

# EVERYDAY WITNESS – RELATIONAL WITNESSES

## SMALL GROUP NOTES 12/05/19

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### SCRIPTURE

- Matthew 11:18-19
- 1 Thessalonians 2:5-8

### SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

Jesus perfectly modelled the call to spend time with, build relationship and love the people around us. We see Paul reminding the church in Thessalonica how he had loved them, "being affectionately desirous of them". This language is exceptionally vivid in communicating our call to genuinely love others. Opening our lives to others is a costly call and so we need to be a generous in our attitude and approach. Paul tells us the apostles didn't just share the gospel, but their own selves. We can't be naïve to the cost living out our identity brings, and must be willing to give all we have for the glory of God and for the good of those around us.

### QUESTION FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. The gospels are full of different examples of how Jesus offered friendship and relationship to those he encountered. Think of and share as many as you can. What do you notice?
2. In 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul separates himself from those who offer relationship by flattery, as a pretext for greed or for their own glory (v5-6). How are we susceptible to these, especially when seeking relationship with unbelievers? How could we be less like this and more like Jesus?
3. Paul imitates Jesus in raising the bar for what it means to be in relationship with one another by offering not just the gospel but their own selves (v8). How does this link in with previous passages in the series about being proclaiming witnesses (Luke 4:16-22, Colossians 4:5-6) and compassionate witnesses (Luke 7:36-50, 1 John 3:16-18)?
4. What relationships do you have with unbelievers? Are they able to go deeper for the gospel? If so, what could that look like? If you think of any action points, be specific, make them achievable and pray for the Spirit's leading and guiding.