

Future Return: Present Holiness

Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade

= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade



Memory Work:

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18





Hook:





The Messy Room (Skit). ,  Set up two messy bedrooms. You might have a lamp with stuff hanging on the shade, pop cans and dirty dishes spread throughout, clothes and toys on the floor and stuff piled up on a chair (the messier the better). Have two helpers dress up as typical teenagers who are playing a video game or reading comic books with headsets on; one may be talking on the phone to a friend, etc. Setting the stage is very important. Have two teachers, playing their parents, come in and tell them that they are going away for a little while, but will return. When the parents return, they expect the room to be clean to prevent any consequences. The parents don't say how long they will be gone or when they will return, but they clearly state the expectation. After the parents leave, the teenagers, in turn, think out loud. One will be thinking: “Yeah, the room is a mess, I didn't realize how bad it was. It really does need cleaning. I had better hurry and get the job done because I don't know when my parents will return. You know, I really know better than to let my room get so messy.” After he or she is finished, the helper should pick up a Bible and read. The other teenager thinks out loud: “I wonder how long Mom and Dad will be gone? Oh, I have plenty of time. I'll just wait until later. When they go shopping, they're always gone all day. I'll have time to finish this video game or the comic.” This helper remains distracted with a variety of issues (be creative). The parents then re-enter the scene and are very happy that the one child completed the tasks that they were asked to do and disappointed with the other. They then mention that it is time to go to dinner and a movie. The one who didn't complete their responsibilities is not invited to go. Explain to the students that, in the same way, when Christ returns, He expects us to be ready for Him.



It's in the Bag (Game). ,  Items needed: a paper bag for each student, 8-10 decks of cards, all different and all shuffled together. When the students enter the room, give each of them a brown paper bag. Tell them that when the game starts they are to find and pick up one complete suit of cards, ace-king, from one of the decks. They are not to have any different suits or cards from different decks in their bags. Create some anticipation. Say that you will be leaving for a little while, (out into the hall), but will return. Just before leaving the room, throw all of the cards into the air and throughout the room. When you return, any of the students who have found a complete suit from one deck receives a prize (candy bar or something desirable).



Dark and Light/ Day and Night (Activity). ,  Hang a sheet of black paper with a moon over the top and a sheet of white paper with a sun over the top on the wall. Talk about ways we please and displease God. As the students come up with ideas, write these on the sheets of paper respectively. Tell them that this morning they will hear how Paul describes people who are living in "the day or light" and those who are "living in the night or darkness." True children of God will be day people.



Pursuit of Holiness While We Wait (Activity). 🍌, 🦋 Before class, distribute several sets of **1TH04.GF1 Pgs. 1-4** throughout the room for the students to find. As the students arrive, remind them of what they learned last week of how Christ will return and all believers will be reunited with Him. This gives us great hope for the future, but what are we called to do in the meantime? Tell them that this morning they will learn that, until Christ returns, we are to be daily continuing to pursue holiness. How do we do this? Certainly not on our own. If we are His children, He will give us the desire and ability to do what is right. Next, give them each a suitcase, **1TH04.GF1 Pg. 5**, and send them on their way to gather four different pictures showing children pursuing holiness by doing what is right. Once they have collected four, they can sit at a table and color their suitcases and pictures. Talk with your students about why they chose those pictures and why they think they represent something that pleases God.



Are You Prepared for a Surprise? (Game). 🍌, 🦋 Tell the students that this morning's lesson focuses on being diligent to pursue holiness while we wait for the Lord's return. This game might be best if played while the students complete the HOOK time activity, "Pursuit of Holiness While We Wait"; however, it could be played separately. The idea is to catch the students off guard while they are busy doing something else and have them receive a pleasant surprise if they complete the requested task. This task might be as simple as running over and touching a Bible in the corner of the room or reciting the memory verse. The surprise then should be some sort of a treat. The method of announcing the surprise is up to the teacher to decide. It could be a trumpet blast, stopping the music that is being played in the background, ringing a bell, or sounding a buzzer. Discuss with the students that, as we go about our work here on earth, we should live in anticipation of Christ's return. What a great surprise that will be. When He arrives, we want to be caught doing what is right.



Book:

Presentation Ideas –



Are You Ready for the Trip? (Presentation Idea). 🍌, 🦋 Prior to class, prepare a suitcase similar to last week's. You may want to have a camera around your neck, sunglasses, Hawaii brochure in your pocket, etc. Make sure you have some items in the suitcase, including a Bible. The suitcase should have lots of decals on it from exotic places. Review last week's lesson of getting ready for a trip. Tell the students that today they will learn what happens if we are ready, along with what happens if we aren't. "In the twinkling of an eye," the ship will be pulling out. Will you be on it or waving from the dock?

Bible Adventure for K-2nd Grades –

With all the persecution and suffering the Thessalonians had experienced, the news of Christ's return was wonderful to hear. It gave them hope to know that one day all believers would be together with Christ, even the ones who already died. But the Thessalonians had many questions to ask Paul about the coming of Christ. Just when would He come back, and how would they know He is coming?

In chapter five of 1 Thessalonians, Paul told his dear friends that Christ would come "like a thief in the night." By this he meant that Christ's return would be totally unexpected. If you expected a thief and knew what time he was coming, you would be prepared by locking the house, calling the police, etc. However, Paul said that people wouldn't know exactly when Christ will come back, in the same way that people don't know when a thief is going to come. At first this may not seem very helpful. We would all like to know the day of Christ's return and be prepared for it, but it is important to remember that God knows what we need better than anyone else. If we knew the exact time of His return many people would behave much differently. Some might be lazy and sinful right up to the time of His return and then offer a quick prayer of forgiveness and still hope to get to heaven. This is not how God wants us to live.

Paul then went on to make a comparison between believers and unbelievers at Christ's coming. Unbelievers live like it is nighttime. Any police officer can tell you that more crime happens at night than in the day. More people do drugs, get drunk, and do other wicked things at night. These people will be caught off guard and unprepared for Christ's return. They will be surprised in the same way that they

would be surprised if someone broke into their home at night. In that day, they will not be able to escape the coming judgment of Jesus for their sins.

Paul instructed the Thessalonians that they should not live in the same way unbelievers live. They should live like it is always daytime and not participate in sinful acts that unbelievers do. They could be encouraged because Paul had already told them that their spiritual growth and good deeds were obvious to everyone. They were among the ones who would be blessed by Christ's return and not those who were going to be judged for their wickedness.

But specifically, how should believers live in light of Christ's unexpected return? Paul gave a helpful list to guide the Thessalonians. Christians should treat their teachers with respect, work hard to support themselves, live at peace with each other, and encourage each other to love God even more. They should not take revenge when someone has wronged them but rather they should always be kind. Finally, Paul told them to "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18). They needed to reject anything that was evil and hold on to all that is good.

You may hear what Paul told the Thessalonians and think, "Yikes! I can never be that good!" You know you still get angry, hit back, complain, and generally find all sorts of ways to get into trouble. The good news is that it is God's grace and power that enables us to live holy lives. 1 Thessalonians 5:24 tells us, "The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it." We must continually cry out to God and ask Him to help us get rid of our sin and to live holy lives. It is God who saved us and He will be faithful to help us lead lives that are pleasing to Him, even in the midst of persecution and suffering. Isn't that an awesome hope?

