

Discussion Questions

Date: October 18, 2026

Preacher: Matt Bovard

Sermon Outline

Talking Points

Growing in God's Love ***1 Thessalonians 4:9-12***

God's love shapes daily life in God's household (9-10)

- God's love for us ultimately teaches how to love one another.
- Believers are expected to grow in how they live out God's love.
- **Question:** Reflect on how God has shown His generosity and love toward you. How does God's display of generosity and love challenge you in the way you view and relate to others within the church?

The church's love for one another is foundational for their witness to the surrounding community (11-12)

- Ambition for those in God's family is defined by quietness and an aversion to a disruptive lifestyle.
- One's daily vocation is a form of witness.
- **Question:** Does your life reflect the love of God displayed in the gospel to those who you see everyday?

Bottom Line: A life pleasing to God overflows with his love to those around us.

* Go around the room and name the ways you have seen each other grow in love.

* How are God's love and generosity connected?

* How does God love you? In what ways does that love shape your love for others?

* How is God inviting you to display His love and generosity to the people with whom you live? Where you work? Where you play? Name one thing God is inviting you to do this week.

* Name some ways that your vocation is a witness to the community.

* How can your vocation be a witness to the work of God? Give each other ideas specific to their work.

* How could your work spark curiosity about the gospel? Is there a way you can start those conversations?

* Pray for your group to experience God's overflowing love and to let that love overflow onto the people in your life.

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests

