



### QUESTION 1

Why do you think so many people who were the outcasts and the rejected liked to be around Jesus? What was it about His attitude and actions that made Him so approachable?

### QUESTION 2

If God wanted to communicate with us in such an intimate and up close way in sending Jesus - how should that impact how we communicate with others?

### QUESTION 3

Why do you think God has placed such an extreme emphasis on our faith expressing itself in how we love one another? When you think about your faith - is the primary expression love (in both how we act and talk)?

### QUESTION 4

As you close out this session take some time and encourage the people in your group by telling them how you see God at work in their lives and be the example to them of how to demonstrate the love of Christ.

### PAUL'S SECOND PRAYER

In v. 5 Paul presents a second prayer in the form of a wish (cf. 2:16–17) before launching into his exhortation concerning work. The prayer is, *May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance*. The prayer asks that the *Lord* Jesus Christ (cf. 1:1–2, 7–8, 12; 2:1, 8, 14, 16) *direct* their *hearts* in the moral life, echoing a common Jewish expression (cf. 1 Chr. 29:18; 2 Chr. 12:14; 20:33; 30:19; Prov. 21:2; 23:19; and see Luke 1:79).

The apostle's request is that the *Lord* direct the Thessalonians' moral life in such a way that they exhibit *love* and *perseverance* (1 Thess. 1:3; 2 Thess. 1:3–4) that imitate these virtues of God the Father, who loved them, and Jesus Christ, who was steadfast in His sufferings for them. "Act as God acts!" is the principal exhortation in Jewish and Christian ethics.

### WORD STUDY

Verse 5 'patient endurance' - in the Greek is *hupomone* 32 occurrences; translates as "patience" 29 times, "enduring" once, "patient continuance" once, and "patient waiting" once. 1 steadfastness, constancy, endurance. 1a in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.