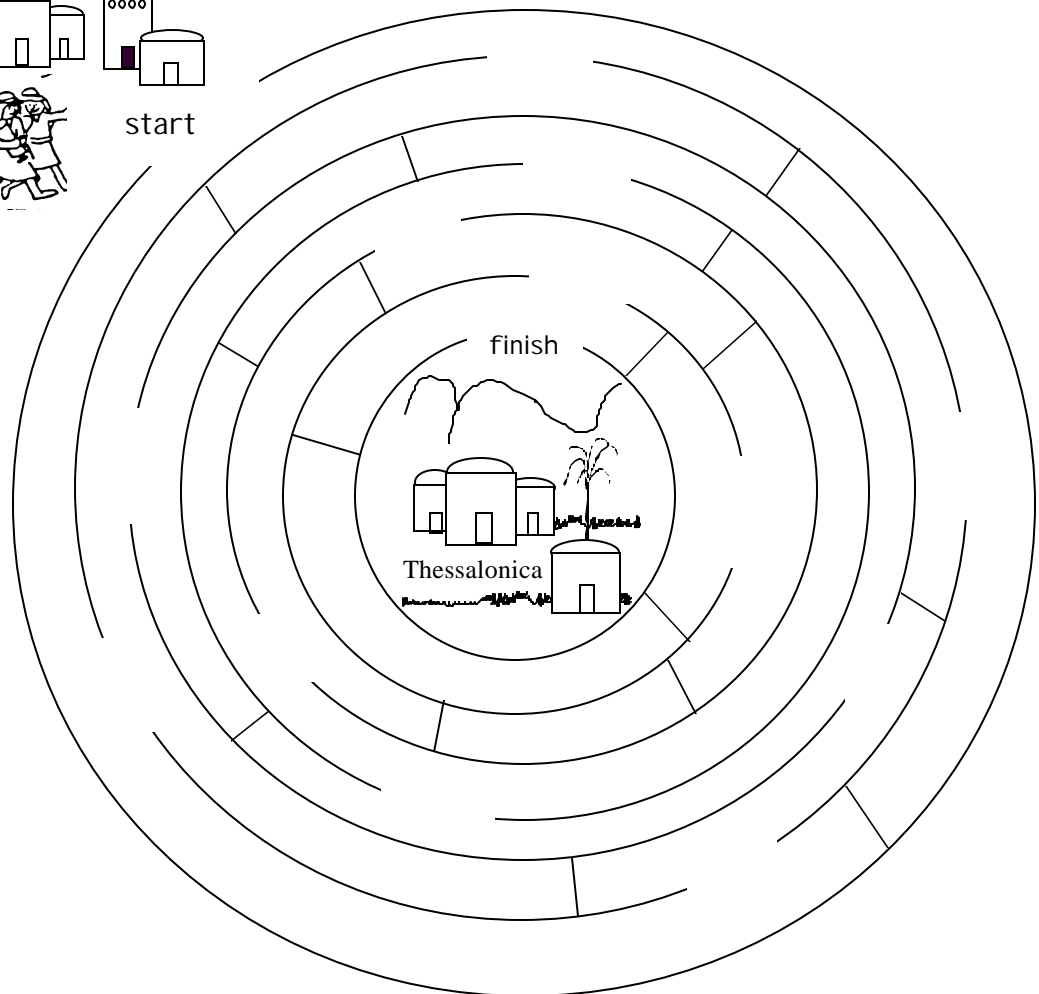
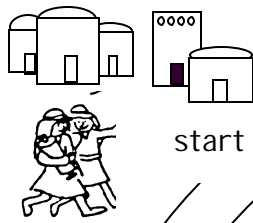
1 Thessalonians 2:13

God God God

men

Word Word Word

The apostle Paul was in Corinth when he wrote to encourage the Christians in Thessalonica as they were facing persecution. So he sent Silvanus and Timothy to deliver the letters. Help them find their way to the church.



1 Thessalonians 2:13

O	A	P	U	J	S	Q	V	B	O	Y	V
K	T	C	T	G	X	R	T	V	L	T	D
K	W	T	C	R	W	T	P	L	O	H	K
X	E	K	M	E	S	U	A	C	E	B	Q
Y	E	H	A	C	P	U	Y	D	B	A	Z
L	K	D	C	E	N	T	M	W	J	M	A
L	Y	P	G	I	V	V	E	C	O	J	D
A	K	K	T	V	H	I	O	D	C	R	H
U	R	N	M	E	T	W	L	O	A	D	D
T	O	A	D	D	N	A	N	E	H	W	T
C	W	H	K	U	S	W	H	K	B	Q	T
A	C	T	V	F	P	B	C	M	Z	Y	H

Find the missing words in the memory verse below in the word search puzzle above.

