

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 53

II Thessalonians

Objects to have:

The sign for this new Bible book: II THESSALONIANS

Look for Jesus

The mailman with a letter addressed: II Thessalonians

The picture of the castle mounted, colored, and cut into five pieces like a jigsaw puzzle. Have Scotch tape or thumbtacks with which to put together the jigsaw puzzle on the bulletin board.

On the back of the pieces, write the following:

On piece #1 - Christians should live right.

On piece #2 - Jesus will come in the air.

On piece #3 - The Devil will rule the earth.

On piece #4 - Jesus will win the fight against the Devil.

On piece #5 - Jesus will be King.

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

When we carry the Bible with us, we carry many books. How many books are in the Bible? Yes, 66. The front part of the Bible is called the Old Testament. Let's say the books of the Old Testament. (Do this.) The next part is the New Testament. Let's say the books of the New Testament; that is, the books of the New Testament that we have studied so far. (Do this.)

Every Sunday for many Sundays we have been learning what is in the different books of the Bible; but, do you know what? I have not told you nearly all that is in each one of these books. For the rest of our lives, we can study the Bible every day, and still learn something new from the Bible. There are that many stories and that many lessons in the Bible! This whole big book is like a letter from God to each of us.

What does the mailman bring to your door and put into your mailbox? Yes, letters. In the New Testament are a lot of letters. Paul wrote a lot of the letters. The Holy Spirit told him what to write!

Paul was the man who lived many years ago, about whom we are told in the Bible. He asked Jesus to be his Saviour! Then he wanted to be a missionary. He wanted to go every day of his life from then on, telling people about Jesus. Paul traveled from place to place. In each country and city where he went, he told people that Jesus is the Son of God. He told the people that they should ask Jesus to be their Saviour.

Whenever Paul left these cities, he wrote letters back to the people because there were other things he wanted the people to know. In the short time that he was with them, he could not tell them everything he wanted them to know.

Last Sunday we heard about people who lived in a city that had a real long name. I am wondering if you can remember the city that we talked about last Sunday. It was a big important city that had a big highway. To start the name of that city, you have to put your tongue between your teeth. Can anyone remember the name of that city? Yes, it was Thessalonica. (Have the children say that name with you two or three times.) The people who lived in Thessalonica were called Thessalonians. (Have the children say that with you.)

Once again, tell me: Who was the man who went to many cities telling people about Jesus? Yes, his name was Paul. What did he do when he left the cities where he had been? Yes, he wrote letters back to the people. We heard last Sunday about a letter which he wrote to the Thessalonians. We called it First Thessalonians, because it was the first letter that he had written to the Thessalonians. Today we are going to hear about the second letter which Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. It is called Second Thessalonians.

Telling the story:

Today I am also going to put together a jigsaw puzzle. See pieces to the puzzle. On one side of the puzzle pieces is some writing; on the other side of the puzzle pieces is part of a picture. As I put up the pieces, you will soon see the picture. Paul was not in Thessalonica anymore. He had to get out of the city! The mayor of the city and other important people in the city hated Paul because he was telling about Jesus. They were going to do bad things to Paul, and then they were planning to kill him. Paul had to get out of Thessalonica. Paul went to another city. There in that other city he heard news about how the Thessalonian Christians were doing. He heard that they were mixed up. They were mixed up just as this jigsaw puzzle is mixed up. (Hold up the pieces of the puzzle, letting the children see the side that has parts of the castle on it.)

Every day when the Thessalonian Christians got up in the morning, they thought, "Jesus is coming again! We are watching for Him to come. We want to go to be with Jesus." Now, they were not mixed up about this; they were right about this. This is what they were mixed up about: They thought that while all of them were alive on this earth, that that is when Jesus would come.

Then, one day, one of the Christian men died. Jesus had not come yet. The Thessalonians worried about this: How is it that Jesus had not come for the Christians before that man died? The Thessalonians were mixed up.

