

First Thessalonians

MARK IT UP

HomeGroup **LEADER** Discussion Questions

Week 5: May 8th-14th

Special note: Sermon questions will not be produced after the last week of this series on May 30th. We encourage our HomeGroups to break from meeting weekly over the summer so everyone can have a time of rest and reinvigoration before the fall.

Main Texts: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Connect

1. How would you finish this sentence? My destiny is...

Pastor John opens the online sermon with this question. It relates to the second half of verse 3.

2. What did you you find significant about the sermon or passage? What questions or thoughts did it raise for you?

Learn

3. Acts 17 and 1 Thessalonians 2:14-20 describe the affliction that the Thessalonians and Paul and his companions faced as they were separated from each other. What kind of emotions do you think they felt in these afflictions?

You're free to—and encouraged to—use your imagination on this one! Options could include fear, frustration, longing, loneliness, distress, etc. Some of these can be found directly in the passage.

4. Why do you think Paul places so much attention on the condition of the Thessalonians' faith (see verses 2, 5, 6, 7, and 10) as they encountered affliction? How was faith both vulnerable to and a defense against affliction?

Affliction can shake a weak or misplaced faith. It can also fortify a faith that is truly in Jesus.

5. Paul once again expresses his love for the Thessalonians in this passage. What words or phrases do you see that convey how greatly he cares about and values the Thessalonians?

There are a lot of options! Paul's love for the Thessalonians is unmistakable as he writes.

Apply

6. Paul wrote in verse 5, “when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith...” How would you describe the state of your faith today?

This is a very personal question, but is also one that could help start a good discussion about how everyone is doing in your group. It's also a great opportunity to pray for each other as you share.

7. Affliction can impact our faith in different ways. How has affliction impacted your faith?

Like the previous question, this is very personal. This question could lead you into a time of prayer for each other as you encourage one another.

8. Paul wrote in verses 7-8 that, “in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.” Do you have someone in your life whose faith matters to you like the Thessalonians did to Paul?

The purpose of this question is to help us think through how we should care deeply about the faith of people around us. This is part of what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ.

9. Paul speaks of “supply[ing] what is lacking in your faith” in verse 10. How can we help build up each other's faith and support one another as we face the challenges of life?

Hopefully this encourages us as we consider how Paul didn't expect the individual Thessalonians to have a “stand-alone” kind of faith. Instead, he knew that they needed spiritual support. We do too! Your HomeGroup is intended to be a place where that kind of support is found as you gather together, discuss God's Word, and pray together. These are practices that are meant to build us up in our faith as a community.