

First Thessalonians

MARK IT UP

HomeGroup Discussion Questions

Week 3: Apr 24th-30th

Have you ever wondered how faithful ministry can take place in the face of great opposition? Let's face it...there are countless ways ministry can go off the rails. Compromise is easy. Giving in to pressure takes no effort. This week we see a first-century example of what areas to pay attention to as we seek to follow Jesus in our own day, both as individuals and as a community at Calvary.

Main Texts: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Connect

1. Take a minute to compare notes. What did you mark up from the passage this week?
2. What did you find significant about the sermon or passage? What questions or thoughts did it raise for you?

Learn

3. Read verses 1-6. What pitfalls or potential compromise with the message of the gospel does Paul claim to have avoided in Thessalonica? Why do you think these could have been areas of compromise?
4. What happens when a minister, like Paul, is motivated by pleasing people rather than God?
5. Look at verses 7-12. What are the key qualities of Paul's ministry that he mentions here?

Apply

6. What pressures or influences do you think cause Christians today (either as individuals or as churches) to compromise the message or the method of how they minister?
7. Think about the option to please people or to please God from verse 4. Why can't we do both? *(Extra credit: How do you think Paul's claim here relates to what he says in 1 Corinthians 9:22? "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.")*

8. What qualities of Paul’s method of ministry—everything from being “like a nursing mother taking care of her own children” in verse 7, to being “like a father with his children” in verse 11—do you find especially helpful or necessary for us today as a church? Why?

9. Think about the three areas of *the message*, *the motivation*, and *the method*. Which of these do you see as most difficult to live out on a daily basis? Why?