In conclusion, be ready for Christ's return. Jesus is coming back to judge the living and the dead, the believer and the unbeliever. He will come back at a time when no one expects it. For the unbeliever, Christ's judgment will be harsh and full of the fury of His wrath. For the believer, it will be the final step of salvation and a time of immeasurable joy. Live in fear of Christ's return, putting away any kind of sin and wickedness. Live a life pleasing to God and rely on God's power to help you do it. Remember the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:24, "The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it."

Bible Adventure for 3^d – 6th Grades –

We've learned from looking at the book of 1 Thessalonians that the church that Paul began in Thessalonica grew very rapidly. It grew in spite of persecution by non-believers. In the letter Paul wrote to encourage them, he reminded them that one day all believers would be united in Christ. They were not to grieve like the world did over loved ones who had died—with no hope—because Christians have every reason to hope. Jesus is coming back to this earth to gather to Himself everyone whose heart is truly His. Often when we face difficulties in life, our hearts will cry out, "When will Christ come back?" In the last chapter of 1 Thessalonians, Paul, who, like the rest of us, did not know the answer to that question, shared some things he did know about it with his brothers in Christ.

The Thessalonians were still struggling with the timing of Christ's return. In chapter four, Paul taught them about the rapture of the church, when Christ returns for all believers. They were to remind each other that this was going to take place, and so encourage one another. In chapter five, he writes about the "Day of the Lord." The Thessalonians had heard these words before, and they knew the day of the Lord was to be a time when Christ would come back to pour out blessings on His own people, and also to judge the nations for their rebellion against Him. This appearing of Christ would be at a different time than when He appears at the rapture. Paul wrote that, at the day of the Lord, Christ would come like a thief in the night. It would be totally unexpected. Why did God choose to do it this way? Well, think about it this way—if you knew a thief was coming, you'd lock all the doors and windows, turn the lights on, and maybe even call the police. You'd get prepared. Perhaps Christ will come when no one expects it so that He can see how we live our lives when we think He's not watching closely. God knows our hearts and knows that if we knew the exact time of Jesus' return, we could maybe play around with sin right up to the time we knew He was coming, then ask for forgiveness and think everything is all right. The Bible says our hearts are "deceitful...and beyond cure" (Jeremiah 17:9), and we are not above trying to fool others into thinking that we are something we're not. We can even fool ourselves. We've all known people who seemed very nice when someone in authority was around, like a teacher or parent. But let the person in authority leave the room and all kinds of mischief and evil come out. The person you are inside comes out when you think no one is looking. The point is, if you're a true believer, you're going to

live for Christ all the time, no matter who is watching.

One of the big lies a non-Christian buys into is that God either does not exist or He doesn't see or care what we do. Paul says the unbeliever belongs to the darkness or the night. He or she lives like it is nighttime all the time. Any police officer will tell you that more crime happens at night than during the day. More people do drugs, get drunk, and commit crimes at night. People seem to think that darkness will cover up their wicked deeds, although they freely do their wickedness during the day, too. These people will be surprised and unprepared for Christ's return, the way they would if a thief broke into their home while they were sleeping.

Paul tells the Thessalonians that they should not be spiritually asleep, like an unbeliever, living the way an unbeliever does. A Christian should live like it is always day because in reality it is. God's light fills our lives and nothing is hidden from His sight. For the unbeliever, the day of the Lord will be a fearful thing. Paul wrote that "While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly" (vs. 3). There will be no escape. The wonderful thing is that God will not direct His wrath or anger against those who belong to Christ. The wrath of God is something to take very, very seriously, and Paul warned the Thessalonians to stay alert spiritually and not allow sin to control their lives. He wanted them to continue to follow Christ and to build each other up in the Lord.

Paul continued the letter by telling the Thessalonians specific things they could work on as they waited for Christ's promised return. He taught them that they should treat their teachers and pastors with respect and love. They were to be at peace with one another, being patient and kind and forgiving toward one another. They were not to pay back evil with evil, but to seek what was good for everyone they knew. Their hearts were to be filled with joy, prayer was to be offered up to God often, and they were to be thankful people.

Paul's words are for us, too, but most Christians would agree that it is hard to live up to this. We get angry with people, we hit back, we complain when things don't go our way. We find plenty of ways to fall short of God's perfect standard for us. Christians struggle with sin, just like unbelievers do. So how can we be any different from those who reject Christ? The answer is the grace of God. In chapter five, verse 23, Paul prayed that God would sanctify the Thessalonians "through and through." He asked God that every part of them—spirit, soul and body, would be set aside for Him. Paul knew that no one can live the Christian life unless God gives them the power to do it. We must cry out nonstop to God to help us get rid of our sin and live holy lives. There is no other way to live holy than to lean and depend upon God alone. But we know that if God gives us a command to live holy, He can give us the grace to do it. God did and will sanctify those whom He calls to be His children. He promises to finish the work He has started in each child of His. Doesn't that give you hope? If you are His child, God places in you the desire to live more and more holy. Through His power you can persevere through suffering and persecution and become stronger in Christ. He is the One who does the work.

1 Thessalonians five is just full of encouragement for us. First, if we belong to Christ, we can joyfully look forward to His return, knowing that we will escape the anger He has reserved for those who reject Him. We also have the hope that God will be working in our lives, helping us to become more like His Son all the time. Verse 24 says, "The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it." This whole chapter is like a list you can check over to see how Christians are to encourage each other. There are lots of action words here: respect, be joyful, pray, give thanks, be kind, live in peace, build each other up. That tells you we're not to sit around waiting for God to magically transform us. We know He could do that, but He wants us to do our part, too, by putting these action words to work in our lives. Begin today to work at being an encourager and living holy, and God will supply the power you need to do it.

Aim Questions:

- 1. When will Christ come back?** (*Unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.*)
- 2. What is He coming back to do for Christians?** (*Bodily save believers.*)
- 3. What is He coming back to do for non-Christians?** (*Punish them.*)
- 4. How should a person live if Christ will be coming back unexpectedly?** (*Pursuing holiness.*)
- 5. What ways did Christ give us to become more holy?** (*Respect for others, loving others, praying, rejoicing, not taking revenge, etc.*)
- 6. What areas can you focus on this week?**



Look:



Joy, Joy, Joy (Memory Verse Activity). 🐛, 🦋 Have the students find key words from the memory verse, 1Thessalonians 5:16-18, in the word search puzzle, **1TH04.GF2 Pg. 1**. As they find the words in the puzzle, they can color in the hollow letters of each word with a felt-tip or colored pencil. *Answer Key: 1TH04.GF2 Pg. 2.*



Are You Wearing Your Armor?" (Worksheet). 🦋 Each student will need:
1TH04.GF3 Pg. 1 copied onto cardstock
 a set of labels from **1TH04.GF3 Pg. 2** copied onto white paper
 scissors
 glue

Discuss with the students about today's Bible Adventure where they heard about Jesus coming back. We don't know exactly when He will, but we do know that He will. He has given us His Word so that we may put on "the armor of God" and be ready. Are you ready? Have the students look up the verses and determine if they pertain primarily to faith and love or hope of salvation. After reading the verse, they should cut out the label and paste it onto the appropriate box on the worksheet. They should be encouraged to take this home and place it where they can review the verses periodically so that they can check their armor. *Answer Key: 1TH04.GF3 Pg. 3.*



Day and Night Actions (Craft). 🐛, 🦋 Items needed:
 ½ sheet of yellow construction paper
 ½ sheet of dark blue or black construction paper
 yellow construction paper
 craft stick
 labels from **1TH04.GF4**
 scissors
 glue
 fine point-marker

Have the students paste the 1/2 sheet of yellow construction paper to the 1/2 sheet of dark blue or black construction paper with the craft stick sandwiched between. Then have them cut out the titles and actions of the day and night people and paste them on the correct side. To complete this craft, have the students draw a sun with a fine point-marker on the yellow side and paste a small yellow moon (cut from construction paper) on the other side. Write the students' names on the craft stick. Once completed, review the actions of the day people and night people by flipping the cards back and forth. These can be used as a game if the teacher calls out an action and all the students hold up the proper side toward the teacher. Encourage the students to be "day people" during the coming week.



