

08/24

HOME GROUP GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

LISTEN

Listen to the sermon and read through the main passages(s)



REFLECT

Prayerfully answer the questions below



DISCUSS

Meet with your group to discuss



RESPOND

Apply the truth of God's word to your life

BACKGROUND:

What do you do when you come across something that changes your life? Typically, you share it with others, hoping they'll have the same experience. In 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul tells his readers that their personal testimonies, rooted in a life transformed by Christ, are the most powerful means of sharing the gospel. It's not just what we say, but how we live that makes an impact on others.

Then, he gives three habits to avoid. He tells the Thessalonians not to pursue flattery, greed, or glory. Instead, Christians should aim to embody gentleness, genuine love, and self-sacrifice. Paul and his ministry partners sought to do this by drawing close to them, sharing "not only the gospel of God but also our very selves," because the Thessalonians had become dear to him. Evangelism means speaking the truth and living it out through a life marked by integrity, kindness, and sacrificial love.

OPEN:

1. Have you ever met someone who seems to personify Jesus in their daily life? What about their character stood out to you?

REFLECT:

2. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8. According to this passage, what drove Paul to preach the gospel? What are some misguided reasons for preaching the gospel?

3. Paul compares his care for the Thessalonians to the love of a parent (cf. vv. 7 and 11). What are the characteristics of this kind of love? What are some things children will see in the life of a parent that others may not get to see?

4. "Paul says he shared himself with the Christians in Thessalonica. What does it look like to share your life with someone? Why is it important to share your life with a person versus just telling them facts from the Bible?"

APPLY:

5. If someone gave you the chance to share who Jesus is to you and what he has done in your life, how would you sum it up in one sentence? Share it with your group.

6. Is there someone who needs to understand the gospel that God has already put in your path? How can you connect with them this week?

7. As a church, what are some ways we can move beyond just giving persuasive arguments for Jesus to sharing our lives with others? What are some practical ways we can do this on a Sunday morning?

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