

# 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 9 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 1

### 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? (e.g. what types of hospitality could you show to others?)

**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/>

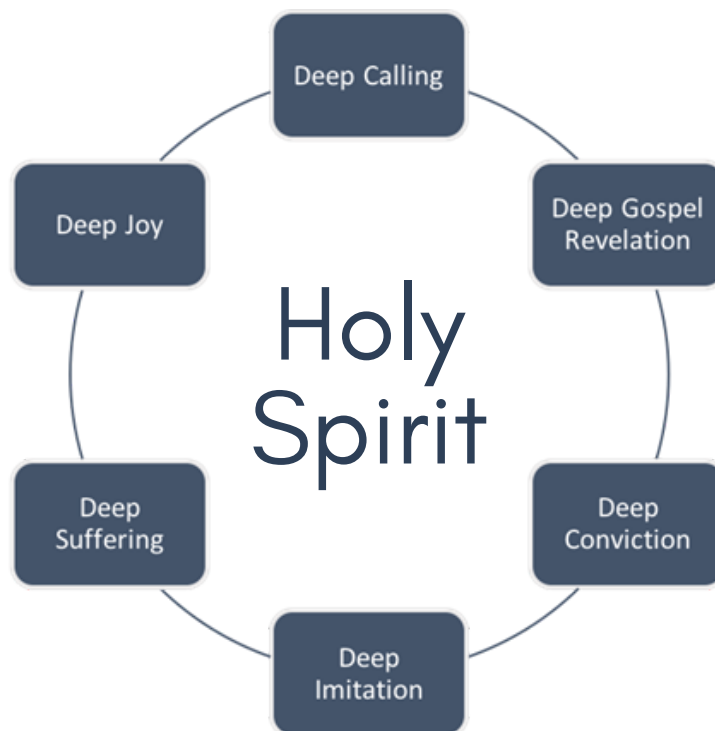
### MORE RESOURCES:

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



## PASSAGE-SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*In the opening verses of 1 Thessalonians, Paul celebrates the church as a model church because of their deep calling, gospel revelation, conviction, imitation, suffering and joy in the Holy Spirit.*



1. Discuss the cycle, above (the Holy Spirit is involved in each part). Scott put the word "deep" in each box but sometimes our lives can, in truth, be more shallow than deep in some of these areas (e.g. we are more apathetic than convicted). Reflect on how you are personally going in one or two areas. Is there one area you would want to go deeper into at the moment? (Probably not suffering!)
2. Growing deeper in all these aspects doesn't just magically happen by the Spirit apart from our will... Discuss what actions, choices and spiritual practices may help you or others in your group experience greater depth in any of the elements displayed in this model church?
3. Reflect on the Andrew Thorburn case in light of the Thessalonian church's persecution. How do you think Jesus and Paul would want us to respond to instances that feel a little like persecution today?
4. How can we foster joy more at GRLC?