


**Comfort in Affliction**

**Materials I Need:**

**Legend:**

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



**Memory Work:**


“We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thessalonians 1:12



 **Hook:**


**Do Cheaters Ever Prosper? (Discussion).** , 


1. Give an example of a situation or bring in a newspaper and talk about articles that we see every day about those who are rebelling against God and seeming to get away with it or, worse yet, prospering! It doesn't seem fair. Often it appears as though the people who obey the laws and try to do what is right suffer more than those who are the troublemakers. Give another situation where it seems that someone has not been rewarded or has even been in trouble for doing the right thing.
2. Ask the students what they think of these given situations, how they would feel/react if it had happened to them, if these things seem right or fair, what should be done about them. Paul reminds us, as he reminded the church at Thessalonica, that God is just and we must trust Him. He will punish the troublemakers in the end. The endurance of the righteous proves not only their worthiness to enter the kingdom of God, but shows who the genuine believers are.


**Purpose for the Pain (Object Lesson/Discussion).** ,  If you have roses at home or have friends with rose bushes, clip one rose and bring it to class. Buy one from a store or florist and bring it in as well. Find one that is full and unblemished, just before it opens. The one from home should be misshapen, diseased or simply small. Hold them both up for the class to see. Ask them what the difference is between the two roses. Tell them where each rose came from. One of the key differences between long-stem roses from the store and the ones that you grow at home is pruning. Long-stemmed roses have the extra branches clipped off so that all the energy goes into just a few stems that will grow flowers. At first this pruning may seem to hurt the plant, but there is a purpose to the pain. It allows the flower to grow to its fullest beauty. Persecution is part of our pruning process. God allows us to suffer to trim away those things in our life that hinder our growth. Today's lesson will show one of the reasons God has for us to suffer.


**Voice of the Martyrs (Story).**  Find a story out of the magazine *Voice of the Martyrs*, the book *Jesus Freaks*, or even *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. Read it to the students at the beginning of class and ask them why God allowed the suffering. Millions of people have been killed for their faith since the time of the apostles. Tell the students that, in today's Bible Adventure, they will learn why God allows some Christians to be persecuted.

**Something Stinks (Object Lesson/Activity).** ,  Set up a variety of scented items for the students to smell. A possible list would include vanilla, cinnamon, perfume, deodorant, soap, lemon, mint, or a flower. Also include one small portion of sulfur, rotten egg, or other item that has a very pungent odor. Talk about what smells they would like to be around for all eternity.

 **Family Car (Skit).** 🐜, 🦋 The injustices often incurred in the back seat of a family car can illustrate the concepts of both affliction and comfort. Develop a skit that shows the affliction shown by the older sibling toward the younger. As the injustice escalates, have the father lean back over the seat as the wise judge. In this new justice, demonstrate the younger sibling's comfort. While discussing with the class, compare the comfort this child had in his just father with the comfort the Christian can have in the coming justice of our Father in heaven. God is all-wise and will miss no injustice that has occurred, no matter how far away the back seat is.

 **God Has a Video (Object Lesson/Discussion).** 🐜, 🦋 Ask the students if they have ever seen an ultrasound of themselves. Can anyone see them when they are in their bedrooms all by themselves with the door closed? If you are walking in the woods alone, is someone watching? Bring a camcorder to class along with a TV-VCR for this HOOK. Contact a doctor and get a video of an ultrasound to show the class. Video tape the students during the class time and show them the video during TOOK time. Try to candidly catch them doing what they normally do. Talk about how God sees in 2 Chronicles 16:9 and Psalm 33:13; how He knows all things: Proverbs 5:21, 15:3; and knew us in the womb: Jeremiah 1:5. God sees us: Genesis 16:13; knows what we will do: Deuteronomy 31:21; knows our heart: 1 Samuel 16:7, 1 Chronicles 28:9, 1 Kings 8:39, Psalm 44:21; knows our choices: Job 23:1; knows our thoughts: Job 42:2, Psalm 1:6, Psalm 38:9; and knows our weaknesses: Psalm 69:19. He knows our needs: Matthew 6:8; He knows every hair on our heads: Psalm 103:14; He knows all about us: Psalm 139:1-24. For those who persecute others, assure the students that they do not do it in private, away from the One who will judge.


 **Our Attitude Toward Suffering (Discussion).** 🐜, 🦋 Ask the students what suffering is, what it means to suffer, and if there are different kinds of suffering. Ask for some examples of suffering and give some (starvation, pain, disease, being made fun of, etc.). Ask the students how suffering might cause one to feel, if they think it serves any good purpose, how we should deal with each example of suffering, etc. The majority of the comments on suffering will probably have to do with suffering other than persecution. Tell the students to listen to today's Bible adventure to hear about the type of suffering the Thessalonians were enduring and to learn what the Bible has to say about this kind of suffering.

 **Where Is Justice? (Activity/Object Lesson/Discussion).** 🐜, 🦋

1. Set up four tables of activities much enjoyed by your students (games, snacks, crafts, toys, etc.).
2. One teacher (A) should greet the students while the other teachers (C-Z), give them each a **2TH01.GF1** worksheet to be completed before doing any table activities.
3. Soon, (one by one), all but one of the teachers (C-Z) who were given the worksheet, should leave them (incomplete) to enjoy the table activities.
4. Before most of the students have had time to complete their worksheets and gotten to enjoy the activities, yet another teacher (B) enters the room to announce it's time to put the activities away. The only teacher left doing his worksheet should raise his hand explaining to teacher (B) that he did not have time to do any of the activities because he was **obediently** doing his worksheet as Teacher (A) had instructed.
5. Teacher (B) checks to see who at the tables have completed their worksheets and rewards those who **HAVE NOT** (use a small piece of penny candy).
6. Teacher (A) will lead a discussion of how the obedient students feel about the seeming unfairness and tells them that they will have to wait for their reward. Keep a list of those who were obedient and Teacher (A) will call out their names for their reward at the end of class (a candy bar or other 'big', in comparison to penny candy, reward).



**Book:**  
**Presentation Ideas –**

 **Future Things (Chart).** 🐜, 🦋 Draw this chart (**2TH01.GF2**) on the whiteboard. Review the order of what will happen before Jesus returns to reward those who follow Him and to punish those who don't. Highlight the part of the chart that will happen in today's adventure where Jesus will come back with his angels at the "second coming". Discuss how Paul tells the Thessalonians that their persecutors will be judged when Jesus returns and that is when they will see God's justice.

### ***Bible Adventure for K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grades –***

The Thessalonians were going through a very hard time. Paul had already written them a letter to encourage them to remain strong in the Lord, especially when being persecuted by those who hated Christians. He challenged them not to give up but to take hope in the fact that Christ would someday return and gather all Christians together to live with Him forever. However, since Paul had written this letter, the suffering and persecution had gotten much worse for the Thessalonians. Their families and friends made fun of them and, in some cases, wanted nothing to do with them. They were often forced from their homes and thrown into jail by the government authorities. Some were even killed because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Many of them were wondering what God was doing and whether He was really in charge of their lives. How could God let this happen and do nothing to stop those who were being so cruel to them?

