

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 4 December

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 5:12-24

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 5:12-13

- How might you practically be able to hold your leaders in high regard? (Let's not forget our wonderful Small Group Leaders too!) What might this look like?

(2) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

- How can we pastorally care for one another?
- Do you agree that we are all called to do this?

(3) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- Lara spoke about different spiritual practices that can help us live the life described in these verses. Are any of these practices part of your every day already? Is there a practice that you could try this month?
- For example: getting a good night's sleep, being in creation, stopping each hour to bring your awareness back to that fact that God is with you...
- Read the sermon transcript to see the list of options she suggested:
<https://grlc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/My-Final-Instructions-Sermon-Transcript-Sunday-4-December-2022.pdf>

(4) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

- Share with your group how you have personally experienced God's faithfulness in your life over this year.