Hint: One word in the puzzle appears three times in the memory verse.

“And we also _____ God _____,
 when you _____ the _____ of God, _____
 you _____ from us, you _____ it not as the
 _____ of men, but as it _____ is, the _____
 of God, which is at _____ in you who _____.”

1 Thessalonians 2:13

No Fear

*“Have no fear of sudden disaster
or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,
for the LORD will be your confidence and will
keep your foot from being snared.”
Proverbs 3:25-26*

In God We Trust

*“In God I trust; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?”
Psalm 56:11*

Strength

*“Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the LORD.”
Psalm 31:24*

Our Stronghold

*“The LORD is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men
advance against me to devour my flesh, when my
enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble
and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart
will not fear; though war break out against me,
even then will I be confident.”
Psalm 27:1-3*

What Can Man Do To Me?

*“So we say with confidence,
‘The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?’”
Hebrews 13:6*

God Is With You

*“Be strong and courageous. Do not be
afraid or terrified because of them, for the
LORD your God goes with you; He will never
leave you nor forsake you.”
Deuteronomy 31:6*

He Cares for Us

*“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”
1 Peter 5:7*

God Is Ever-present

*“God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the
earth give way and the mountains
fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.”
Psalm 46:1-2*

God’s Protection

*“The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the
everlasting arms.
He will drive out your
enemy before you,
saying ‘Destroy him!’”
Deuteronomy 33:27*

The Strength of God

*“For this reason I kneel before the
Father, from whom His whole family in
heaven and on earth derives its name. I
pray that out of His glorious riches He
may strengthen you with power through
His Spirit in your inner being.”
Ephesians 3:14-16*

No Separation

*“No, in all these things we are more than
conquerors through Him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death nor
life, neither angels nor demons, neither the
present nor the future, nor any powers,
neither height nor depth, nor anything
else in all creation, will be able to separate
us from the love of God that is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Romans 8:37*

Walk in Confidence

*“But those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.”
Isaiah 40:31*

Hang in There

*“Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up.”
Galatians 6:9*

Stand Against Evil

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His
mighty power. Put on the full armor of God
so that you can take your stand against
the devil’s schemes.”
Ephesians 6:10*

Persecuted for Christ

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you
when people insult you, persecute you,
and falsely say all kinds of evil against
you because of Me.”
Matthew 5:10-11*

Give Me Strength

*“I can do everything through Him who
gives me strength.”
Philippians 4:13*

Persevere and Be Blessed

*“As you know, we consider blessed those
who have persevered. You have heard of
Job’s perseverance and have seen what
the Lord finally brought about. The Lord
is full of compassion and mercy.”
James 5:11*

The Test of Faith

*“Because you know that the testing of
your faith develops perseverance.
Perseverance must finish its work so
that you may be mature and complete,
not lacking anything.”
James 1:3-4*

Trust Him

*“The LORD is good,
a refuge in times of trouble.
He cares for those who trust in Him.”
Nahum 1:7*

Do Not Despair

*“We are hard pressed on every side, but not
crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;
persecuted, but not abandoned; struck
down, but not destroyed.”
2 Corinthians 4:8-9*

My Life Preserver

*“Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
You preserve my life; You stretch out
Your hand against the anger of my
foes, with Your right hand
You save me.”
Psalm 138:7*

He Is Sympathetic

*“For we do not have a high priest who is
unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,
but we have one who has been tempted in
every way, just as we are—yet was without
sin. Let us then approach the throne of
grace with confidence, so that we may
receive mercy and find grace to help us in
our time of need.”
Hebrews 4:15-16*

Hope Through Perseverance

*“And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of
God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in
our sufferings, because we know that
suffering produces perseverance;
perseverance, character; and character,
hope. And hope does not disappoint us,
because God has poured out His love into
our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
whom He has given us.”
Romans 5:2b-5*

Delivered from Trouble

*“The righteous cry out, and
the LORD hears them; He delivers them
from all their troubles. The LORD is
close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in
spirit. A righteous man may have many
troubles, but the LORD delivers Him
from them all.”
Psalm 34:17*

Held up by God

*“So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with My
righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10*