Paul wrote his second letter to the Thessalonians to give them comfort in the midst of such difficult trials. He began by telling them how thankful to God he was that their faith and love for one another was growing stronger and stronger. “We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing” (2 Thessalonians 1:3). Paul was well aware of the hardships they were facing and praised them for persevering and not giving up on their faith.

Paul then proceeded to comfort and encourage them in three ways. First, Paul assured them that those who persecuted them would be paid back for their wickedness. In other words, God would judge them for their cruelty. 2 Thessalonians 1:6 says, “God is just. He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you...” The Lord Jesus will come back someday to punish the wicked. He will come down from heaven with His angels in blazing fire. Then He will punish those who do not know God and refuse to obey Him. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and sent away from the presence of the Lord forever. Never again will they see the goodness of the Lord or His glory. The Thessalonians could take comfort in the fact that God is indeed just, and He will pay back those who hurt them so. Even though their suffering had been great, the suffering of their persecutors would be even greater.

Secondly, Paul comforted his friends by telling them that God had a purpose and a plan for the pain that they were experiencing. Paul said the purpose was so that you will be “counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering” (2 Thessalonians 1:5). This means that God uses pain and affliction to test if a person’s faith is real. If someone turns away from Christ during suffering, it proves he does not have faith and God has not come into his life to make him a new person. However, if someone is willing to suffer for his faith, it is proof that God is present and working in his life. It is also proof of his true hope and joy. The one who is willing to suffer for God shows that God is the most important to him in the world.

Lastly, Paul comforted the Thessalonians by telling them that their willingness to suffer persecution brought God great glory. He wanted them to know that when Christ returns, all Christians will marvel and praise Jesus for their own perseverance and what God had done in their lives. This was the most important thing to Paul. The greatest motivation, joy, and comfort that a Christian can have is to be used by God to bring Him glory and show off how wonderful He is.

In many places around the world Christians are suffering for their faith like the Thessalonians. We must remember that Christ is coming back and will judge those who mistreat others, especially Christians. He is just and we can trust Him, in the end, to right any wrongs that have been done.

When you are in the middle of persecution, have joy because it proves you are really God’s child. Others will see you and praise God for what He is doing in your life in allowing you to patiently suffer for the Lord you love.

### ***Bible Adventure for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grades –***

If you’ve ever sat and watched the news with your parents or even surfed through the channels on your television set, you know that the world is full of terrible problems. Every day we can see the effects of sin in our world: a man who gets drunk and crashes his car into a family, killing all of them; thieves who break into homes or steal cars; men cheating other men out of their money; murders and wars. The list is endless. Then there are those who live good lives in the world’s eyes but still rebel against God’s right to rule in their lives. Some even go so far as to persecute those who belong to Christ. The Christian message—that man has sinned and needs a Savior—is not welcomed by people like these. They can be

cruel, sometimes even violent, in their rejection of Christ. When this happens, Christians might be tempted to think that God doesn't care, but the Bible tells us He does. He has a plan for the Christian who is suffering persecution, and He has a plan for those who are causing the persecution, too.

Persecution can happen in a lot of different ways. Some people become Christians in families where no one else is a Christian. Their families might mock them and sometimes even make them leave home. Other new Christians have problems with their friends, who make fun of them and don't want to be around them anymore. In some countries, being a Christian is just plain dangerous—the government tries to throw them in jail or even kill them.

These were the kinds of things that were happening to the Christians to whom the Apostle Paul wrote the books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians. When Paul sent the first book, or letter, to them, they were going through times of persecution by those who rejected the Gospel that Paul had brought to Thessalonica. As he wrote the second letter (2 Thessalonians), the persecution had gotten worse. Paul knew these young Christians would be wondering why God was allowing them to suffer so much. Perhaps they even wondered if God cared about what they were going through.

Paul had some wonderful words of comfort for the Thessalonian believers. He told them that he was thankful that they were growing in their love for each other and in their faith in God. He was also thankful that they stayed obedient to God's Word, even when people were making it difficult for them to do it. He wrote, "Among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring" (1:4). Paul knew what they were facing because he had gone through many trials and persecutions himself. He had three different things to share with them that would comfort them.

First, Paul told the Thessalonians that those who were persecuting them would be paid back for making them suffer. God was not blind to what they were going through—He saw and He cared. Listen to Paul's words: "God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you" (1:6). A day is coming when the Lord Jesus will come back to punish the wicked. He will come down from heaven with His angels, in flames of fire, and will punish those who have rejected Him and refused to obey Him. Their punishment will be dreadful—they will be put away from the presence of the Lord forever. They will no longer know the goodness of the Lord or His glory. When someone is unkind or cruel to you, doesn't it make the pain more bearable if you know that they are going to have to answer for what they have done? That's how the Thessalonians felt—they found comfort in God's justice and the fact that He would pay back all their persecutors. They were suffering now but the suffering of the persecutors would be even greater. You see, when people persecute Christians, they are committing two sins: one against the person and one against God. This is a fearful thing for the persecutor, even if He does not acknowledge it.

The second comfort Paul offered his friends was to tell them about God's purpose for their suffering. The purpose is that the believer be considered worthy to be a part of God's kingdom. Paul said it this way: so that "you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering" (1:5b). God allows suffering in our lives because He knows it is a sure way to tell whether a person's faith in Him is real or phony. What would you think if someone said to you, "I love Jesus, and I'm going to follow Him for the rest of my life"? Then something awful happened to that person and right away they said, "God doesn't love me or He wouldn't have let this happen. I'm outta here." You'd probably wonder how serious he was about his faith. If you have true, saving faith, you will cling to God no matter what, in good times and in bad. A true believer will keep his focus on God during the bad times, knowing that God will use even painful things to perfect us and make us more like His Son.

The third comfort Paul had for his Thessalonian friends was to teach them that the way they responded to suffering could bring God glory. On that day when Jesus returns to judge the wicked, something else will also happen—He will be glorified through the lives of those who believe in Him. Just imagine what a celebration that will be—every believer praising and worshiping God and saying, "Jesus, only You could have made me a new person. Only You could do the works You've done through me. You helped me persevere. You walked with me through the hard times." This is the greatest motivation and goal that a Christian can have—to bring glory to God's name. When you trust Him "through thick and thin," you bring Him glory. Even the world can see that a God who is trusted and followed, even in suffering, is a God worth considering.

Do you have a new outlook on suffering now? We know that God does not sit in some distance place, watching our pain and not doing anything about it. No, He has a purpose for the trials He allows us to go through, and He is not indifferent to our suffering. Maybe you're going through something painful right

now, or maybe you soon will be. How will you pray? First, you can thank God that the pain has a purpose. Be honest with Him about the hurt, and ask Him to help you learn the lessons He wants you to. If your pain is caused by another person, remember that God will deal with that person, and He'll do it with His perfect sense of justice. Remember also that when you come out on the other side of the suffering, you will be a stronger, more mature believer, and that will bring God glory.

