



Faith Community Church
Waiting Joyfully
(Standing firm, Part 1)

Faith Group Questions
& Discussion Guide



🙏 **Opening Prayer:** Father, help us to hear Your voice as we look at what faith, hope, and love should be producing in our lives. Help us to trust and live out the power of Your gospel, and wait joyfully for Your return.

🧊 **Icebreaker:** Think of a time when someone's genuine faith or kindness **under pressure** made a lasting impression on you. What stood out, and why?

🔑 **Key Points**

1. **Foundational Identity.** The Thessalonian church was born in chaos and persecution yet stood firm because their identity was rooted in being “in God” and “loved by God.”
2. **Belief Produces.** Genuine faith produces visible work, true love leads to costly labor, and real hope creates steadfast endurance.
3. **The Gospel Produces.** The gospel comes to us in power, transforms us into examples, and then sounds forth from us as a living testimony.
4. **Jesus Is Coming.** Trials and temptations will come, but so will Jesus. Those who belong to Him can wait with joyful hope because He delivers from the wrath to come.

💬 **Discussion Questions**

1. Did you do a personal heart audit, practice “excuse-free” ownership, or make an accountability connection? Tell us about it!
2. The Thessalonians faced intense pressure and hostility, and yet remained committed. What kinds of cultural or relational pressures make it hardest for you to stand firm in your faith today? (Acts 17:5-9)
3. Paul celebrates their “work of faith,” “labor of love,” and “steadfastness of hope.” Which of these three do you currently find most natural, and which feels most challenging? (Faith- Hebrews 11:33-38; Love- Luke 10:25-37; Hope: Romans 5:3-5)

4. How does remembering that we are already “in God” and “loved by God” change the way we approach serving, sacrificing, or enduring hard seasons? (Romans 8:35-39)
5. The gospel cycle moves from receiving the message, to being changed, to becoming an example, to having the word sound forth from us. Where do you sense you are in that cycle right now? (1 Thessalonians 1:5-9)
6. What is one area of your life where you need the Holy Spirit’s power (rather than your own effort) to produce real transformation or boldness? (Romans 8:5-11)
7. Paul says their faith “has gone forth everywhere.” What would it look like for your faith to be clearly evident—not hidden or surprising—to the people who know you best? (John 13:34-35)
8. How does the certainty of Jesus’ return shape the way you face current trials, temptations, or discouragement? (1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:23-24)



Practical Applications

1. **Labor of Love.** Identify one specific “work of faith” or “labor of love” you can intentionally pursue this week—something inconvenient or sacrificial—and do it as an expression of being already loved by God.
2. **Sound Forth.** Choose one relationship or environment (home, work, neighborhood, or social media) and ask God to make your life a clearer example of the gospel so that the word of the Lord might “sound forth” through ordinary faithfulness.
3. **Waiting Joyfully.** Begin or end each day this week by thanking Jesus that He is coming again and asking Him to strengthen your hope so you can endure present pressures with joyful steadfastness.



Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, I know You desire to transform my life. Help me to walk this week in faith, hope, and love as I live and share the truth and hope of Your gospel in my world. Thank You for dying to save me from the wrath to come. Amen.