Hold on to the Hope

*“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we
profess, for He who promised is faithful.”
Hebrews 10:23*

Be Encouraged

*“May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself
and God our Father, who loved us and
by His grace gave us eternal
encouragement and good hope,
encourage your hearts and strengthen
you in every good
deed and word.”
2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

Stand Firm

*“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm.
Let nothing move you. Always give
yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,
because you know that your labor in the
Lord is not in vain.”
1 Corinthians 15:58*

Rejoice in Suffering

*“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the
painful trial you are suffering, as though
something strange were happening to you.
But rejoice that you participate in the
sufferings of Christ, so that you may be
overjoyed when His glory is revealed.”
1 Peter 4:12-13*

Endure

*“And we pray this in order that you may live a
life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in
every way: bearing fruit in every good work,
growing in the knowledge of God, being
strengthened with all power according to His
glorious might so that you may have great
endurance and patience, and joyfully giving
thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to
share in the inheritance of the saints in the
kingdom of light.”
Colossians 1:10-12*

My Rock

“The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.”

Psalms 18:2-3

You Will Be Persecuted

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

2 Timothy 3:12-15

Eternal Hope

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Revelation 21:4

Be Patient for What Is Ahead

“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.”

James 5:7-8

Endure for the Hope

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

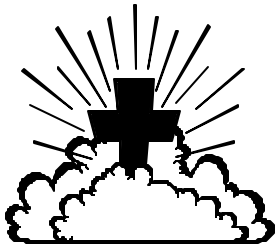
May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 15:4-6

Persevere for the Promise

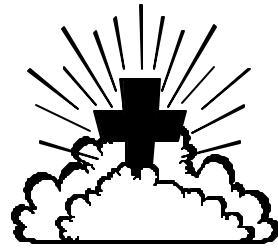
“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. For in just a very little while, ‘He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.’ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.”

Hebrews 10:35-39



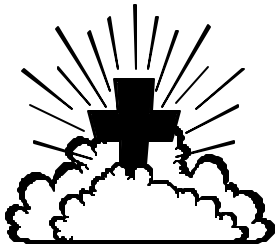
***The Power to
Persevere***

Daily Verses for Encouragement



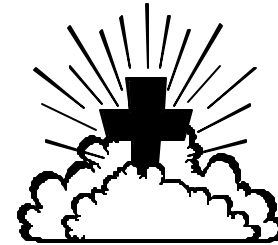
***The Power to
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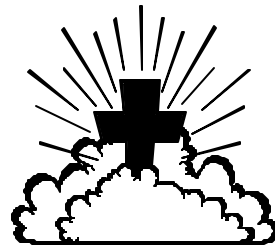
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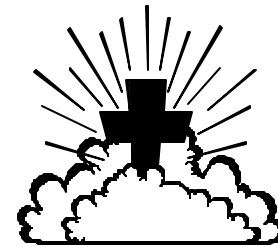
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***The Power to
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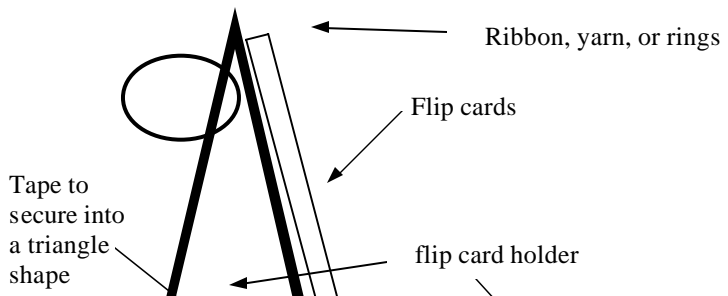
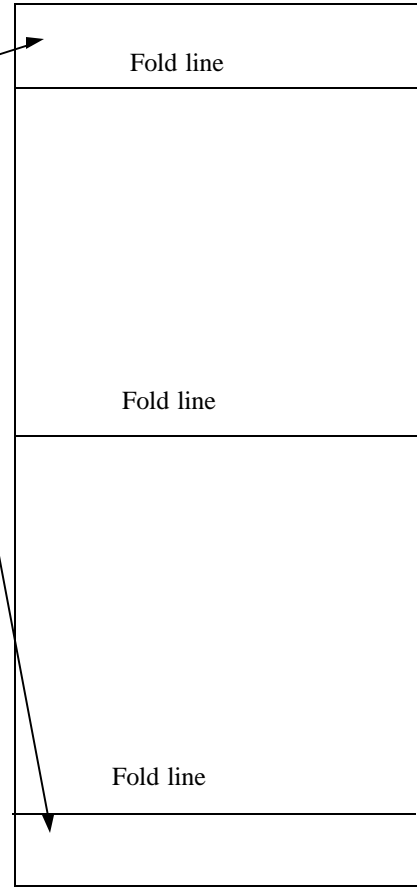
Daily Verses for Encouragement