#### Aim Questions:

1. **What will happen to people who persecute Christians?** *(They will be judged.)*
2. **What does this show us about God?** *(He is just.)*
3. **When will God show His justice?** *(When Christ comes back.)*
4. **Why else does God allow persecution?** *(To show who the real Christians are, and to show God's great worth.)*
5. **How can Christians be comforted during times of persecution?**
6. **What should our attitude be like in the midst of suffering or persecution?**



#### Look:



**Purposeful Pain (Discussion).** 🦋, 🦋 Discuss with the students why there is pain when God is in charge of everything. Is it not just something that happens to us because of the fall? God even orchestrates the suffering of the saints for His purposes, knowing that these purposes can help us persevere through such painful times. Think of the pain that we endure for other purposes. A young girl undergoes the severe pain of a tonsillectomy for the purpose of avoiding the future infections and soreness that would result from inflamed tonsils. A teenage boy undergoes painful physical therapy after tearing a ligament in his ankle for the purpose of strengthening his ankle for future activity. An athlete partakes in the pain of endless training for the purpose of improving his game. What are God's purposes in our pain? Which of these purposes is evident in 2 Thessalonians 1?



**Pain With a Purpose (Craft).** 🦋, 🦋 Each student will need:

Diagram instruction sheet **2TH01.GF3 Pg. 1**

One set of arrows (8 total) from **2TH01.GF3 Pg. 2** duplex copied onto **Pg. 3**

One happy face from **2TH01.GF3 Pg. 4**

**2TH01.GF3 Pg. 5** copied onto blue cardstock

scissors

glue

Have the students cut out the smiley face and paste it in the center of the words "Strong Faith Brings" on **2TH01.GF3 Pg. 5**. Next, have them cut out the arrows and paste them around the smiley face as shown in the diagram. Discuss with the students that when the points of persecution seem endless, we can take comfort in knowing that God has a reason for allowing trials and persecution in our lives. Our ultimate responsibility as believers is to bring glory to God in all that we do. As we suffer through trials, we can glorify God in our response to the situation. Strong faith glorifies God when things get tough.



**Not a Nice Place (Worksheet/Discussion).** 🦋 Discuss with the students what the Bible tells us about the place where people go after they die, if they are not saved by Jesus Christ. "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment..." Hebrews 9:27. We can take comfort in knowing that if we are persecuted, God is watching and will judge one day. When Jesus Christ comes to judge the world, some will go to heaven and some will go to a not-very-nice **place**—hell. The Bible tells us that hell is a real place (Matthew 5:29). It also provides many examples of what it is like. No one has gone there and returned to provide us with videos or pictures. However, we do have the words of Jesus and the authors of the Bible who have given us God's Word. And God makes it very clear what hell is like. Using **2TH01.GF4**, have the students look up the verses listed and match them to the best description. Then talk about what God tells us hell is like.

- Bring Glory to God (Craft).** 🍌, 🦋 Duplex copy **2TH01.GF5**. For the craft to fold correctly, make sure that you have top sides up on both copies. Ask the students to color the picture of the Christians being persecuted (side one of the GF). Together read the scriptures given on the other side of the GF. Ask the students to draw pictures of what the scripture describes. Have them fold their papers in half, then in half again, to make a card. Then have them unfold and cut along the dotted lines on side one. Put a thin line of glue along the X's on both sides and carefully refold. Wait at least a minute for glue to set and then open the card craft.
  - A Safe But Dangerous Place (Memory Verse Activity).** 🍌, 🦋 Discuss with the students how wicked and evil men were persecuting the Thessalonians. Paul told them that they could expect something because God was faithful. Have the students start at the first two columns and zigzag down to find the words Paul wrote. Have them write the memory verse by filling in the blanks, **2TH01.GF6**.
  - Aim Questions (Worksheet).** 🍌 Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2TH01.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, **2TH01.GF8**.
  - 2 Thessalonians 1:12 (Memory Verse Song).** 🍌 Words and music for today's memory verse are available upon request from Children's Ministry.
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### Took:

- Ticket to Heaven (Demonstration).** 🍌, 🦋 **2TH02.GF9** provides a verbal, as well as a physical, presentation showing the eternal consequences for those who think they have the "right" ticket.
- What Does God See Me Doing? (Discussion)** 🍌, 🦋 Show the video that you have been taking during the class time. Make sure not to embarrass any of the students, but talk about how their actions are recorded for all time and, in fact, before each action is taken, God knows what they are going to do. He even knows what we are thinking before we even think it! (Use references in HOOK "God Has a Video.") Talk about how when God judges believers, those who have faith in Jesus Christ, all of the bad stuff that was recorded is erased. For those who persecute believers, however, there is a much different outcome. Refer back to **2TH01.GF4** and discuss.
- Positives in Persecution (Worksheet).** 🍌, 🦋 Have the students put a plus sign next to the thoughts that show a right attitude and a minus sign next to the thoughts that show a wrong attitude about persecution, **2TH01.GF10**.
- Heaven and Hell (Craft).** 🍌, 🦋 Ask the students what they think it is going to be like for those people who are going to heaven and those who are going to hell. This craft will give a small indication of what 2 Thessalonians 1:9 means. Directions: Tape or glue two styrofoam cups bottom to bottom. Make a small slit in the tape between the two cups. Insert a craft stick between them. Using black tempura paint, paint the inside of one of the cups. You may wish to paint these at the beginning of the class time so the paint has time to dry. Have the students cut out the two pictures on **2TH01.GF11**. Have them glue the corners of the picture of the crying person inside the black cup so that it faces out. Have them do the same for the picture of the Jesus, inside the white cup. Glue cotton balls around the edge of the heaven cup. Next, have them glue the Heaven and Hell label to the outside of the cup so that the word "Hell" is on the side of the cup which is black inside. Finally, have them glue the verse label on the other side of the cup.



**What If I Were Judged Right Now? (Worksheet/Craft)** 🦋, 🦋 Copy **2TH01.GF12** onto cardstock for each student. Have the students add a piece of tin foil (reflective side up) or a small mirror to fit in the center where indicated. Challenge the students to place it onto their mirror at home. Each time that they look in the mirror, morning and evening, they should challenge themselves to meditate on God's Word for the day. Ask the students what kind of judgment would befall them if Jesus returned right now. When they look in the mirror they see what their physical appearance looks like. When God looks at them, He sees right into their hearts. He knows our thoughts and attitudes. He even knows how many hairs we have on our head. Ask them if they have been honoring and glorifying God today. If they were persecuted, did they respond the way that God would want them to?

# How Much Do You Know?

Answer the following questions as completely as possible.

List the members of your family here.

Write all of the letters of the alphabet below.

List the names of the books of the Bible that you know here.

