

OCTOBER 2, 2022

FIRST



# THESSALONIANS

HOPE OF A SOON RETURN

[WWW.CCCIV.ORG](http://WWW.CCCIV.ORG)



CHRIST  
*Community*  
CHURCH  
EL CENTRO



590 W. Orange Ave.  
El Centro, CA 92243  
760-337-9400 Office

# Welcome

to Christ Community Church



**SCAN TO  
CONNECT  
WITH US**



Apple

**GET THE APP!**

Christ Community Church IV

**Mobile APP**



Android



**WONDERWOMAN FUNDRAISER \$10 TAMALES PLATES - TODAY AFTER SERVICE**

**COVENANT CLASS NEXT SUNDAY 9:00 - 9:50 AM**

Learn more about our Statement of Faith, Vision Statement, and Mission Statement so that you can make an informed decision about your commitment (and sign the Covenant) to the CCC family. Sign up here>>>



**MIDWEEK GATHERING - EACH WEDNESDAY AT 6:30 PM**

This week we'll have worship, prayer, and communion in the Sanctuary, and next Wednesday is Devotion and Discussion night! We will gather in the sanctuary for a brief devotional teaching from Pastor Dennis and an interactive group discussion on the topic.

**HOPE OUTREACH CONCERT AND CAR SHOW OCTOBER 8, 5:30 PM**

The Hope Outreach featuring Hog Mob Hip Hop concert and Car Show will be held in the CCC Parking Lot with other family friendly fun on October 8th at 5:30 pm

**WOMEN'S BUNCO GAME NIGHT OCTOBER 10 - 6-8:30 PM**

It's all fun and games ladies! Register now, and join us for a night of Bunco (a fun and easy to learn dice game) in the Fellowship Hall Saturday, October 10th at 6pm.



**IV LIFECENTER FUNDRAISER TICKETS AVAILABLE TODAY!**

The IV Life Center Dinner for Life will be on October 21st at 6 pm. Tickets are available in the Visitor's Center today for \$50 or you may sponsor a table of 8.

Save  
DATE

**HARVEST NIGHT CARNIVAL & CAR SHOW 10/26 AT 5:30 PM**

**MEN'S RETREAT IN PINE VALLEY - 10/28 \$160 REGISTER ON THE CCC APP**

**NEW SERIES: ISRAEL ⬠ PAST PRESENT FUTURE - BEGINS 10/23**

\*OUR FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE ISRAEL'S CONSUL GENERAL - SUNDAY 10/30

**GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP** ALTERNATING SATURDAYS BEGINNING 10/29

**LUNCH IN THE WORD MEN'S STUDY • TUESDAYS AT NOON • FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**IMPERIAL VALLEY SCHOOL OF MINISTRY • TUESDAYS 6:30 PM • FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**ROOTED YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (18-24) TUESDAYS AT 7:00 PM • REACH BASEMENT**

**REACH YOUTH GROUP (REACH BASEMENT) & AWANA (FH) • WEDNESDAYS 6:15 PM**

**MIDWEEK GATHERING • WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM • MAIN SANCTUARY**

**JOY OF LIVING WOMEN'S STUDY • THURSDAYS AT 9:30-11:30 AM • FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**MOMS IN PRAYER • THURSDAYS 6-7 PM • PRESCHOOL ROOM 4**

**BETRAYAL & BEYOND WOMEN'S STUDY • THURSDAYS 6:30 PM • IV LIFE CENTER**

**KITCHEN WITH A MISSION • FRIDAYS AT 5:30 PM • FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**ONGOING**

**Find the LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS  
On the CCC Mobile APP or at  
[ccciv.org/lifegroup-resources](http://ccciv.org/lifegroup-resources)**



**Getting to Know You:**

1. Which type of gamer are you? Do you prefer challenging puzzles and brainteasers or fast-paced action and reflex-testing games? What do you think your preference reveals about your personality? When the game gets complicated, are you motivated or discouraged by the score?
2. Did you ever swap love notes or exchange letters with someone deployed, away at college, or distant for some reason? With that in mind, what do you imagine about this exchange between Paul and the Thessalonian church, and why Paul sent Timothy for information?

**Digging Deeper:**

1. Read John 10:11-13, Romans 9:1-3, and 1 Thessalonians chapter 3, specifically focusing on verses 1-2, 5, 9-10. To what lengths were Jesus and Paul willing to go for the sheep and the lost?
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:3-5, 2 Timothy 3:12, and 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 as you consider the early believers' experience with persecution. What do you suppose would happen if America were to face the same intensity of persecution? What encouragement and hope do you find in John 15:18-21, 2 Corinthians 1:5-7, and Matthew 5:10-12?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 and discuss the influence Paul's love for the Thessalonians and the believers' love for one another had on the church and, vice versa, on Paul. How does one grow in love? How does greater love beget greater holiness? Consider 1 John 4:16-20 and 1 John 5:3 in your answer.

**Taking it Home:**

1. Discuss one or two things your life group could do to better love the church body and the lost. What impact could your life group make in 6 months if you demonstrate this kind of love?
2. If persecution continues to increase in America, consider how you should personally respond. How will you prepare for when that time comes? How will you equip your family and loved ones for that eventuality? What will be your first step?

