

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 20 November

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 4:13 - 5:11

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 a few that you think will interest your group the most and see where the discussion takes you...

(1) Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

- As a group discuss your feelings about death at the stage of life you are in.
- Has the Gospel helped you in times of grief and loss? How?
- Discuss how you think you can best care for a person in grief.
- How would you speak about Christian hope to someone who is not a Christian?

(2) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4

- The return of Jesus is central to Christian teaching and we are to live expectant of that day. Why do you think Jesus has not already come back? What might this tell us about God and us?

(3) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:8

- Discuss how you can practically apply this verse in your daily life.

(4) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11

- Paul is really big on encouragement. Take time to go around the room and have each person offer one encouragement from the group (you can offer more of course!)