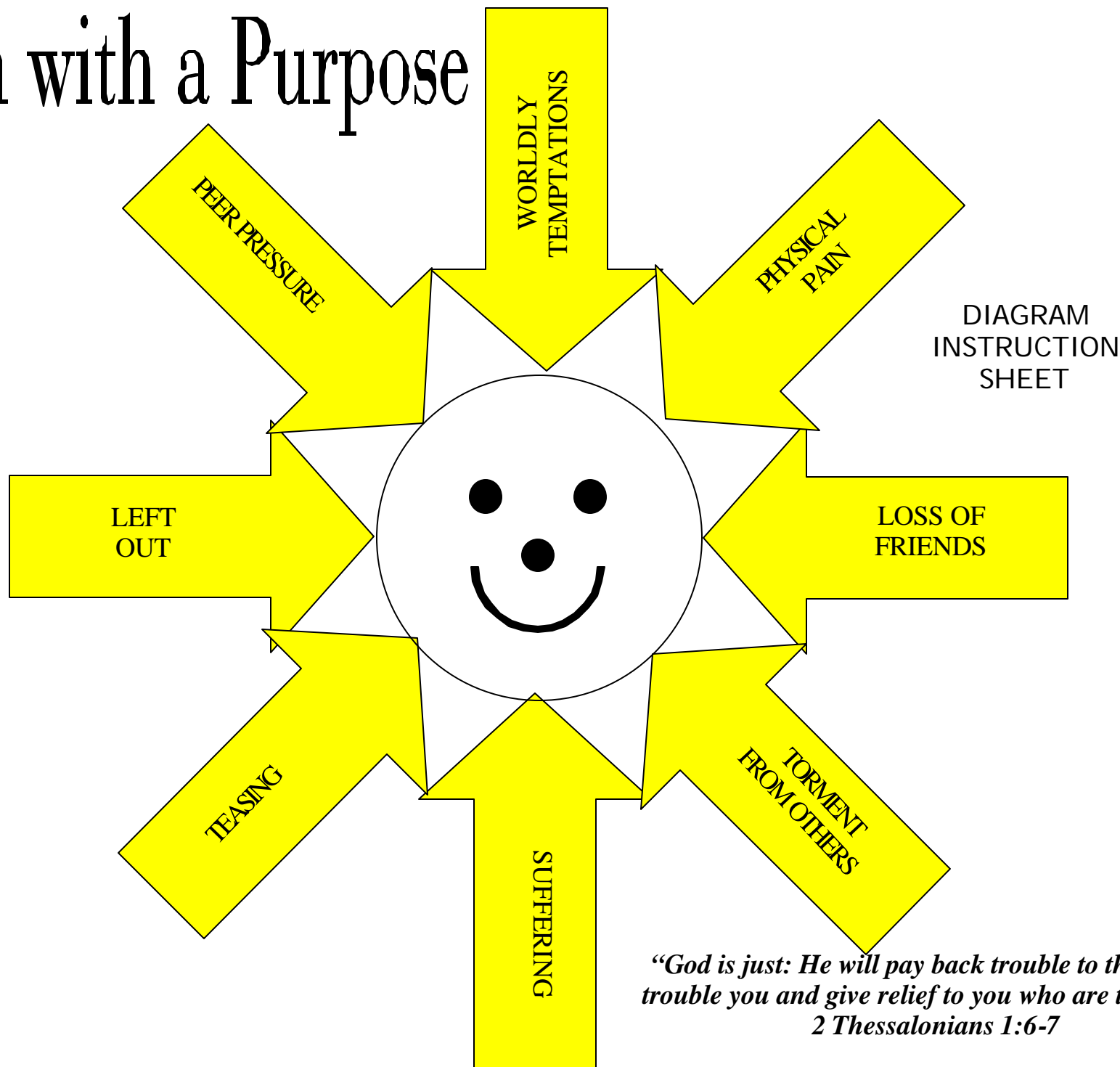
Write any words you know in a language other than English here.

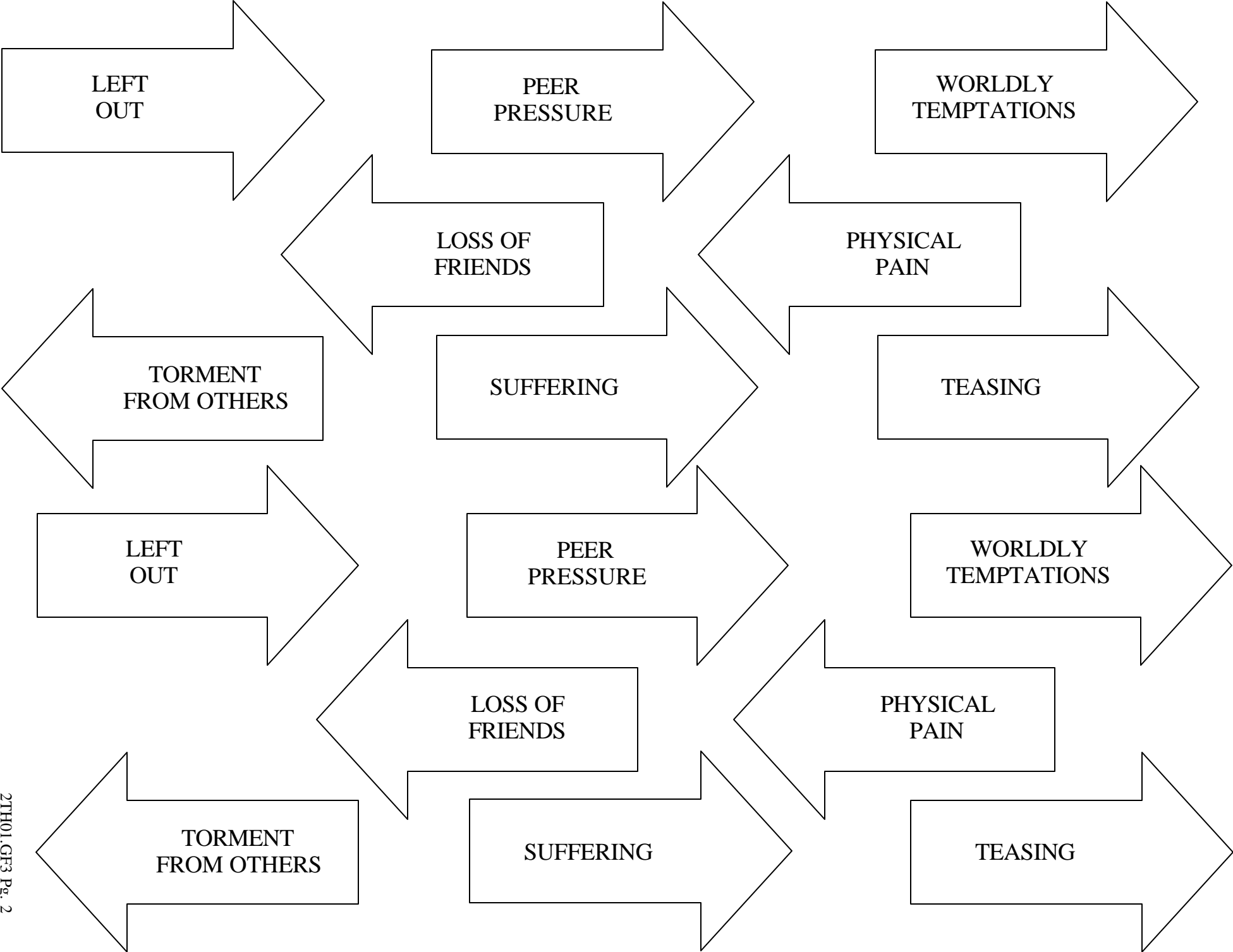
Write the name of as many colors as you can think of here.