Day & Night (Puzzle). 🐛, 🦋 Have the students place the items in the center column under the correct heading of day or night. Have them fill in the puzzle at the bottom of the page with the correct words, **1TH04.GF5**.



Breastplate and Helmet (Craft). 🐛, 🦋 Each student will need:
 paper grocery bag
 paper plate
 brad
 plastic milk jug cut in half
 yarn or ribbon
 verse labels from **1TH04.GF6**

Make a breastplate by cutting a paper grocery bag into a shape resembling a vest, with a hole cut in the top for the student's head and a hole for an arm on each side. This can be colored with markers or decorated with construction paper. Fasten a paper plate to the front with a brad. The helmet is made by cutting a plastic milk jug in half just below the handle. The bottom portion of the jug will be used for the helmet, and the handle portion can be used for a fun tossing game later in the morning's activities. Punch holes on both sides of the helmet and tie yarn or ribbon through the holes to be tied under the chin. These helmets of hope can be decorated with markers, paints, stickers, or construction paper. Paste the verse labels on the helmets and the breastplates. Won't it be great to see all of these "self-controlled" students roaming the halls after class?!

Excel Still More (Activity). 🦋 Group the students into appropriate teams unless the class as a whole is not too large. Group naturally because size is not as central to this activity as is teamwork. Remind students that they are not competing with other groups, but that they instead have the single objective to “excel still more” (1 Thess. 4:1,10). Begin by circling students and passing a tennis ball, or the like, across the circle to another student who is not immediately next to you in the circle. Address that person by name (“Here you go, Samantha”) and instruct them to respond using your name (“Thank you, Mrs. Jones”). Tell the students to remember who passed them the ball and to whom they are passing the ball, and to address everyone by name. Each person should handle the ball only once so that there is a clear sequence for passing through all the team members. Repeat this pattern a few times to reinforce the order. Now pull out a stopwatch and time this process. Tell the team how long it took and ask them if they believe they can “excel still more.” Time them again and note improvements. Tell them that there is only one rule to this activity, that every member must touch the ball in the proper order. Challenge them again and again to “excel still more”, encouraging the team to discuss creative new strategies for beating the previous time while asserting that there is truly only that one rule. Seize opportunities to stop the team discussions to point out appropriate teamwork and to address negative talk or attitude. (For the leader’s information only: two of the most successful strategies for the fastest time include placing the ball in the center of the team and having individuals tap the ball in the given order, or rolling the ball down over the fingers of the whole team in the proper order.) Allow the students to create strategies encouraging every idea and guiding only as necessary. When the group is satisfied with their time or when there is little time left for the activity, discuss with the students their thoughts about the activity. What is required of a team to “excel still more”? Did Paul consider the Thessalonians to be a sort of team when he exhorted them to “excel still more” in the instruction that he had given them? Why are the rules of an activity important to remember when excelling toward an objective?

Aim Questions (Worksheet). 🦋 Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today’s Bible Adventure, **1TH04.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, **1TH04.GF8**.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (Memory Verse Song). 🦋 Words and music for today’s memory verse are available upon request from Children’s Ministry.



Took:

Day and Night Toss and Catch (Game). 🦋, 🦋 With the top portion remaining from the milk jug, these make a great “toss and catch” game. Each student uses his or her milk jug, held upside down by the handle, as a large cup. The student tosses an object back and forth to a partner, who uses only his jug to catch the item and toss it back. Items to be used can be tennis balls, ping pong balls, beanbags, or even large marshmallows. The balls might be more challenging for the younger students as they have a tendency to bounce out. Be creative with this game as you incorporate it into this lesson. Have the students shout out “DAY” and “NIGHT” as they toss the object. Have them recite memory verses as they toss, or call out the actions of the day people that you have listed on the board for them. These “toss and catch” games can be collected and used again if the teacher wants to store them or they can be sent home with the student.

Day Light/Night Light (Game). 🦋, 🦋 This game is played the same as Red Light, Green Light, except that the yellow light is for go and the black light is for stop. You could also call out actions of day people and actions of night people, which allow the students to take steps either forward or backward. Have another teacher watch the students to make sure they are taking steps in the correct direction.



Holiness While We Wait (Doorknob Hanger Craft). 🦋, 🦋 Each student will need:

½ sheet of sky blue construction paper
½ sheet of yellow construction paper
1TH04.GF9 Pg. 1 instruction sheet
label from **1TH04.GF9 Pg. 2**
cotton balls
scissor
glue
yarn

Discuss with the students that, as we wait for the Lord's return, we need to be busy doing the work He has given us to do here on earth. He will help us to pursue holiness. He will give us the perseverance we need to have the hope for the future. We need to obey His instructions to us in His Word, listen to our parents, teachers and pastors, and imitate Christ. As people of the day, we will live our lives pleasing God every day as we anticipate His return. He wants us to be alert and self-controlled, working hard, encouraging the timid, living in peace, helping the weak, and being patient. We are to be joyful always, giving thanks for everything, and continually praying. Remember, "The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it." Have the students assemble the craft as shown on the instruction sheet, but be sure to leave time for prayer at the end. Send this craft home to hang on the bedroom doorknob as a reminder for this next week to live like day people in anticipation of Christ's return.



