

Study 2

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

Objective: 1 Thessalonians is an encouragement to all believers to continue living lives worthy of God. It is a book that reminds the believer of the essentials of the Christian faith.

Opening Questions:

Who is your best friend, and why?

Body of this Week's Study:

This week's passage focuses more extensively on why Paul is writing, and what Paul's interaction with the Thessalonians was like when he visited them. Again, he takes time to applaud their openness to Paul, Silas, and Timothy and the Gospel. Everything that Paul, Silas, and Timothy did and said in Thessalonica was for the sake of the Gospel. He remarks, "You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous, and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory" (1 Thess. 2:10-12). Our goal as small group leaders and followers of Christ is to do the same. This particular passage guides us through how Paul, Silas, and Timothy reached out and shared the Gospel with those around them.

Text Questions:

1. How did Paul spread the Gospel?
2. How did they feel about the Thessalonians?
3. Why do you think Paul brought this up?
4. What difficulties were the Thessalonians facing?

Application Questions:

1. Compared to Paul's description of a faithful Christian worker (he uses himself, Silas, and Timothy as examples), how do you compare?

2. What areas do you excel at? What areas do you need to work on? (in reference to Question 1)

3. How do you love those in your life that you're sharing the Gospel with?

Creative Implementation for the Week/Spiritual Exercise:

We don't always know how to love and reach out to those around us. But this shouldn't be depressing or overwhelming. God can help us do all things, even the things that seem daunting or impossible. Write down a few names of people that you would like to love better. How could you do that? Brainstorm a few ways to tangibly show them your love for them. Pray over them, and set goals for the coming week.

Memory Verse:

"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."- 1 Thess. 2: 8.