On the back of this sheet, beginning with the number one, list all of the numbers you know. Try to go as high as you can count.



# Pain with a Purpose





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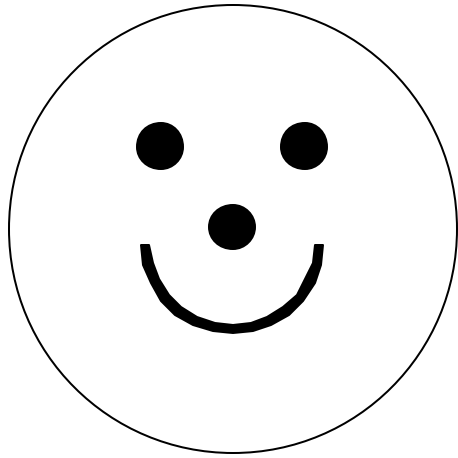
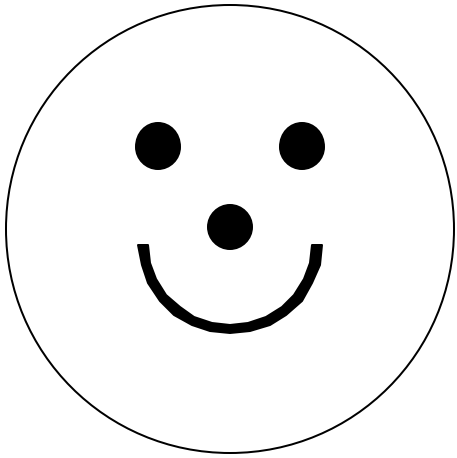
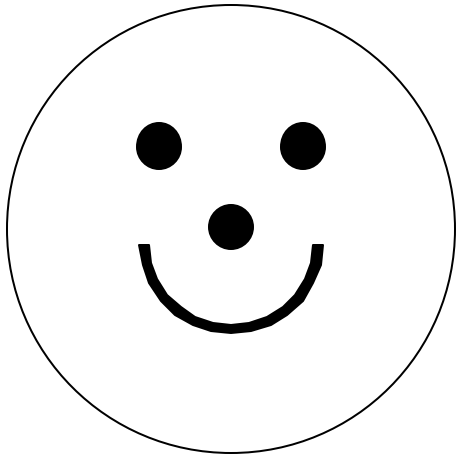
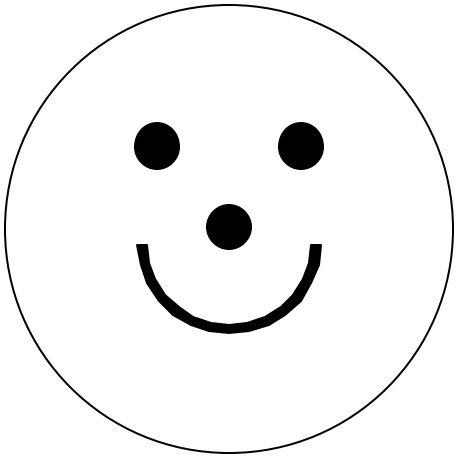
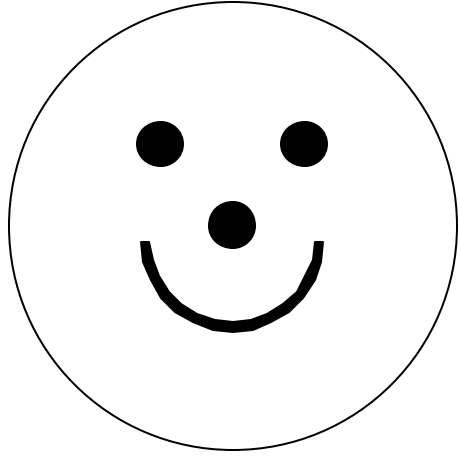
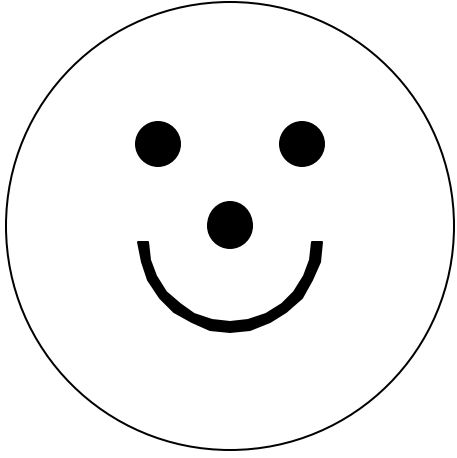
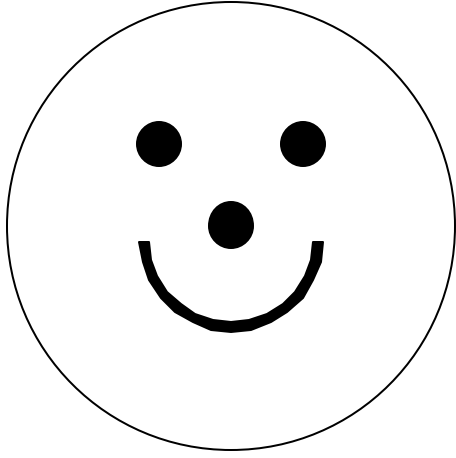
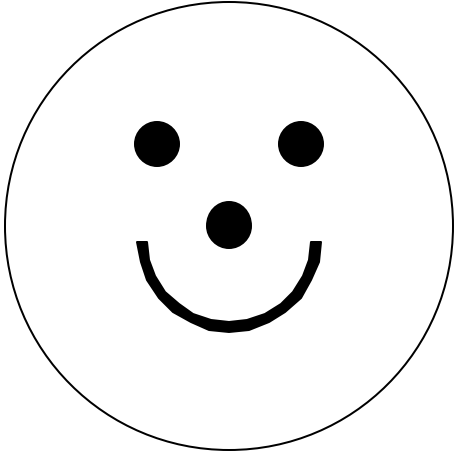
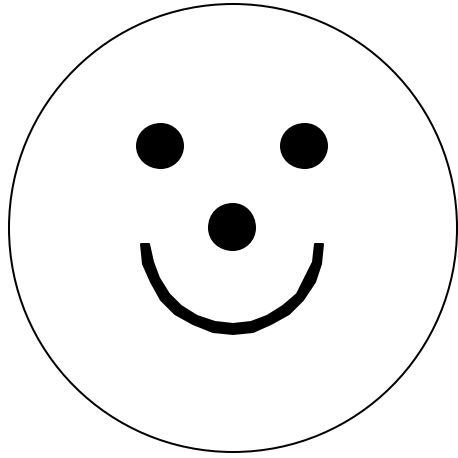
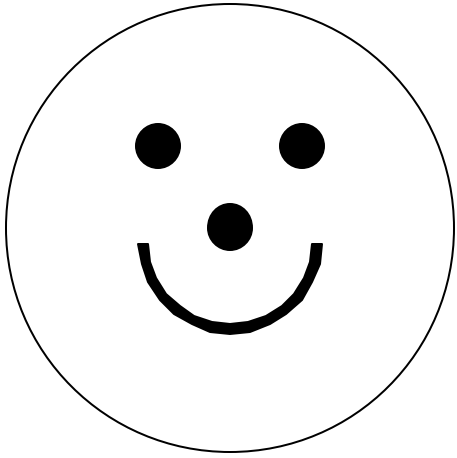
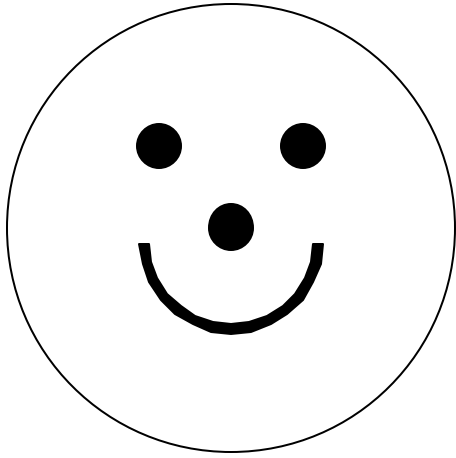
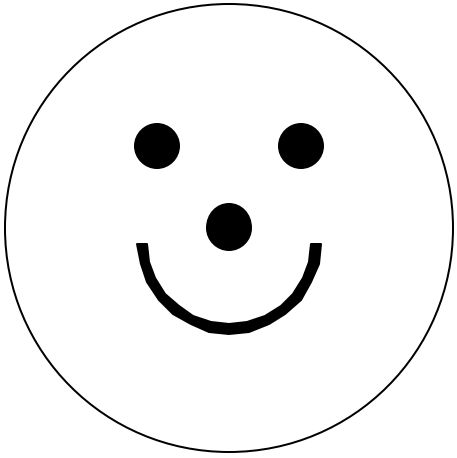
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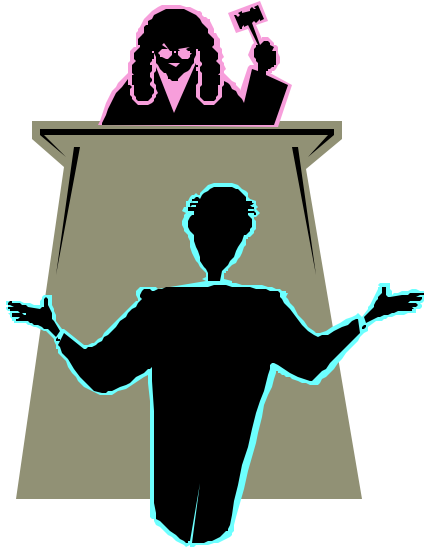
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GLORY TO  
GOD