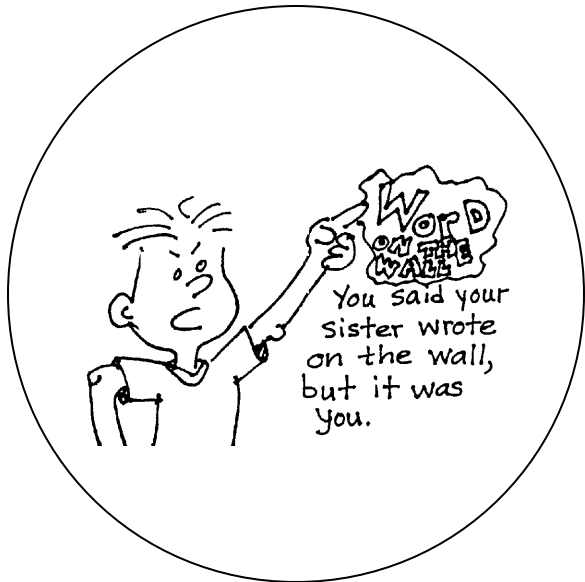
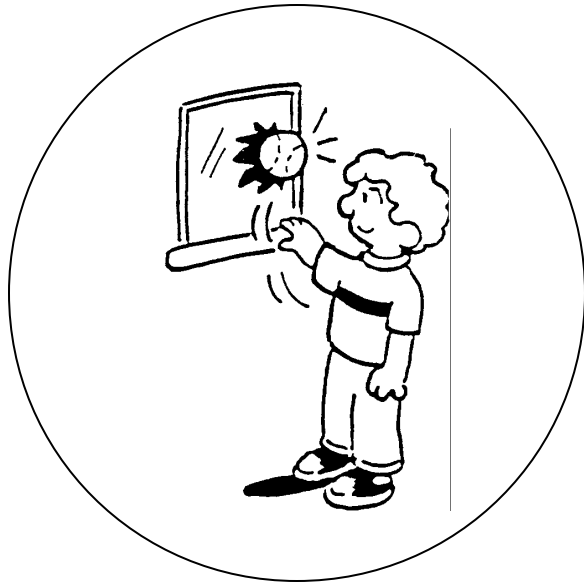
We Belong To The Day Sun Catcher (Craft). 🦋, 🦋 Each student will need:

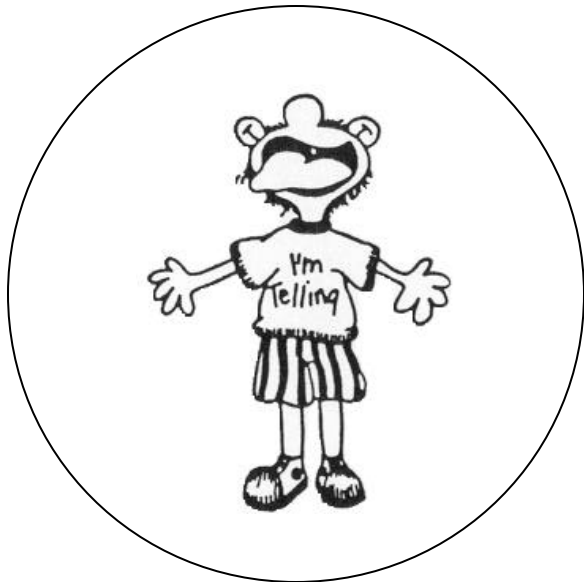
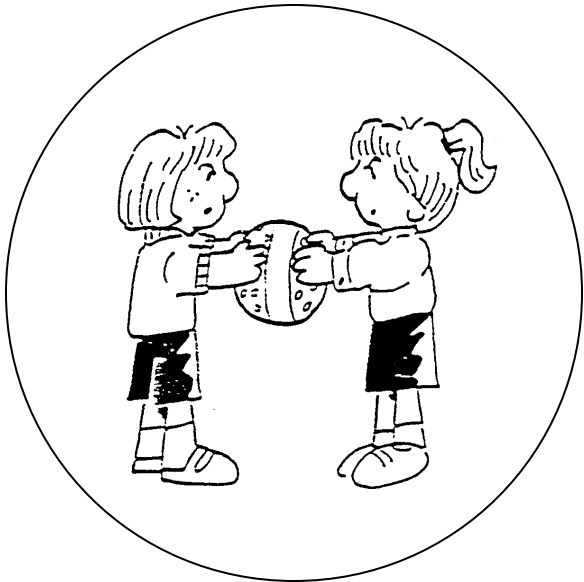
sheet of transparency film
1TH04.GF10 Pg. 1 instruction sheet
2 circles (one plain, one with writing) from **1TH04.GF10 Pg. 2** copied onto yellow cardstock
2 yellow chenille wires cut into approximately 16 1-inch pieces

