

## 1 Thessalonians Series: Gospel Living to the End Meeting Guide

Most questions are either taken from or adapted from John Stott's 1 & 2 Thessalonians Bible Study.

**Date:** May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

### Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

### Discuss

**Read Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 5 together (since this is the last week in 1 Thessalonians, read the entire chapter, with a focus being on 5:23-28 for discussion)

### Bible Study

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together.

### Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all of your life.

### Apply

Review the habits and next steps listed in this week's review. Discuss how you'll put them into practice and seek to make a plan for how you'll hold one another accountable.

### Habits

- Meditate on the fact that believers in the Gospel have been set apart by God.
- Reject wrong assumptions that lead to passivity in your sanctification.
- Pray for opportunities to grow in manifesting His sanctifying work in you.

### Pray

Pray together for the Spirit's enablement to walk in new ways that are pleasing to the Lord and give Him glory in and through the church (both local and universal).

### Bible Study: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

*"Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*

<sup>25</sup>*Brothers, pray for us.*

<sup>26</sup>*Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.*

<sup>27</sup>*I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.*

<sup>28</sup>*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." (ESV)*

**Open:**

- As you consider this letter to 1 Thessalonians, where has your faith been built up or encouraged to live the gospel to the end?

**Study:**

- 1) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28 and make a list of the commands that Paul gives to this church. Why are these important commands to this church and for us today?
- 2) Paul's relentless focus on Jesus' second coming finds completion in 1 Thessalonians 5:23. Look back once more to 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 2:19-20; 3:11-13; 4:13-18 and consider how this theme binds this letter together.
- 3) What encouragement do we find in 1 Thessalonians 5:24? On what does the call of God (see also 1 Thess. 2:12; 4:7) depend, according to this verse? What response does this illicit in you and why?
- 4) How does Paul express confidence in God's faithfulness? Can you recall other places in Scripture where Paul expresses this kind of confidence in God's faithfulness? If so, where?
- 5) How would you imagine Paul's confidence in God's faithfulness in sanctifying the members of this church affecting them? How does it affect you? Why?
- 6) What is the difference between justification and sanctification? Why is it important to be clear about these differences?
- 7) After making many authoritative statements, Paul asks the Thessalonians to pray for him. What does Paul's request tell you about his self-awareness and need?

**Apply:**

- 1) In light of His ongoing faithfulness to you, how might this encourage you to cooperate more fully with him in your sanctification with faith and joy?
- 2) How is God calling you to pray for your leaders and fellow brothers and sisters?

**Pray:**

- Thank God for His faithfulness to complete what the gospel began in you.
- Ask God for help and faith to cooperate with His spirit in sanctification.