STRONG FAITH  
BRINGING

*“God is just: He will pay back trouble  
to those who trouble you and give relief  
to you who are troubled.”  
2 Thessalonians 1:6-7*



# Not a Nice Place

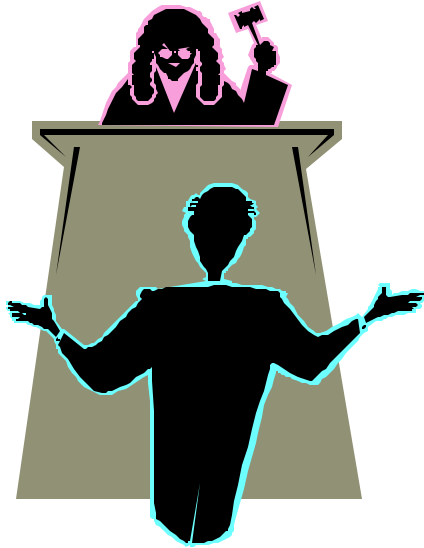
One day everyone will stand before Jesus Christ and be judged. Those who believe in and are persecuted and suffer for Christ will be judged one way. Hell is waiting for those who persecute Christians, the unbelievers and the rebellious. Hell is a real *place* (see Matt. 5:29). There are many references to the place and the attributes of hell in the Bible. Let's take a look and see what the facts are. Draw a line between the best statement about hell and the verses listed.

Is this a *place* where you would choose to be?

Matt. 5:22	Fire never goes out
Matt 18:8	Fiery furnace
Mark 9:43b	Destruction
Mark 9:48	Weeping and gnashing of teeth
Matt. 13:42	Blackest darkness
Matt. 25:46	Eternal fire
Phil. 3:19	Lake of burning sulfur
2 Thes. 1:9	Fire of hell
2 Pet. 2:17	Second death
Rev. 19:20	Loathsome to all mankind
Rev. 20:10	Fire is not quenched
Rev. 2:11	Eternal punishment
Isaiah 66:24	No one who is in the Book of Life
Rev. 20:15	Torment day and night forever
Matt 13:42	Shut out from the presence of God



"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." Rev. 21:8



# Not a Nice Place

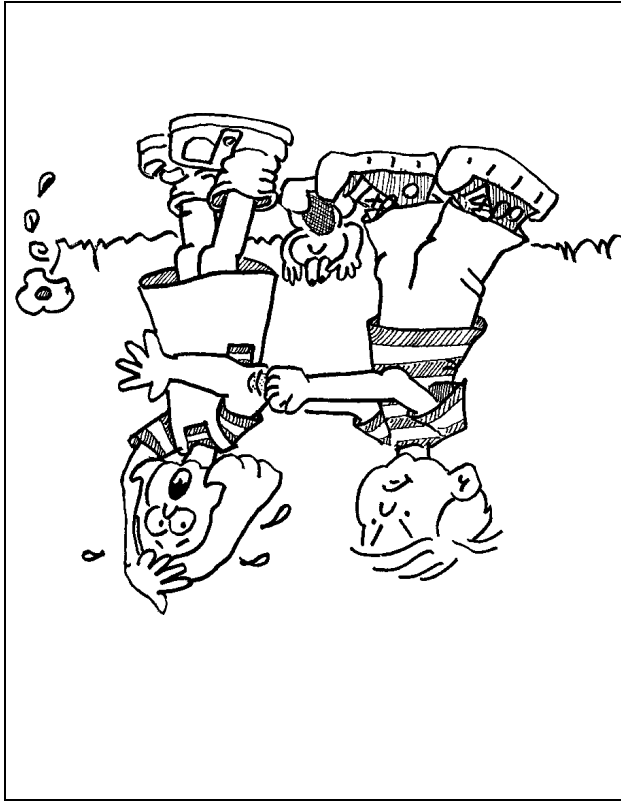
One day everyone will stand before Jesus Christ and be judged. Those who believe in and are persecuted and suffer for Christ will be judged one way. Hell is waiting for those who persecute Christians, the unbelievers and the rebellious. Hell is a real *place* (see Matt. 5:29). There are many references to the place and the attributes of hell in the Bible. Let's take a look and see what the facts are. Draw a line between the best statement about hell and the verses listed.