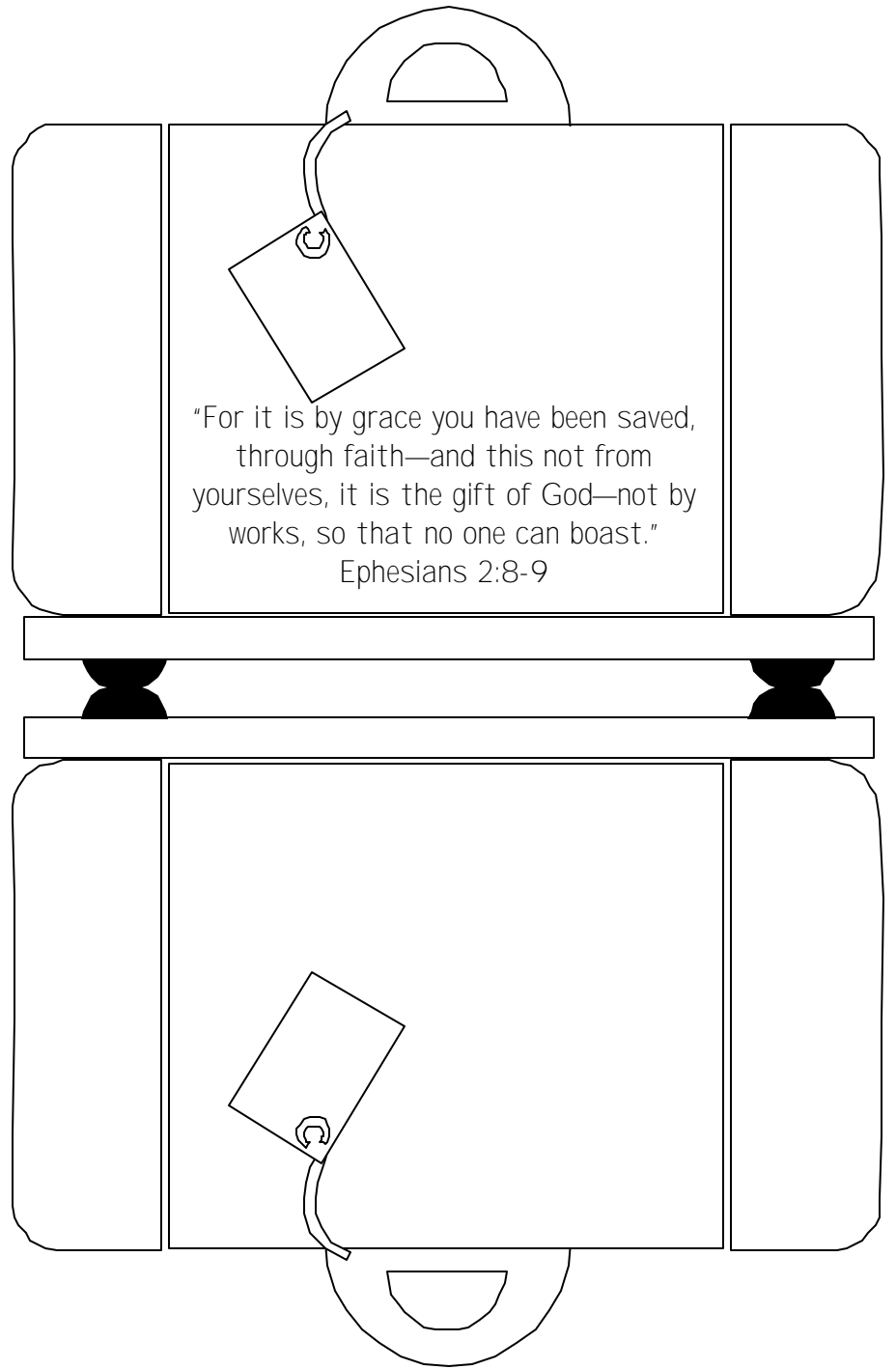
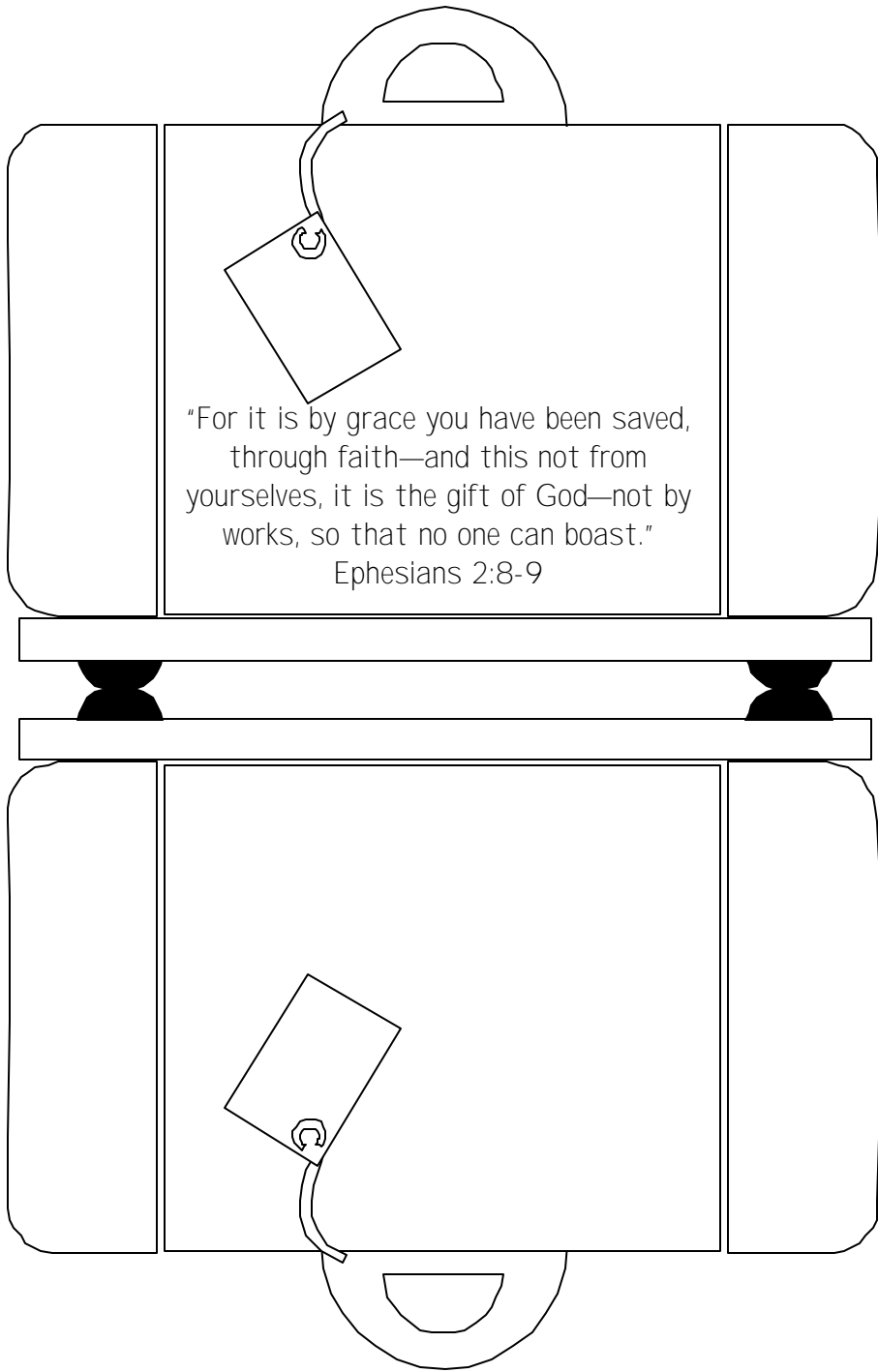
Have the students assemble the craft as shown on the instruction sheet to make this window decoration that will hopefully help them to remember to please God in everything they do. Have them take it home and tape it to the window.



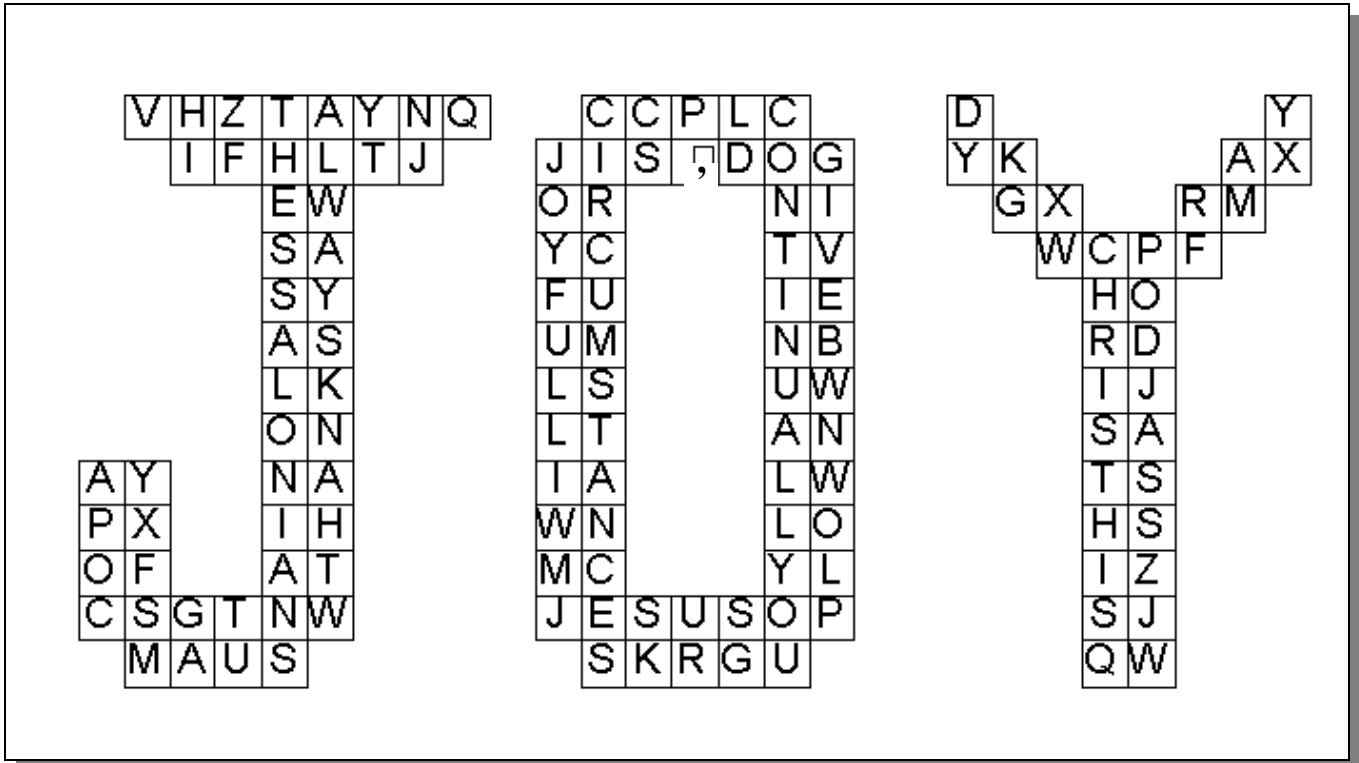








JOY, JOY, JOY



In the word search puzzle above, find the following words found in
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:

**always, Christ, circumstances, continually, for, give,
God's, Jesus, joyful, pray, thanks, Thessalonians, this, will, you**

In the verse below, color in the words with a felt-tip or colored pencil as you
find them in the puzzle.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17
 " Be joyful always;
 pray continually;
 give thanks in all
 circumstances, for this is God's
 will for you in Christ Jesus."

