

GATHERING INSIGHTS

SERIES: **1 + 2 Thessalonians**

TITLE: **The Reputation**

BIG IDEA: As followers of Jesus there should be real change that leads to a real church that has a contagious faith and sets an courageous example.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read **1 Thessalonians 1:1-7**

How do you think the church at Thessalonica would have responded when they heard that Paul had written them a letter? What ways do you think it encouraged them?

Why do you think Paul calls out their “work of faith, labor of love and steadfastness in hope?” What would your “work of faith” look like during the week?

How has your faith cost you something? Why do you think sacrifice is a key part to our growth in Christ?

When you hear that the early church “imitated” Paul as he imitated Christ”, how does that make you feel? Does that put more pressure on you or less in your discipleship?

Read **1 Thessalonians 1:8-10**

Why do you think this young church, with limited discipleship and teaching came to be known for its contagious faith?

How do you see “turning from idols” still a relevant step for us today in our world as Christ followers? What are some modern-day idols?

How do we “turn to God” in our everyday lives?

What are some ways that you are living for God through service to King Jesus?

GROWING IN CHRIST

In what areas of your life has Jesus not yet impacted your decisions, and what might be preventing transformation in those specific areas?

If someone were building a case that you are a Christ follower, what specific evidence from your daily life would they find, and would they have to dig deep to discover it?

Who are you currently imitating in your faith journey, and how are you moving from imitation to innovation in applying what you learn?

What does it mean practically to turn your life over to God in service, and what would need to change in your weekly priorities to reflect that commitment?

LIVING AS A FAMILY

In what ways might you be underestimating the impact of your faith on others, similar to how the Thessalonians may not have realized their influence was spreading everywhere?

How can the church shine brighter in an increasingly dark world, and what specific acts of service, compassion, or mercy is God calling you to demonstrate?

SHARING THE GOSPEL