

“Leadership”

1 Thess 5:12-15

Connect:

- 1) Share some of the positive leadership qualities you have observed in someone you have either worked for or worked with in your career. Which quality did you admire most and why?

Discuss:

1 Thess 2:12-15

- 1) What role does Christian love play in the context of respecting and esteeming leaders and why is it so important (v12-13)? What happens if love is set aside?
- 2) Being at peace (v. 13) does not mean a peace at any price. Yet constantly stirring things up is equally harmful. What kind of peace is Paul encouraging? (see also 2 Cor 13:11, Heb 12:14 and Eph 4:1-3) What steps can you and I take to promote peace within the church?
- 3) A leader is to work humbly and yet supervise righteously (v. 12a, 12b). What does each of those mean? Why is prayer so necessary to be effective in both areas?
- 4) One of Pastor Bryan’s leaders once commented to him that “It is not loving to keep someone in a position where God has not called them”. How is that understanding helpful to leaders who have to make some difficult decisions? (v. 12c)
- 5) If indeed ‘work itself is our witness’, what characteristics should be evident in both the quality of our work as well as the approach we take to our work so that our witness is positive? (v. 15)

Partner:

- 1) Am I being a faithful presence in the place God has put me? If not, what needs to change? How can Christ make a difference?
- 2) Many of us at times can accurately be described as fainthearted and weak. We need encouragement as we lead in our homes, at work and in the church. Pray for someone you know (including a Christian leader) who could use some encouragement and make a special effort to reach out to him/her this week.