JOY, JOY, JOY

Answer Key

V H Z T A Y N Q
 I F H L T J
 E W
 S A
 S Y
 A S
 L K
 O N
 N A
 I H
 A T
 N W
 S

A Y
 P X
 O F
 C S G T
 M A U S

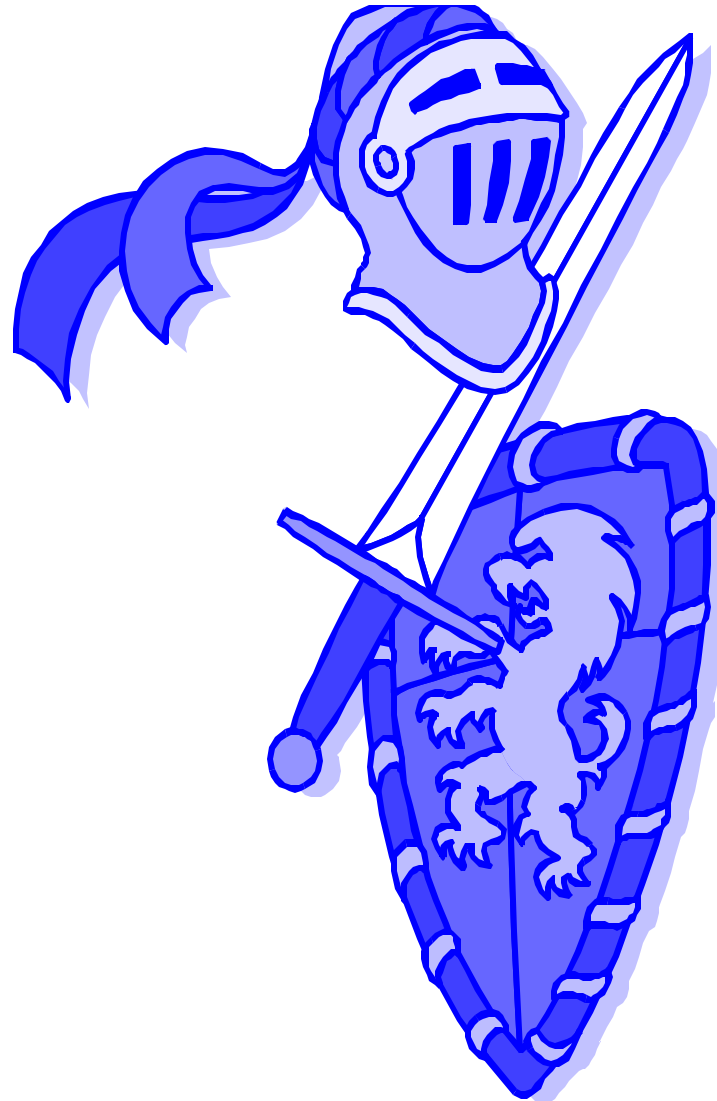
C C P L C
 J I S ' D O G
 O R N I
 Y C T V
 F U I N B
 U M S U W
 L S J U A N
 L T A L W
 I A L L O
 W N L O L
 M C Y L P
 J E S U S O P
 S K R G U

D Y K G X W C P F
 R M
 H O
 R D
 I J
 S A
 T S
 H S
 I Z
 S J
 Q W

always
 Christ
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Are You Wearing Your Armor?

Faith and Love



Hope of Salvation

“But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.”

1 Thessalonians 5:8

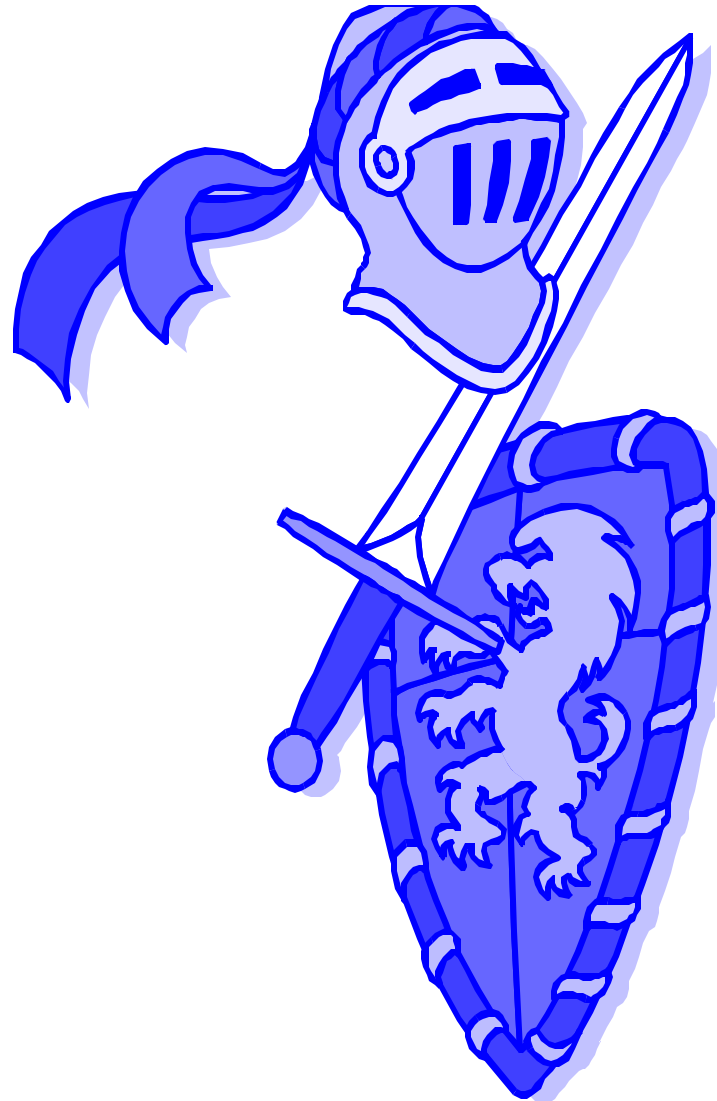
Hebrews 11:1	Matt. 19:19	Romans 5:9,10	Acts 13:36-39
Hebrews 11:6	Mark 12:30, 31	Romans 10:9	Romans 5:2
Romans 1:20	Luke 6:35	Galatians 3:26-29	Psalms 71:5
Ephesians 2:8	John 14:15-21	Romans 3:21-24	Psalms 119:81
1 John 4:7-11	2 Tim. 4:7,8	2 Cor. 7:10	1 John 3:4-6
Galatians 5:6	1 John 1:9	John 3:16-18	Titus 3:4-7

Hebrews 11:1	Matt. 19:19	Romans 5:9,10	Acts 13:36-39
Hebrews 11:6	Mark 12:30, 31	Romans 10:9	Romans 5:2
Romans 1:20	Luke 6:35	Galatians 3:26-29	Psalms 71:5
Ephesians 2:8	John 14:15-21	Romans 3:21-24	Psalms 119:81
1 John 4:7-11	2 Tim. 4:7,8	2 Cor. 7:10	1 John 3:4-6
Galatians 5:6	1 John 1:9	John 3:16-18	Titus 3:4-7

Are You Wearing Your Armor?

