

## Small Group Discussion Guide — February 16, 2020

- Series: “I Pray That” - Prayers of the Apostle Paul
  - Sermon: Live Into Your Calling
  - Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 1: 11-12 (NLT)
- 

### **FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:**

Last week, David explored the phrase “fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.” How did the words “joy” and “peace” affect your day-to-day life this past week? What about “hope”?

### **CONNECT:**

Andy told a story about searching for his son’s shoes. Are you a person who sets things out the night before, who has designated places for each item, or someone who ends up living through a bit of chaos on a daily basis? What item do you commonly misplace?

### **ENGAGE:**

Read 2 Thessalonians 1: 11-12 (NLT).

- What does the first word of the verse, “So,” refer to?
- What two things is Paul praying that God will do for the Thessalonians (and us)?
- What does Paul say should be the outcome of God fulfilling those prayers?
- Discuss the difference between God making everything happen that I want to happen, and God making you fit for His purposes.

### **APPLY:**

1. Paul emphasized that living out your calling depends on where you place your hope. Andy said, “What you hope for shapes what you live for.” How have you found this to be true in your life?
2. What would a life look like when one puts their confidence in God’s power, and their hope in the promise of Jesus’ return, as opposed to depending upon yourself and your circumstances? How might your life be different if this is your posture going forward?
3. Have you ever realized you’ve been putting your passion in the wrong place? What is the difference between asking God to affirm our own ideas about our purpose and to give us the resources to live those ideas out, versus accepting God’s calling to simply live with a hope and confidence centered on Him?
4. Has there been a time you’ve felt prompted but not prepared? Called but not qualified? How did God prepare or qualify you during that time?

### **PRAY:**

Father, thank you for the gift we have in each other, to be able to gather in your name and in confidence of your presence. We pray this week that we would live lives worthy of your calling, putting our hope in your promises and not in our own power. May your name be glorified in us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## **GOING DEEPER:**

1. Philippians 1:9-11:

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.”

Paul refers often and with purpose to Jesus’ return. His prayer is that Christians would place their hope in this. In Thessalonians 1, he says that we should have our hope so surely fixed on this promise that we should live as though it has already happened. What does this mean to you? What fruit might your life bear if you lived that way?

2. Pray Paul’s prayer in your own words for each other.

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES**

1 Samuel 3:4-5 NIV

Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.” And he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” But Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down.

2 Corinthians 12:9a NIV

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

John 14:6-7

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

## **OTHER REFERENCES**

Perry Noble – “As long you are still breathing, there is still hope.” [The Perry Noble Collection: Unleash! Overwhelmed](#)