

2 THESSALONIANS: THERE'S STILL HOPE



Week One: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

There are some difficult and complicated writing in this chapter. Things that many intelligent scholars have debated over for years. May we not get caught up in trying to crack the code of Paul's writing, but grasp the heart and intent - to remind the church of the hope we have that Christ is returning to make all things right!

- **Big Idea:** Have hope - Jesus is coming back!

Starter

- **Question:** What are some of the most famous days you can think of? Do you have a favorite day? When you hear, 'the Day of the Lord', what do you think that means? Is it a scary thing, confusing, or exciting?
- **Watch** this video from the Bible Project: <https://youtu.be/tEBc2gSSW04>

Sing Together

My Hope Is In the Lord - <https://youtu.be/tJePCzTaQo4>

Story

When Paul left the Thessalonian church, life continued to get even harder for them. The same people who caused a riot and drove Paul out of town treated those following Jesus very bad. It's not that they minded them worshipping Jesus. They worshipped lots of gods! They just didn't like Paul's message that Jesus is the *only* one worth worshipping.

Paul and his friends taught that Jesus is the King of kings and that the God of Israel is the God over all other gods. He alone is worthy of praise and worship. Paul also taught them that Jesus would return someday and his kingdom would rule over all of the earth, so no other kingdom or false gods would be able to stand. This is what made them so angry.

So, they tried to get rid of this message. When Paul left and they saw there were still people following Jesus, they tried to crush their hope. When being mean didn't work, some people pretended to join the church only to spread lies about Jesus. They said that Paul told them Jesus had already come back and he took some people away for his kingdom... but not the Thessalonians.

The church started to worry that Jesus didn't bring them into his kingdom and they were stuck under the Roman rule. They started to lose hope and some started to return to their old ways of living and old gods they served.

That's why Paul wrote another letter. He told them, "The Day of the Lord is not over. Jesus is still coming back someday as the true King. He has not left or forgotten you. When he comes, he will save those of you who trust in him and follow him as King. He will do away with all of the sadness and all of the hatred. He will also do away with those who are fighting against him and trying to hurt God's people. Do not worry. Do not give up hope. King Jesus is still coming!"

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- What does the 'Day of the Lord' mean to you now?
 - Jewish prophets always spoke of anytime the Lord rescued them from their enemies as 'the day of the Lord' (*when they crossed the sea out of Egypt, when Babylon was defeated, etc.*)
 - The Day of the Lord meant salvation for God's people - and judgement for those oppressing His people
- Why do you think people were okay with worshipping Jesus until they said Jesus was the *only* one to be worshipped? Are there other things in your life you worship or give lots of attention to besides Jesus?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**
God, thank you for not leaving or abandoning us. Thank you for sending Jesus into the world to rescue us. Thank you that he is coming back to rule the world and make it right. Thank you for your Spirit living with us now. Help us to trust you more each day. Amen.
- **Color:**
Jesus taught us to pray for God’s kingdom to come, “on earth as it is in heaven.” Talk to the kids about how the Day of the Lord (Jesus returning) will make that fully true, and how we can show people a little bit of what that will be like now in the power of his Spirit. Use the coloring page attached while talking about this.
- **BLESS Activity:**
For kids to do during the week
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask the Spirit to help us to *Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath* (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God’s Story.

This week, focus on the **Listen** rhythm. Pay attention to who and what you are listening to this week (shows, stories, parents, friends, etc). Take some time each day to listen to God. Ask His Spirit to speak to you. Read His Word. Ask your parents to help you understand.

On Earth



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In Heaven