Faith and Love

Hebrews 11:1	Matt. 19:19
Hebrews 11:6	Mark 12:30, 31
Romans 1:20	Luke 6:35
Ephesians 2:8	John 14:15-21
1 John 4:7-11	2 Tim. 4:7,8
Galatians 5:6	1 John 1:9



Hope of Salvation

Romans 5:9,10	Acts 13:36-39
Romans 10:9	Romans 5:2
Galatians 3:26-29	Psalm 71:5
Romans 3:21-24	Psalm 119:81
2 Cor. 7:10	1 John 3:4-6
John 3:16-18	Titus 3:4-7

“But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.”

1 Thessalonians 5:8

“Night” people
do things which

“Day” people
do things which

Don't follow God's instructions	Strive to obey God in all you do
Get drunk	Work hard with your hands
Take drugs	Mind your own business
Be idle or lazy	Be patient with everyone
Grumble and complain	Help the weak
Be unkind	Always be kind
Think of yourself first	Give thanks in all circumstances
Have an ungrateful spirit	Be self-controlled
Ignore God	Pray continually
Tell lies	Be joyful always
Steal	Encourage the timid
Argue	Be honest
Take revenge	Live in peace with others
Take the easiest way	Hold on to what is good
Look out for only me	Avoid every kind of evil

Place all the following items under either the DAY or NIGHT

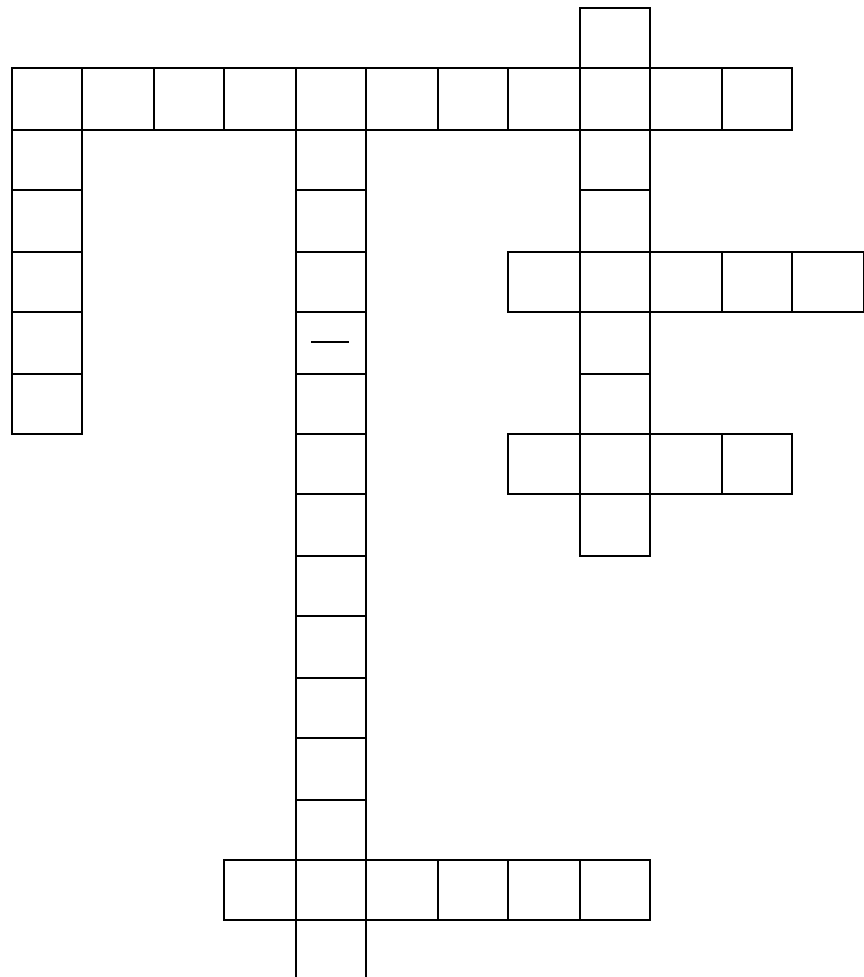


- A. listen to God's instruction in the Bible
- B. get drunk
- C. encourage others
- D. work with your hands
- E. pay back a wrong
- F. help the weak
- G. always be kind
- H. give thanks in all circumstances
- I. pray continually
- J. be self-controlled
- K. be idle or lazy
- L. put on faith
- M. be joyful always
- N. encourage the timid
- O. ignore God
- P. be honest
- Q. tell lies
- R. steal
- S. take drugs
- T. put on love



WORD POOL

- self-controlled
- breastplate
- salvation
- helmet
- belong
- faith
- hope



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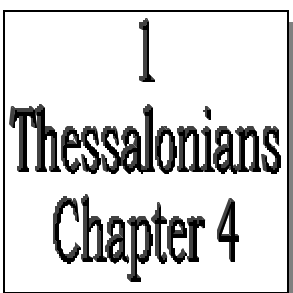
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Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. When will Christ come back?
2. What is He coming back to do for Christians?
3. What is He coming back to do to non-Christians?
4. How should a person live if Christ will be coming back unexpectedly?
5. What ways did Christ give us to become more holy?
6. What areas can you focus on this week?

Jesus is coming back to judge the living and the dead, the believer and the unbeliever. Because Christ is coming back when we don't expect it and because He is our Savior, we should pursue holiness now.



