

GATHERING INSIGHTS

SERIES: **1 + 2 Thessalonians**

TITLE: **The Beginning**

BIG IDEA: The early church lived out a passion that turned this world upside down. Do we live with this same Christ Centered passion?

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read **Acts 1-8**

How does it help reading how the church of Thessalonica

was started and the knowing the impact that Paul was having as he started these churches in pagan cities?

Why do you think that Paul started in the Jewish synagogues? How does it start in the synagogues but then overflows into the Greeks being persuaded to become faithful followers of Jesus?

When you see that Paul and his disciples had a reputation of “turning the world upside down”, what comes to your mind in how they were doing that?

Do you think in the environment of Thessalonica it was easy or difficult to become a believer? Why would anyone choose to be a part a movement that is causing riots in the city?

Read **1 Thessalonians 3:1-5**

Why do you think it was so important to send Timothy to check on the new church in Thessalonica?

How is Paul encouraged by the news he receives from Timothy of the condition of the new followers in Thessalonica?

GROWING IN CHRIST

What does this story of a NEW work starting in a dark, pagan city reveal to you about Jesus and his call redeem and restore the lost?

How do the examples of the Thessalonica church facing hardship and persecution, challenge you in your walk with Jesus?

In just three to four weeks, Paul established a church that would survive and thrive without extensive leadership training or his ongoing presence. What does this suggest about what is truly essential for a healthy church versus what we often consider necessary?

How does Paul’s concern for the new church and others compare to the depth of relationships in your own faith community?

Why do you think that Paul was willing to share the Gospel in this City, even though he knew it was dangerous? What keeps us from sharing the Gospel with those around us?

In what ways is your faith actively challenging the status quo in your community, or have you settled into a comfortable Christianity that requires little sacrifice?

LIVING AS A FAMILY

SHARING THE GOSPEL