

First Thessalonians

MARK IT UP

HomeGroup Discussion Questions

Week 6: May 15th-21st

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. Even so, groups are encouraged to make plans to stay in touch over the summer.

Main Texts: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Connect

1. Think of a time when you were seeking God's will in some area of your life...what was the situation and what ended up happening?
2. What did you you find significant about the sermon or passage? What questions or thoughts did it raise for you?

Learn

3. Read verses 1-3 of our passage. *Sanctification* (v. 3) relates to how the Thessalonians "walk" (i.e., live their lives). Why would Paul (and God, for that matter) concern himself with their actions and not only their beliefs?
4. In this passage, Paul hones in on one specific realm of the Thessalonians' lives: sexual immorality. Of all the areas he might address—unchecked anger, pride, selfishness, theft, lying, etc.—why do you think God would be concerned about sex?
5. There is to be a contrast between the practices of the "Gentiles who do not know God" and the Thessalonians who do know God. Why do you think God's desire is for His people to be distinct from others?
6. In verses 6-8, Paul mentions two different offenses when a person commits sexual immorality. It "wrong[s] his brother" and "disregards God." How can this be true even among consenting adults?

Apply

7. This passage gives a lot of attention to our behavior or actions in life. How do you think our *beliefs* about God relate to *how we live* our lives? Is one more important than the other? Can one be strong and the other weak?

8. Paul called the Thessalonians to a standard of sexual behavior that was radical for their day. How is God's standard for sexuality radical for us today? Think through examples.

9. Paul seems to be encouraging the Thessalonians to not let up on putting their beliefs into action with the phrase, "more and more" in verses 1 and 10. What does it look like for us to live in such a way that we continue to grow in our faithfulness to Jesus, knowing we haven't yet "arrived"?

10. Paul's concern is that the Thessalonians live "properly before outsiders" (v. 12). What are one or two ways you are seeking to set a "proper" example for unbelievers?