# 1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-13

PAUL'S \_\_\_\_\_ FOR THE CHURCH

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PAUL'S \_\_\_\_\_ FROM THE CHURCH

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PAUL'S \_\_\_\_\_ FOR THE CHURCH

THAT THE CHURCH WOULD BE \_\_\_\_\_

THAT THE CHURCH WOULD BE \_\_\_\_\_

THE FIRST  
**THESSALONIANS**  
HOPE OF A SOON RETURN

SCAN TO OPEN TODAY'S  
OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES >>>



WEEK OF  
October 2, 2022

## Cliffhanger: The story isn't over

PARENT GUIDE  
Preteen



**First, watch  
this week's  
video!**

Use this guide to help your family  
learn how God can help us have grit.

### Activity

**Egg-stra Challenge**

**What You Need:**

Fork, egg, hand towel

**What You Do:**

Place the egg on a flat surface that it can't easily fall off of, such as a couch or coffee table. Give your child a fork and challenge them to scoop up the egg using only the fork—no other help—and then balance it for 5 seconds.

After several attempts, give your child the hand towel and let them use the towel to stop the egg from rolling away from the fork. This will still be challenging with the towel, but it will be possible.

Give them a few more tries. If they aren't successful, eventually let them use their other hand to scoop and balance.

After the activity, ask, "What are situations that people go through that they need strength to push through? What helps people get through hard times?" Explain how the towel is like God. Say, "Just because we have God in our lives does not mean that we won't face hard things. Challenging times come for all of us. But God is always with us, giving us something to hold onto so we don't drop our egg, so to speak!"



### Talk About the Bible Story

What helps you get through hard things?

What are some ways you are reminded that God is with you?

How did Joseph show grit in our story? (*He trusted God even when bad things happened.*)

How can Joseph's story encourage you?

How can you use your experiences to encourage others?

*Parent: Share a kid-appropriate story about a time you faced something really difficult and were reminded that God was with you.*



### Prayer

**Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:**

"Dear God, thank You for the story of Joseph, and what it teaches us about You. Help us to remember that we can hold on through hard things because You are with us. Help us to have grit, no matter what we are facing. Thank you for loving us, and for being with us always. In Jesus' name, Amen."

**Grit: Refusing  
to give up when  
life gets hard**

**Memory Verse**

"Let us not become  
tired of doing good.  
At the right time we  
will gather a crop  
if we don't give up."  
Galatians 6:9, NIV

**Bible Story**

Joseph Sold by  
Brothers and  
Joseph in Jail  
Genesis 37, 39–40

**Key Question**

What helps people  
get through hard  
things?

# DEVOTIONS

WEEK OF  
October 2, 2022

## Cliffhanger: The story isn't over

PARENT GUIDE  
Elementary



First, watch  
this week's  
video!

Grit: Refusing  
to give up when  
life gets hard

### Memory Verse

"Let us not become  
tired of doing good.  
At the right time we  
will gather a crop  
if we don't give up."  
Galatians 6:9, NIV

### Bible Story

Joseph Sold by  
Brothers and  
Joseph in Jail  
Genesis 37, 39–40

### Bottom Line

Hold on because  
God is with you.



Use this guide to help your family  
learn how God can help us have grit.



### Activity

Hold On

#### What You Need:

Blindfold (bandana)

#### What You Do:

Blindfold your child and tell them to hold on to your shoulder (or hand). Then, lead them around the house without telling them where you're going. Bonus points if you can complete this activity outside—that would increase the mystery of the destination!

After you've spent a few minutes leading your child around the house (or outside), remove their blindfold and reveal their new location. If there's time, allow your child to lead you around too.

After the activity, say, "That was so much fun! You didn't know where I was leading you, but you knew I was taking you somewhere. Even though you didn't know where we'd end up, you had to trust me."

### Talk About the Bible Story

In today's story, who had to choose to trust even though they didn't know where they'd end up?  
(Joseph)

What bad things happened to Joseph? (his brothers threw him in a well and sold him to a group of traders, he was put in jail for something he didn't do)

If you had been Joseph, would it be easy or difficult for you to trust God during these difficult circumstances? Why?

When is it difficult for you to hold on or to trust in God?

What can you do to remind yourself that you can hold on because God is with you?

Parent: Share a kid-appropriate story about a time you faced something really difficult and were reminded that God was with you.



### Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"God, thank You for the example of Joseph—someone who showed grit by holding on and trusting You. I pray that our family would show that same kind of grit... that we would have big trust in our big God who loves us and wants what's best for us. When life feels difficult, help us to hold on and know that You are with us. Amen."

**TEXT (833) 694-6999 TO GIVE:**

Use the  
keyword: **CCCIV**

**CCCIVBRAWLEY**  
**CCCIVCALEXICO**  
**CCCIVSPANISH**

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**VOLUNTEER**

Several ministries are looking for help, including the Tech Team, AWANA, Kids Ministry, and KWAM.

**WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?**



## **CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH PASTORS**

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