They were even more mixed up when some of the Thessalonian Christians started to have troubles. Some of the other people were giving them a hard time because they were telling about Jesus. Some people called the police because the Thessalonian Christians were telling about Jesus. The Thessalonian Christians thought that trouble was not going to come to them, that bad trouble could come only to unsaved people.

Then it was that Paul heard how mixed up the Thessalonian Christians were. He wrote a second letter to them. When the letter got to them, a preacher in the Thessalonian church stood up to read Paul's letter to the people who had come to church. The letter was read very carefully, and the people listened. Listen to the letter (take your letter from the mailbag, and pretend to read).

"Dear Thessalonians: Jesus is coming again. Until He does come, this is what you should do: You should live right. Christians should live right." (Put down the letter.) So that would be the first piece of our jigsaw puzzle. Let me find the one with "Christians should live right" on it. Here it is. I'll put it up on the board. (Put it on the board so that part of the castle shows.) That is the first thing that the Thessalonian Christians were to remember, and that is the first thing that we are to remember. Christians should not live like people who do not know Jesus as their Saviour. Christians should not listen to the wrong kind of music; the rock, bad music is wrong. Christians should not listen to it. Christians should not say bad words. Christians should also go to Sunday school and church. Christians should pray every day, and think about God's Word every day. Christians should not ever take anything that does not belong to them. Christians should just remember to live right and to please Jesus. If each Christian really loves Jesus, he'll want to live right for Him.

(Pick up the letter again.) Paul said in his letter: "Jesus will come into the air." (Put down the letter.) That's the next thing that the Thessalonian Christians were to remember. I am going to find the piece of the puzzle that says that on the back. Here it is. I'll put it up. (Do that, so that another part of the castle shows.) Nobody but God the Father knows just when that will happen. Jesus will one day come from Heaven into the clouds. When He comes, there will be a loud shout; an angel will shout! There will be the sound of a trumpet playing; an angel will play the trumpet! Suddenly, Christians will go up from the earth to meet Jesus in the air. The first ones to go will be the people who have already died after they have trusted Jesus as their Saviour. They will come alive again, and come up out of the graves with new bodies. Next, the Christians who are still alive on earth will rise to meet Jesus. Their bodies will be made new, also, so that no one will ever again get sick or tired or sad or hurt or die ever again. While we are waiting for Jesus to come again, we are to live right. Don't get tired of doing right. Don't be weary in well doing.

(Pick up the letter again.) Paul wrote in this second letter to the Thessalonians: "Then the Devil will rule the earth." (Put down the letter.) Oh, that's written on the back of one of these puzzle pieces. I'll put it up. (Do that, making the picture of the castle take more shape.) People on earth will then see the Devil. He will look like a

man. Remember, the only people who will be left on the earth after Jesus has come in the air will be people who are not Christians. While Jesus and the Christians are in the air, some of those people on earth will trust Jesus as their Saviour. Some of them will find a Bible, read it, and get saved. Some of them will maybe read books that have been written by Brother Hyles or Brother Schaap. Some of them will maybe hear sermon tapes—tapes of sermons that Brother Hyles or Brother Schaap have preached—and they will accept Jesus as their Saviour. Other people who had already said no to Jesus will not get saved. All this time, the Devil will be ruling the earth.

After seven years of being in the air together, Jesus and the Christians will come back to earth. Jesus will fight a war with the Devil, and Jesus will win! Here is the piece that says that on the back. We'll put it up next. (Do that, as before.) Jesus will fight the Devil, and He will put him into Hell. All the people who have not trusted Jesus as their Saviour will go to Hell, also. They will be punished forever and ever in Hell where real fire is.

Jesus will be King! There is that piece right here. (Put up the last piece of the puzzle as before.) Oh, look. When all the pieces are up, they make a picture—a picture of an old-fashioned castle. Kings live in castles. The families of kings live with them. Jesus is our King. If we have accepted Jesus as our Saviour, we will live with Him. If we have asked Jesus to be our Saviour, we will live with Jesus forever and ever. Have you asked Jesus to be your Saviour? (If you have any response, lead the child to Jesus.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: II Thessalonians 3:13, "But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing."