

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

1 THESSALONIANS: LIVING IN HOPE

In 1 Thessalonians, Paul is writing to a church that is doing well, encouraging them to keep going in a life that pleases God. In Term 4 we want to do the same by teaching through Paul's letter with an aim to encourage our church to keep living from the hope that we have in Jesus, which is the basis of our joy and perseverance.



WHEN YOU MEET:

Fortnight starting Sunday 23 October

PRAY: Share praise points and pain points, and think about who else around us might need prayer (e.g. those affected by natural disaster, COVID, war...)

READ: 1 Thessalonians 2:1 - 3:13

DISCUSS:

1. How does this passage challenge or broaden my understanding of who God is / what God is like? His compassion, mercy, love, peace, faithfulness, forgiveness, grace, justice, etc...
2. In what ways is this passage changing my thinking regarding what it means to be a follower of Jesus? For example: how is it expanding my understanding; growing my love for others; encouraging me to keep following Jesus; showing me how I may have been going in the wrong direction (away from God)?
3. How does this passage encourage me to actively reveal the love of Jesus? For example: How can I partner with the Holy Spirit in sharing the love of God with others through my words and my actions?

See over for some passage-specific questions →

PRAY: Take 10 minutes to work through Examen together. You may want to allow a few moments, afterwards, for people to share what happened. Find more information and audio files on the website:

<https://grlc.org.au/2020/10/08/daily-examen/>

MORE RESOURCES:

- Discipleship Resources Hub: grlc.org.au/discipleship-resources/
- Latest sermon: <https://grlc.org.au/grlc-hub/>





PASSAGE-SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



You do not have to cover all of these questions. Pick 1-3 that you think will suit and interest your group the most and see where the discussion takes you...

1. Can you think of a time when you dared to tell someone about the Gospel at the risk of opposition? How did it go? (*re-read 1 Thessalonians 2:2*)
2. Re-read 1 Thessalonians 2:3-12. What are the characteristics of the way Paul ministered to the Thessalonians? What point is Paul trying to make?
3. Re-read 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20. Discuss what you think Paul means in these verses and how they might apply to our own sense of calling and vocation in life.
4. **Faith comes through hearing:** What does it mean that the Bible is the Word of God, not the Word of man? How does that affect your understanding of it? (*re-read 1 Thessalonians 2:13*)
5. **Faith is refined by trials:** What different sorts of trials do we face currently? How do they affect our faith? (*also read 1 Peter 1:6-7*)
6. **Faith is under constant attack by the enemy:** In what ways do you feel you come under spiritual attack? How do you deal with it? (*re-read 1 Thessalonians 3:5*)
7. **Faith is strengthened as we meet together:** What do you think your spiritual gift(s) are? Do you feel you are using them effectively? If not, what is stopping you? (*also read Ephesians 4:11-13*)
8. **Faith is how we overcome the world:** Do you feel like you are an overcomer in terms of your faith? If not, why not? If yes, how so? (*also read 1 John 5:4-5*)

Prayer:

- Are there any people we need to be praying for, that they will remain strong in the faith?