Perseverance Flip Cards Instruction Sheet

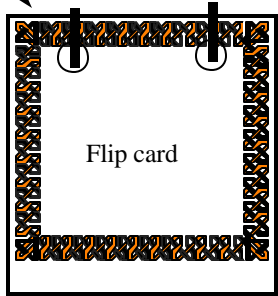
Cut out the cards and punch two holes at the top in the same location on each card. String a ribbon, piece of yarn or use metal rings (available at an office supply store) to connect all the cards. Construct the flip card holder by cutting an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of heavy cardstock paper lengthwise in half. You can make two holders from one sheet of cardstock. Fold this piece now in half lengthwise, and crease. Fold in each end approximately 1". Tape these together to form a triangle-shaped holder (see illustration). Punch holes at the top of the triangle-shaped holder in the same spots that you have punched the cards. Now you are ready to thread the ribbons, yarn, or rings through, and fasten them so that the cards hang on the holder.



Approx.
1"



Side view



Front view

Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. Who forced Paul and Silas out of Thessalonica?
2. Where was Paul previously beaten up for preaching the Gospel?
3. Why did Paul share the Gospel in Thessalonica?
4. How did the Thessalonians respond to the message?
5. How does a person persevere through persecution?
6. Who do you know that needs to hear the Gospel even though it may bring persecution?

God's Word tells Christians to expect difficult times of persecution because of their love for Christ.

Do you share Christ with others and stand up for the Gospel even when it is not popular to do so?

Ask God to give you boldness and strength to share His Word.

1
Thessalonians
Chapters 2 & 3

“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe.”

Passage Review Questions

1 Thessalonians Chapters 2 -3

What happened to Paul and his companions in Philippi? (2:2)

Whom does Paul say he speaks to please and why? (2:4)

Did Paul have any authority over the Thessalonian church? Why or why not?
(2:6)

What two things did Paul impart to the Thessalonian believers? (2:8)

How were Paul and his companions supported financially at Thessalonica?
(2:9)

For what purpose was Paul treating the Thessalonians as his children? (2:10-

12)

Did the Thessalonians reject Paul's message or accept it? (2:13)

What authority did the Thessalonians place on Paul's message? (2:13)

Were the Thessalonians persecuted for their beliefs in God? (2:14)

Who was Paul's constant adversary during his ministry? (2:18)

Whom did Paul send to strengthen and encourage the believers at Thessalonica? (3:2)

Did Paul know that he and his fellow workers would suffer persecution for the sake of the Gospel? (3:4)

What was Paul's fear for the Thessalonian church and an important reason why he sent Timothy? (3:5)

What message did Timothy report back to Paul concerning the Thessalonian church? (3:6)

During Paul's suffering, what brought him great joy and comfort? (3:7-8)

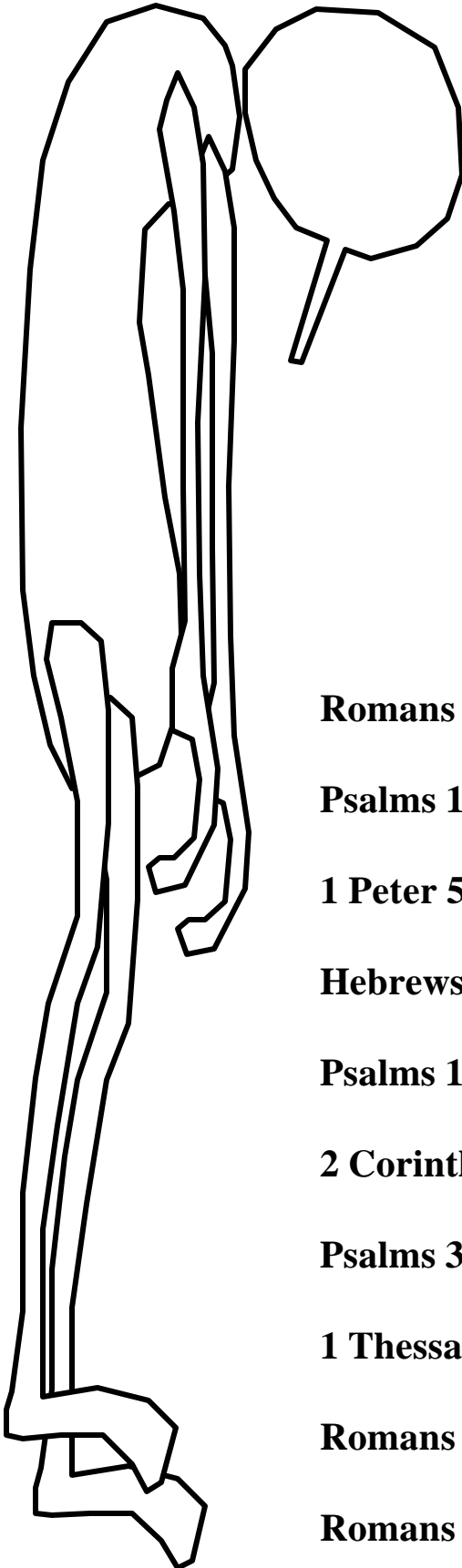
How often did Paul and his companions pray for the Thessalonians? (3:10)

