

LEADER NOTES

** NOTE: On guest speaker weekends, Sermon-Based Studies may not match up completely with the message because we do not have as much upfront information about the sermon ahead of time. However, we do try to reflect the heart and main theme of the message in these questions. Feel free to add questions that came to your mind when you were listening to the message if you want to address a specific point from the sermon.

SCRIPTURE ASSISTANCE:

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Paul expresses his thanksgiving to God because the Thessalonian Christ-followers are evidencing the essential marks of the Christian life and the power of the gospel — faith, hope and love. Paul is confident that these believers are living with a gospel-perspective because of the power of the Holy Spirit working in the message they heard and because of their response to this message. This message, and thus their lives, are characterized by God's power, the work of the Holy Spirit, and authentic conviction through sincerity and integrity. Their perspective is also shown because they became imitators of Paul, living lives of joy, which showed all the more clearly during moments of affliction and suffering. The amazing joy that characterized these believers was patterned after the joy of Jesus and Paul and their perspective in the middle of big adversity.

We see that this gospel-mindset in the hearts of the Thessalonian church radiated out to the rest of the region and world. News of their faith spread out fast and their perspective resulted in the gospel being proclaimed far and wide. Thessalonica was strategically located and this church must have engaged with the neighboring regions with their faith. Other Greeks heard about how this region turned from their idolatrous path to God and His grace and power.

STRUCTURING YOUR DISCUSSION:

As you consider how to best structure your time together, we would like to fill you in on the format for these Sermon-Based Studies. We have designed them to encourage greater clarity and simplicity while generating personalized discussion for your group. Questions are assembled into three main categories: **Connect**, **Engage**, and **Respond**. Each section has a different, but important emphasis which will help you lead your group in a discussion that is relational with a cause.

- **CONNECT:** This section focuses on reconnecting your group with the **series**, with the **sermon**, and with **each other**. Questions here are designed to get everyone involved, so each person can have something to contribute. Since you know your group best, feel free to find questions or activities that best accomplish the goals of connecting with each other, the topic at hand, and broader themes of discussion.
- **ENGAGE:** During this part of the study, your group will interact and engage with **God's Word**, with the **message**, and with **life**. These questions have been specifically designed to get you into Scripture that relates to the weekend message so you can engage life with His truth.

- **RESPOND:** After engaging with God's truth, it is important to respond. How should you respond as an **individual**? How should your group respond **corporately**? Questions here will challenge you and your group to think about how to apply discussed principles to practical life.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

If you want further help with studying the Scriptures, consult a study and/or reference Bible. Contact our office if you are looking for free commentary helps. Many of the helps and concepts referenced above have come from the ESV Study Bible. Contact Eric Torrence (etorrence@chaseoaks.org) if you need any additional help. Thank you for your leadership!