Is this a *place* where you would choose to be?

Matt. 5:22	Fire never goes out
Matt 18:8	Fiery furnace
Mark 9:43b	Destruction
Mark 9:48	Weeping and gnashing of teeth
Matt. 13:42	Blackest darkness
Matt. 25:46	Eternal fire
Phil. 3:19	Lake of burning sulfur
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The Bible tells us that  
Christians will be persecuted.

Our trust and joy in Christ,

and bring glory to Him!

while suffering persecution

for His sake, will point to God

Joy and willingness to  
suffer persecution for our  
faith shows our love for  
God and is proof that He is  
present and working in our  
lives.

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Trust that our  
God is just and  
will one day return to  
judge and punish for  
eternity those who have  
persecuted His children.

# PERSECUTION

Read 1 Thessalonians 5: 16  
In the box above, draw a picture of what we should be doing  
when we are persecuted for our faith in Christ.

Read 2 Thessalonians 1: 6-9  
In the box above, draw a picture of the punishment that  
persecutors of those who love Christ will one day receive.

# A Safe But Dangerous Place

The Thessalonians were being persecuted by wicked and evil men. Paul told them that they could expect something because God was faithful. Can you find out what Paul wrote to them? Starting at the first two columns, zigzag down to find the words Paul wrote. Fill in the blanks.

B	A	F	R	G	9	U	Q
B	U	S	U	A	T	R	F
T	C	L	T	H	B	R	S
D	T	U	A	C	E	T	O
H	E	N	V	N	D	M	U
F	E	W	D	E	A	V	T
L	G	H	X	N	F	H	W
H	O	Y	E	G	D	X	E
R	I	W	Z	P	H	E	Y
J	D	1	I	I	R	Z	V
I	K	L	2	O	J	I	Z
L	S	3	L	K	T	Z	L
F	M	S	4	E	L	O	Z
N	A	5	T	M	C	Z	N
I	O	R	6	T	N	E	Z
P	T	7	E	O	Y	0	0
H	Q	N	8	O	P	0	0

B U T \_\_\_\_\_

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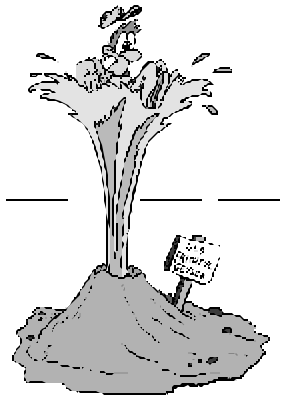
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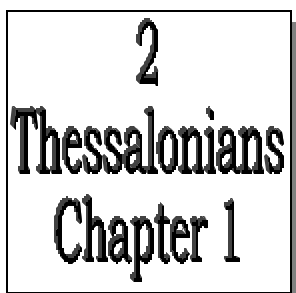
2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NIV)

# Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. What will happen to people who persecute Christians?
2. What does this show us about God?
3. When will God show His justice?
4. Why else does God allow persecution?
5. How can Christians be comforted during times of persecution?
6. What should our attitude be like in the midst of suffering or persecution?

*Comfort in persecution comes in knowing that:  
upon His return, our just God will Himself punish wrongdoers;  
willingness to suffer for God proves our love for Him.  
Trust and have joy in Him while suffering for Him brings glory to*



"We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."  
2 Thessalonians 1:12

## **Passage Review Questions**

### **2 Thessalonians 1**

Who was with Paul as he is writing to the Thessalonian church? (1:1)

How did Paul greet the Thessalonian church? (1:2)

Was Paul angry or pleased with the Thessalonian church? (1:3)

Why was Paul so thankful for the Thessalonian church? (1:3)

Did Paul think the church at Thessalonica were believers? (1:4)

What did Paul proudly proclaim to the other churches of God regarding the

Thessalonians? (1:4)

Why was the Thessalonian church being persecuted? (1:5)

What did Paul say God would do to those who persecuted His church? (1:6)

What is the Lord Jesus going to do when He comes back? (1:7)

How will Jesus return to the earth? (1:7)

What will happen to those who either do not know Jesus or openly rebel against Him? (1:8)

What penalty will unbelievers pay for their rebellion and hatred towards God? (1:9)

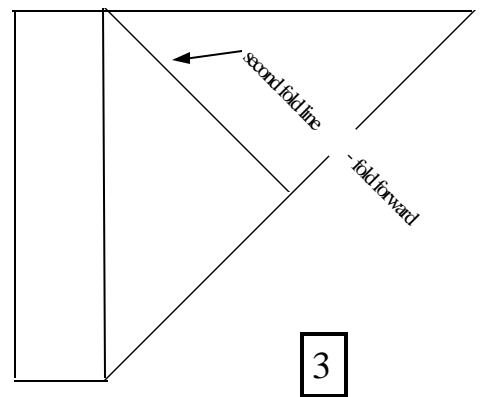
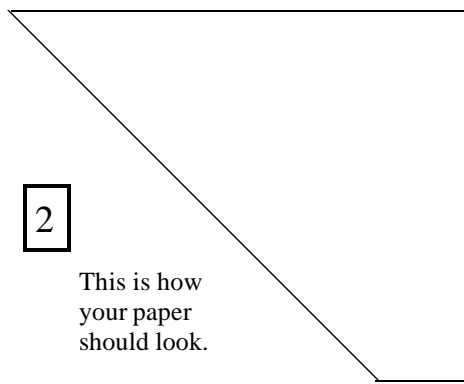
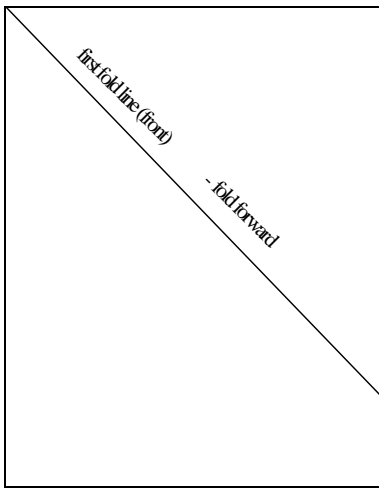
According to vs. 10, what are some other reasons Jesus is coming back? (1:10)

What did Paul pray for the Thessalonians? (1:11)

Ultimately, why was Paul praying for the Thessalonian believers? (1:12)