“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Passage Review Questions

1 Thessalonians 5

How does Paul describe the quickness of Christ's coming? (5:2)

What will happen to unbelievers when Christ returns? (5:3)

How should believers be living their lives right now? (5:4-6, 8)

To what have believers been destined? (5:9)

Does it matter if we are dead or alive in order to be with Christ when He comes? (5:10)

What should we do for one another in reflection upon Christ's coming? (5:11)

How does Paul say the Thessalonians, as well as you, should treat elders, Bible School teachers, pastors, and anyone who teaches us the Word? (5:12-13)

How should the Thessalonians and we be treating one another? (5:14-15)

List some things that we should be doing as believers. (5:16-22)

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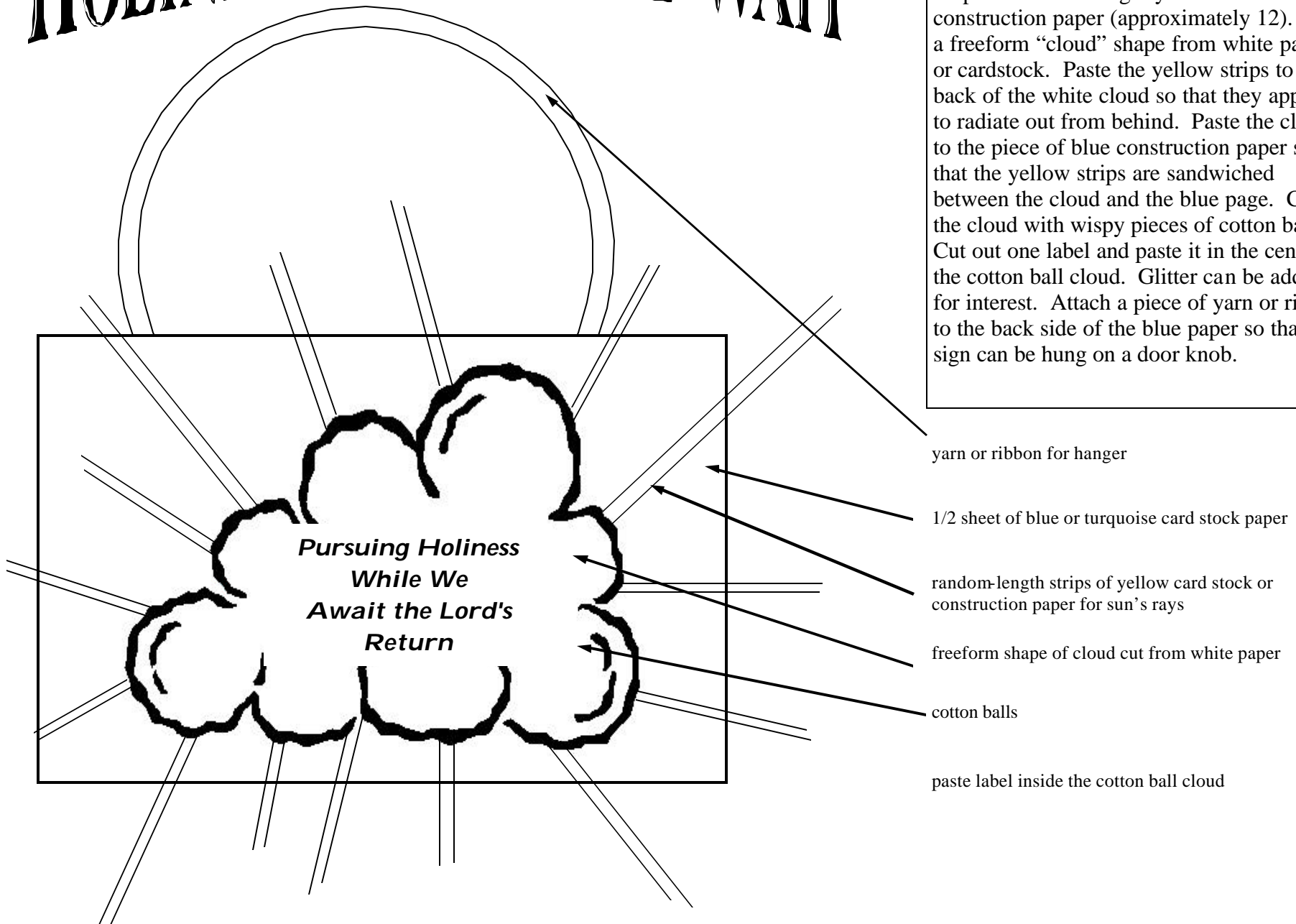
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HOLINESS WHILE WE WAIT

Instructions: Start with a half sheet of turquoise or blue cardstock. Cut multiple strips of random-length yellow cardstock or construction paper (approximately 12). Cut a freeform “cloud” shape from white paper or cardstock. Paste the yellow strips to the back of the white cloud so that they appear to radiate out from behind. Paste the cloud to the piece of blue construction paper so that the yellow strips are sandwiched between the cloud and the blue page. Cover the cloud with wispy pieces of cotton balls. Cut out one label and paste it in the center of the cotton ball cloud. Glitter can be added for interest. Attach a piece of yarn or ribbon to the back side of the blue paper so that this sign can be hung on a door knob.



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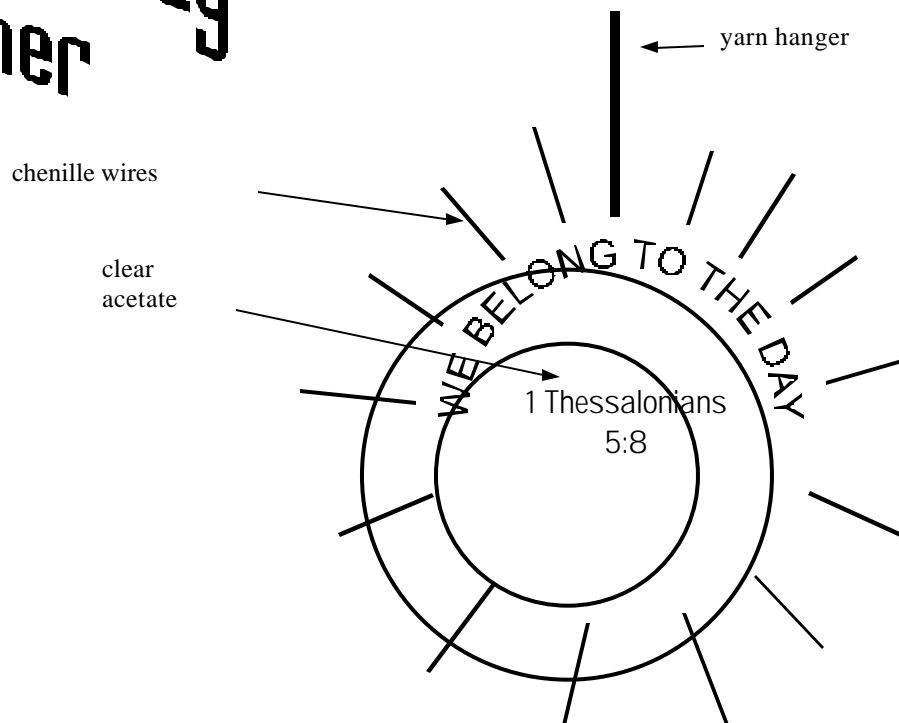
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We Belong to the Day Sun Catcher



Instructions:

1. Cut out two of the larger circles, one with a title and one without.
2. Cut out center circles and discard.
3. Cut two yellow chenille wires into approximately (16) 1" pieces. Trim to fit.
4. Insert a piece of clear acetate between the two circles.
5. Place the pieces of chenille wire, evenly spaced and sandwiched between the two circles, so that they radiate out like a sun.
6. Glue together so that the clear acetate and chenille wires are sandwiched between the two yellow circles.
7. Allow to dry thoroughly.
8. Tape a piece of yarn as a hanger at the top.
9. With a permanent marker, write the Bible reference, 1 Thessalonians 5:8, on the acetate in the center of the circle with the "We belong to the Day" title facing up.
10. Take home and hang in a window as a reminder of your position in Christ.

We Belong to the Day Sun Catcher

