

## MEMORY VERSE/BIG IDEA

Read the children the memory verse/big idea and talk about where it comes from (the Bible, the NEW Testament, the book of 1 Thessalonians, God said these words.) Discuss what the verse/big idea means.

(4-5yrs) "We taught you to live in a way that pleases God- do it more and more." 1 Thessalonians 4:1

(2-3yrs) The Bible teaches me about right and wrong.

(0-1yr) (More teacher-led due to age.) The Bible helps me know what to do.

## BIBLE STORY AND REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Ages 3-5 read all and do review questions. Age 2 read the **blue text** and skip review questions.

**1. Paul was one of Jesus' disciples. He had been traveling around to towns everywhere telling people about Jesus. Paul taught the Thessalonians about Jesus and many of them believed what he said and became disciples.** These new Thessalonian disciples kept listening to Paul because he was telling them about how Jesus loved them. The Thessalonians were starting to love Jesus too. They wanted to make Jesus happy because they loved him. So, the Thessalonians listened when Paul told them how to live like Jesus and do what Jesus did.

**Review Question:** What did many Thessalonians do when Paul told them about Jesus?

*Answer: believed and became disciples, listened to Paul, were happy Jesus loved them, wanted to make Jesus happy*

**2. Paul taught the Thessalonian disciples how to act like Jesus and love people like Jesus because that's what God wanted them to do. God is happy when we help people like Jesus helped people, and love people like Jesus loved people. Jesus also loved God and talked to God, so Paul taught the Thessalonian disciples how to pray to God and learn from the Bible. Doing what God says makes us happy too because we love God.**

**Review Question:** What does God want us to do that makes him happy?

*Answer: act like Jesus, love/help people like Jesus did, pray to God, learn from the Bible.*

**3. Paul had to leave his Thessalonian disciple friends to go to other towns and tell new people about Jesus. But, Paul wrote a letter to them and reminded the Thessalonians to keep learning about Jesus and acting like Him more and more. Paul told them to have self-control, and to not treat other people badly. Then Paul said that they should work hard to earn their money and food and be examples of good behavior to other people in the town. He said that other's would see their good work and how they loved Jesus. Their good example would help other people want to learn about Jesus too.**

**Review Question:** What is something Paul told the Thessalonians NOT to do?

*Answer: not to treat others badly.*

**Review Question:** What are some good things Paul told the Thessalonians to do?

*Answer: have self-control, work hard for their money and food, be examples of good behavior.*

**4. Paul was very happy that the Thessalonians were doing a good job of loving each other. He told them to keep learning about Jesus so that they could make God happy by acting like Jesus. We learn about Jesus from the Bible. The Bible tells us the stories of what Jesus did and said so that we can act like Jesus too. If we copy Jesus more and more, we will become more like him and God will be very happy!**

**Review Question:** Where can we learn about Jesus so that we can copy him more and more?

*Answer: the Bible, church, Awanas, etc.*

## GAME: FOLLOW THE LEADER

**Say before game:** “We are going to be playing a game called ‘Follow the Leader’. In real life, Jesus is our leader. We want to follow what he said and did and do those things too. When we learn about Jesus and copy him more and more, we will make God happy. We love God- making God happy makes us happy too.”

**Instructions:** Have your children stand in a circle. Explain to your children that you are playing follow the leader and that their leader is the child standing to their right. So they do whatever that child does after he does it. Start by turning to the child on your left. [If you only have one child, take turns being the leader.] Say, “Jesus was friendly” and shake the child’s hand. That child will do the same thing to the person on his left until it goes all the way around the circle and back to you. Start another round by saying:

1. “Jesus was kind.”- Bend over and pretend to tie the child’s shoe lace.
2. “Jesus was giving.”- Pull a penny or something out of your pocket and give it to the child.
3. “Jesus was happy.”- Smile at the child.
4. “Jesus studied the Bible.”- Hand the child a Bible.
5. “Jesus told others about God.” -Say “God is good.”
6. “Jesus praised God” - Hold up your hands and say “Praise the Lord”
7. “Jesus cared about others” - Pat the child’s shoulder.
8. “Jesus loved everyone” - Give the child a hug.
9. “Jesus was encouraging” - Hold up a fist and cheer “You can do it.”
10. “Jesus prayed” - Get down on your knees and fold your hands.