

# MYOB

Or “Mind Your Own Business”  
Part 2

## Goal for the Lesson

“Mind your own business!” is a phrase frequently used by parents and teachers. These four words are very important, and they reflect an important Bible truth. Sometimes teaching the “why” behind the command to “mind your own business” will help children realize how this statement is vital to them and others. A continual stream of stress is added to people’s lives by those who meddle. Thus, our goal in this second lesson is again to teach the importance of minding one’s own business.

## Scripture for the Lesson

“*And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,*” —I Thessalonians 4:11.

### *Definitions*

Ask the children what they think the words mean in this verse, and then explain the correct definitions.

*Study* -to pay careful attention, to engage in detail

*To be quiet* -in Scripture this use actually means to keep still, and refrain from labor, meddlesomeness, or speech. The same Greek word is translated cease, hold peace, be quiet, and rest.

*Business* -affair, matter, task, activity

*Work* -to toil or labor

## Ask the Children

Ask the children questions to prod them to think about how the verse can apply to them.

- (1) We study history and science, but why would we need to study *to be quiet*?
- (2) We know what business means, but why do you think it is important *to do your own business*?
- (3) Why is it important to work with *your own hands*?
- (4) What is a command? (Answer: an order)
- (5) Do you think it is important to obey commands? Why?
- (5) List three commands given in this verse.
- (6) Do you think that these commands are important?

## **Skit 1**

Matt had nothing to do and went over to his friend, Tom's house, to see what Tom was doing. Tom was just finishing up a wooden model that he had been building for a local fair. Matt said, "Hey, Tom! Why are you gluing those pieces that way? I would do it differently. And, you know—" Matt grabbed the model ship, and in doing so, several pieces broke off.

"Now, see what you've done! It will take me a couple of hours to make new pieces, and I was supposed to bring it over to the fair by dinnertime."

## **Ask the Children**

- (1) Was it any of Matt's business to tell Tom how to glue his model? Why?
- (2) Why do you think Matt did this?
- (3) Should Matt have tried to take the model from Tom? Why not?
- (4) What productive things could Matt have been doing? (make a model of his own) (asking if there was anything he could do to help) (asking a question: Why are you gluing it that way?)
- (5) Explain why none of this (this being the broken model and Tom having to deal with a broken model and extra repairs) would have happened if Matt had applied 1 Thessalonians 4:11 to his life?

## **Personal Application Questions**

- (1) Do you consider yourself to be a quiet person, or do you quite often interfere with what others are doing?
- (2) If you answered yes, why are you this way?
- (3) Is it because you like to tell others how to do things? Does that make you feel important?
- (4) Why is it difficult for you to mind your own business, which is quietly doing your own thing instead of being a busybody in what others are doing?
- (5) Why is it important to work with your own hands?

## **Responding in Love**

It is very important that we personally learn to be like Jesus and to respond to others in love. When others barge in, when others are not minding their own business, when others try to take over what we are doing or tell us to do it differently, we must respond with patience and kindness. We cannot change others and we cannot control others, but we can change ourselves. "Charity suffereth long, and is kind." Two of the fruits of the Holy Spirit are longsuffering and gentleness. In the end, Tom would need to forgive Matt, and just patiently rework his model. He might even encourage Matt to try his hand at a model. To avoid a similar situation from occurring, the next time Matt pops over, he might meet him at the front door and sidetrack him from going to where Tom's projects are.

### **Teacher Notes** (explanation of skit)

Simply put, it was none of Matt's business to tell Tom how to glue his model, and he certainly should not have picked it up without asking. Oftentimes, when a person intrudes into the way someone else is doing something, it is really more about the intruder desiring to feel more knowledgeable or superior than it is about really caring about the other person.

### **Sharing Thoughts With Children**

Matt was not following the Scripture in 1 Thessalonians 4:11. He needed to learn to be quiet, and just watch Tom work on his model. Tom did not need his help, and did not ask for his advice. Tom was busy working with his own hands on his own project. Matt interfered, tried to be a "know-it-all," and inadvertently broke Tom's project. Tom was going to have to deal with the broken project and forgive Matt for doing so. A lot of trouble was caused by Matt not obeying the three simple commands in this verse: be quiet, do your own business, and work with your own hands.

## Skit 2

Carol asks Cindy, her older sister, “What are you going to do today on this sunny day?”

“Oh, I am going to finish up the gift I am making for my friend, Kathy, and then make a card for her. It is her birthday tomorrow,” Cindy replied. “Why?”

“I want you to play tennis at the park with me! Please, pretty please!”

“No, not today. I have a few things Mother needs me to do, and I only have today to finish my present.”

“Oh, who cares about your old present!” Carol stomped her foot, swung her arm, and accidentally knocked a glass of lemonade onto the birthday present. It was ruined. Carol quickly ran out of the room.

### Teacher Notes (explanation of skit)

Although Carol knew what she wanted to do, she did not consider that others might have their own plans. She selfishly threw a little tantrum, which caused the damage to Cindy’s gift. Even if she wanted to play tennis, which requires another person, she should have been able to accept a “no” answer, and apply the three commands in 1 Thessalonians to herself and her Saturday.

## Ask the Children

- (1) Carol was obviously disappointed that her sister did not want to play tennis with her, but how should she have handled the disappointment?
- (2) The verse teaches us to “study to be quiet.” How could Carol have been “quiet” in this situation?
- (3) When you have some free time, why would it be a good idea to have some things planned that you could do that does not require other people?
- (4) If Carol had several things from which to do to occupy her time, do you think she would have reacted differently? Why?

## Personal Application Questions

- (1) How is your behavior? Do you ever beg, plead, or demand to have your way?
- (2) Why do you do this?
- (3) What kinds of things can you be busy doing?
- (4) What type of things can you do with your hands?
- (5) What kind of work can you be doing?

### Sharing Thoughts With Children

Carol was acting a bit selfishly, not caring if her sister had other plans. Carol wanted to do what *she* wanted to do. The higher thought here is that God commands us to “walk or live” a certain way. Our aim is to learn to walk in His ways. Jesus is our pattern. Do you think Jesus would ever stomp His foot, demand His way, and run out of a room after causing damage? Of course not. Jesus was about His Father’s business all the time. He had work to do. We have work to do too. We should be busily engaged in being quiet, doing our own business, and working with our own hands. When we have many things to do, we will not be pestering others to stop what they are doing just to do things with us. And we will have a lot less trouble because of it.

## Responding in Love

When others demand that we stop what we are doing to do what they want to do, and we know that what we are doing is important, and that we need to finish our job or work, we do need to remain firm and gently say no. When, in the case of Carol, the demanding person throws a little tantrum or spews out some not nice words, we should not react in the same way. We should understand that this person is disappointed and does not know how to handle disappointment. We must forgive the offender, and love her, and treat her just as if nothing was said or nothing happened. That is what God requires of us. We also can see if we are able to spend some time with the person at a later hour or another day.

Review the verse and give the children a challenge to “mind their own business by being quiet and being busy.”