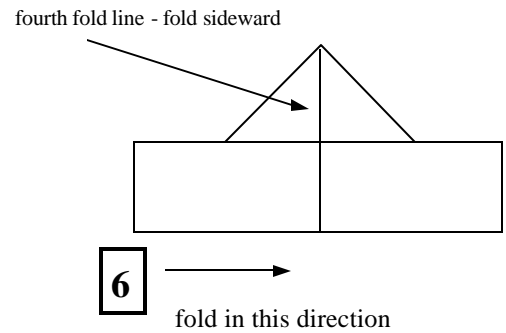
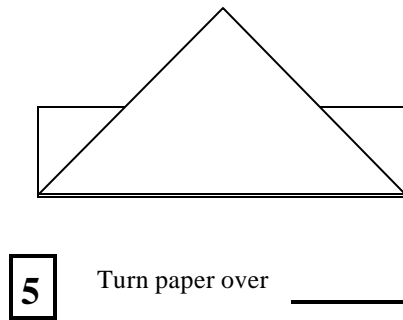
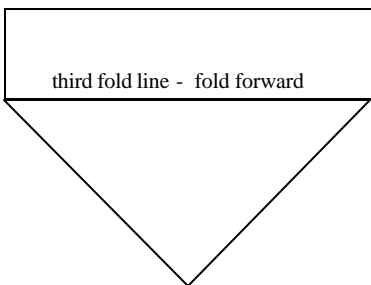
# “Ticket to Heaven” Folding and Tearing Instructions

Fold your paper prior to making your presentation. Once you are ready to tell the story, your paper should look like figure 7. When you reach the portion of the story where you are to tear the tickets off, start with tear #1 and then do tear #2. Unfold the pieces as you finish up the end of the story.

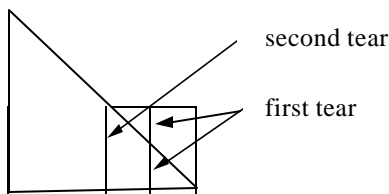


Turn paper over →

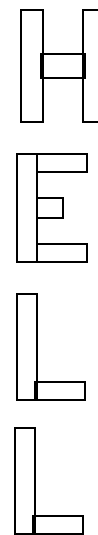
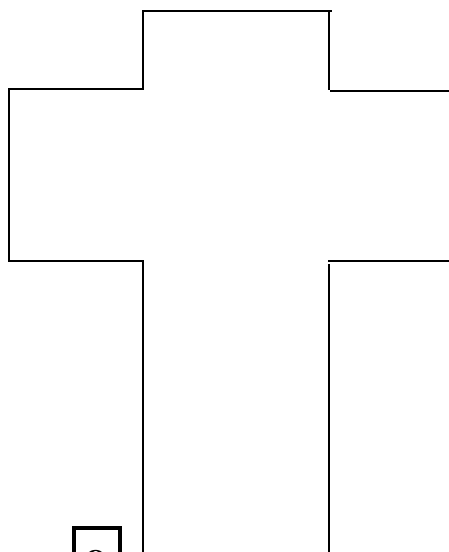
**1** Start here with a sheet of 8<sup>1/2</sup> x 11 paper and fold as shown above.



**4** Fold as directed



**7** Tear in downward motion in order shown.



**8** Open up the pieces remaining and you should end up with a large cross and the letters H E L L. Practice this entire presentation a few times before showing it to others.

# Ticket to Heaven

Three men died and were at the gates of heaven waiting to get in. The keeper of the gate greeted them and asked if they had the right ticket to get in. The first man said (tear off the first ticket), "Here's my ticket. I'm sure it's a good one. People have always said that I'm a nice guy. I've never been in trouble with the law. I've always tried to help out my neighbors by shoveling their walks and stuff like that. I delivered food baskets to the needy at Christmas, and even volunteered at the orphanage once a month. Surely you will accept my ticket."

The gate keeper replies, "I'm sorry, that's not the right ticket."

The second man steps forward and says, "Surely I have the right ticket (tear off the second ticket). I have been schooled in Christian schools, participated in Bible studies, and even was a Sunday school teacher for several years. I was a member of a church and attended every week. I know this is the right ticket."

The gate keeper says, "I'm sorry, that's not the right ticket, either. Next, please."

The third man steps forward and says, "I don't have a ticket. In fact, I have nothing to offer of my own. All I have, and all I am, is what Christ has provided. He deserves the credit for all of my earthly accomplishments. I turned my life over to Him when I was a young man and can not take credit for anything since. Once He became the Lord of my life, what I did no longer mattered because it was Him from that point forward."

The gate keeper smiled and opened the gate.

The two other men were left outside the gate holding their tickets.

Open the pieces of paper and you will see that the one man who entered heaven did so, not on his own merits, but on those of his Savior's, Jesus Christ. Because of Christ's death on the cross, this man was forgiven of all sins and could enter into the presence of a perfect and holy God. The tickets belonging to the other two men might have seemed good while they were on earth but actually led to eternal separation from God (HELL) after they died.

# Positives in Persecution



(How's your heart?)

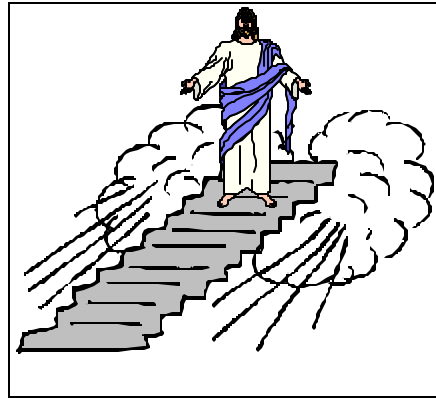


Read 2 Thessalonians Chapter 1

Put a plus sign (+) next to the "thoughts" that show a right attitude about persecution.  
Put a minus sign (-) next to the "thoughts" that show a wrong attitude about persecution.

- \_\_\_ "I know that I can trust God, even though I don't understand why this happened."
- \_\_\_ "I'm going to find a way to hurt her for saying that mean thing to me."
- \_\_\_ "I don't like him, I'm glad he's not going to heaven."
- \_\_\_ "God is a Just and righteous judge who will punish wrongdoers in His time."
- \_\_\_ "God is wrong to expect me to put up with persecution for going to church."
- \_\_\_ "My suffering is worth it because it brings glory to God."
- \_\_\_ "Willingness to suffer persecution for Christ shows my love for Him."
- \_\_\_ "Those who do not know God will be shut out of the Lord's presence forever."

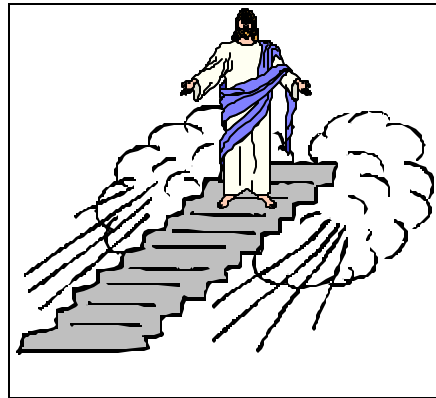
This week, pray that God will give you a right heart attitude about persecution and toward those who persecute you.



*“They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power.”*

*2 Thessalonians 1:9*

# Heaven and Hell



*“They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power.”*

*2 Thessalonians 1:9*

# Heaven and Hell

