

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 6 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 4:1-12

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. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 two or three times out loud. Paul encourages the Thessalonians to “live in order to please God.” What are all the ways he describes in the passage of how we practically do this?
2. Paul calls sexual immorality 'sin', but that is a really controversial view today. How would you talk to someone who is not a Christian about what sin is, why it matters, and what God has done about it...
3. Overall, what did you feel about Scott’s sermon on Sunday? Pick a word that describes you and explain why? (awkward, agitated, curious, convicted, encouraged, enlightened, irrelevant, insufficient).
4. Scott contrasted a broad set of cultural values on sexuality with a broad set of Biblical values on sexuality (see his notes / sermon transcript). Do you think this is a fair overview? What questions does this raise for you?
5. Scott suggested that applying the Bible’s teaching on healthy sexuality is exponentially harder in the absence of a loving community where deep friendship, family, service, creativity and delight are fostered. Discuss why?
6. Bonus question for the brave: “statistically we get divorced, commit adultery and watch porn at similar rates to the rest of society.” Why is all this so hard to apply to our lives? What can we do about it?