

# Acts-Revelation

## 2nd Thessalonians

## 2nd Thessalonians 1-3

### Younger Verse

Remain faithful and follow closely what we taught you. 2nd Thessalonians 2:15

### Older Verse

My friends, remain faithful and follow closely what we taught you in person and by our letters. 2nd Thessalonians 2:15

### Welcome Time

Welcome each student as they enter. Make sure to tell them how thankful you are that they have come.

### Bible Story

*The following is a summary of the Bible story to help you with your preparation. Please do **NOT** read to the children. Instead, study your Bible, using this summary as a guide, and make a note page to help you remember your plans for the lesson or questions you want to ask.*

Do you remember when I said “Hello!” to you this morning as you came in? And do you remember me telling you how thankful I am for each of you? Well, that is how Paul started the letters that he wrote to all the different churches (1:1-3). Who remembers what letter we talked about last week? (1st Thessalonians) Just about six months after Paul wrote his first letter to the church in Thessalonica, he wrote another - his second letter to the same church. We now call this letter 2nd Thessalonians. As Paul wrote to them again, he said, “I am so thankful for you because even though things are hard for you in your city, Thessalonica, you are holding up because you believe in God. And I’m thankful because you love each other more and more each day.” Paul and Silas and Timothy were also praying that as the believers of God in Thessalonica kept obeying God, more and more people would realize how good and wonderful He is.

Paul wrote this letter himself and had to put a special mark on it so the church would have no doubt it was from him. There were people trying to tell the church in Thessalonica that Paul had said things that he really didn’t say, so Paul used a mark of some kind to let them know for sure it was a message from him.

Do you remember when we talked last week about a time when Jesus will come back from heaven? Well, Paul wrote a second time to remind the church that Jesus had not come back yet. They knew that Jesus would keep His promise, but the time hadn’t come yet (and still hasn’t) and Paul told the church that other things had to happen first. Paul also wrote to his friends to encourage them to remain faithful and follow closely what he and Silas and Timothy had taught them in person and by their letters. They trusted their leaders and could follow their example, knowing that they were obeying God.

### Note to Teachers:

As with last week’s lesson, Paul again talks about following his example. He also talks about leading a disciplined life. Make sure you live in such a way that your students can and should imitate you.

### Lesson Goals

To realize the importance of doing the right thing and working hard.

Paul also wrote this letter for another reason. There were people in the church who were being lazy and not following the example that Paul lived before them. When Paul was with them he worked very hard night and day. While he was in Thessalonica he even told the people that if they wouldn't work they shouldn't eat. He was trying to teach them to work hard, and not to be lazy. But he was having to write this letter because there were people who were doing no work at all, who instead were acting like busybodies.

There is a fun story in the book of Proverbs (6:6-11) that explains what God wants us to do. It says that lazy people should learn a lesson from ants! Ants don't have a boss to tell them what to do, but they work hard all summer not just to have food for one day, but also to have enough food for the winter. God doesn't want us just to sit around being lazy because he knows that it's easier for us to get into trouble when we aren't working hard. What kinds of things can you do? (Allow students to give ideas.)

There is another thing you can do. God wants us to know Him. The first step to knowing Him is to believe that we have done bad things and can't make them better - only He can do that. Then you can tell Him that you believe He loves you enough that He sent His one and only son to make a way for you to know Him. And you can tell Him that you want to follow Him and spend time with Him and work for Him.

And if you already know God, then you can work hard telling others about how good God is and how much he cares for them and wants to know them, too.

**Memory Verse  
Activities**

If you have access to the internet or other published material, use coloring pages and word puzzles that reinforce this week's memory verse. Also make cards containing each word of the memory verse. Use these cards face down to play a concentration style game where your students turn over two cards trying to find the first word, followed by the second. Whether correct or not, review the verse with them. When correct, pull the cards and arrange them in order above the play area, continuing until the verse has been formed. When incorrect, turn the cards face down again and allow the next student to look for consecutive words.

**Prayer Time**

Pray for your students as Paul prayed for the Thessalonians, that they will do what is right, even when it is difficult.

**Clean Up/Snack time**

During clean up time, be sure to stress the importance of working hard. Encourage each child to help in some way and praise them as they do so.

Planning for October 3rd  
1st Timothy

## Preschool Lesson for 2nd Thessalonians

How many of you have ever seen an ant? And how many of you have ever watched a whole line of ants walk back and forth? When ants do this, they are working, carrying food back to their homes. Ants collect food to eat during the summer and they store food for the winter.

Did you know the Bible says something about ants? Well, it does! In Proverbs the Bible says to be like those ants! It says, "Take a lesson from the ants. Learn from their ways and be wise! Even though they have no prince, governor or ruler to make them work, they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter" (Proverbs 6:6-8 CEV). The ants work hard and are not lazy.

Well, the Bible also has something to say about us not being lazy. We have been talking about letters that Paul wrote. He wrote two letters to the church in Thessalonica. We talked about the first letter last week. Today we are talking about the second letter. Paul wrote 2nd Thessalonians to a church who was doing good things, but there were some in the church who didn't want to work. They wanted to be lazy! Paul told them that they needed to work so they would have food to eat.

Do those ants wait for someone to tell them what to do? No, they don't have a ruler to make them work. Should we always wait for someone to tell us what to do? Sometimes we need to because we don't know what needs to be done, but sometimes we know what we can do.

If there are books on the floor, what should you do? (pick them up)

If your mom or dad is picking up your dirty clothes, what should you do? (help them)

If there is trash outside, what should you do? (pick it up)

We can be helpful, and we can be hard workers. Don't wait for your mom or dad or Bible Study Leader to ask you to do something. Look around and see what needs to be done and help out!

## Activities for 2nd Thessalonians

Pertaining to Thessalonica, Greece:

- Provide the flag of Greece to show or copies of the flag for coloring.
- A Taste of Greece - Greeks are credited with making the first toast. They also used honey as a sweetener. Provide toast and honey for your students. (Be sure you know about possible food allergies.)
- Choose a job that some of the Thessalonians might have had.

**Sandal Maker:** With heavy cardboard, trace around the students foot allowing a 1/2" border. Punch two holes to the outside and in the shape of a square through the toe part of the shoe. Punch two more holes on either side at the heel of the shoe. Using two pieces of string or leather or yarn, lace the top part of the strap into an "X" and simply lace the back piece under the shoe and through both holes. Tie to secure. Have students slide toes under the "X" and wrap the back strap around their legs.

**Potter:** With small lumps of clay, have students make small bowls.

Pertaining directly to 2nd Thessalonians:

- Make a chore list. Encourage your students to make a list of some things they can do at home (and church) each day that will help them to be hard workers and discourage laziness.
- Have students think of one thing about each other student and their teachers for which they are thankful. Share those aloud.
- Provide your students with paper. Using beans, make ants by gluing beans in a line across their paper. Draw in legs. Have students write one of the following verses at the bottom of their papers:

Proverbs 6:6 - "Take a lesson from the ants. Learn from their ways and be wise."

2nd Thessalonians 3:13 - "Never get tired of doing good."

2nd Thessalonians 2:15 - "Remain faithful and follow closely what we taught you."

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