What were some things that Paul prayed for concerning these believers? (3:11-13)

Why Suffer?

Do you ever feel as though you are suffering and being persecuted? Have you ever suffered for Christ? What do you think that God's plan is for our suffering?

Let's take a look at some of the reasons why Christians suffer. Look up the verses below in your Bible and draw a line to the appropriate purpose of the suffering that is in the passage.



(Righteousness, peace)

Romans 5:3

(To prevent conceit)

Psalms 126:5-6

(To make us patient)

1 Peter 5:10

(God is sovereign)

Hebrews 12:11

(To instill obedience)

Psalms 119:67

2 Corinthians 12:7

(Strong, steadfast)

Psalms 32:3-5

(To share in God's glory)

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

(Makes us confess our sin)

Romans 8:12-17

(Joy)

Romans 8:28

(To be a model for others)

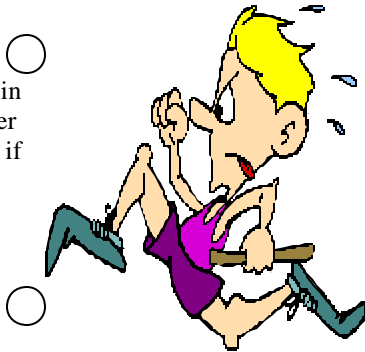
“Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.”
Psalm 31:24



“So we say with confidence,
“The Lord is my helper; I
will not be afraid. What can
man do to me?””
Hebrews 13:6



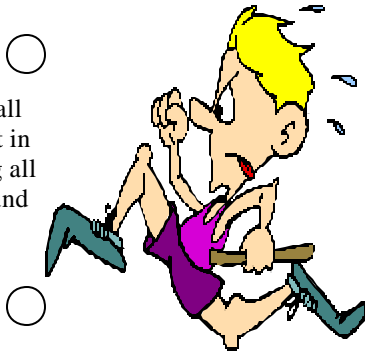
“Let us not become weary in
doing good, for at the proper
time we will reap a harvest if
we do not give up.”
Galatians 6:9



“I can do everything through
Him who gives me strength.”
Philippians 4:13



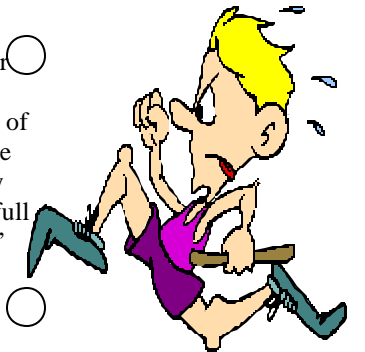
“And God is able to make all
grace abound to you, so that in
all things at all times, having all
that you need, you will abound
in every good work.”
2 Corinthians 9:8



“But those who hope in the
LORD will renew their
strength. They will soar on
wings like eagles; they will
run and not grow weary, they
will walk and not be faint.”
Isaiah 40:31



“As you know, we consider
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“Because you know that the
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James 1:3-4



“In God I trust; I will not be
afraid. What can man do
to me?”
Psalm 56:11



“Dear friends, do not be
surprised at the painful trial
you are suffering, as though
something strange were
happening to you. But rejoice
that you participate in the
sufferings of Christ, so that
you may be overjoyed when
His glory is revealed.”
1 Peter 4:12-13

