

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

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

**Date:** April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</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**

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-14 together.

### **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**

- Resist temptations to be preoccupied with predictions of Christ's return.
- Prepare for Christ's return.
- Pray for and encourage your leaders.

### **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 5:1-14 (CSB)

### *Waiting and Preparing for Christ*

<sup>1</sup>About the times and the seasons: Brothers and sisters, you do not need anything to be written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, 'Peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the dark, for this day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then, let us not sleep, like the rest, but let us stay awake and be self-controlled. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled and put on the armor of faith and love, and a helmet of the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.

### *Christian Community*

<sup>12</sup>Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to give recognition to those who labor among you and lead you in the Lord and admonish you, <sup>13</sup>and to regard them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. <sup>14</sup>And we exhort you, brothers and sisters: warn those who are idle, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Study: 5:1-11

Open:

- As a Christian, what does the expectation of Christ's return have upon your life and experience? (Is this something that you frequently or rarely think about? Do you ever think about how Christ's return will happen? Or even what it will be like?)

Study:

- 1) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 and write down what concerns Paul is addressing with the church in Thessalonica.
- 2) Even since Christ ascended, people have attempted to predict His return. What do you think is the appeal to knowing the date of Christ's second coming?
- 3) In what ways will the Lord's coming be like the coming of a nighttime burglar?
- 4) In what ways will the Lord's coming be like the onset of labor of a pregnant woman?
- 5) Some people attempt to predict the exact time of Christ's return, while others dismiss the notion that His return could be soon. How does Paul's statement that Christ will come unexpectedly counter both of these errors?

- 6) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11 and describe the attitudes and behavior of those who are living in spiritual darkness.
- 7) How do the attitudes and behavior of those who belong to the light contrast with the above?
- 8) What are some of the spiritual traps that Christians should stay alert for?
- 9) Paul refers to faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet. Why do Christians need these pieces of armor?
- 10) How does Paul express confidence that the Thessalonians will be ready when Christ returns?
- 11) Why do we need encouragement from one another as we wait and prepare for Christ's return?

Apply:

- 1) How might you or be tempted to live distracted from considering Christ's second coming and not living in the full light of Christ?
- 2) How can you encourage someone today with the hope of Christ's sure return?

**Study:** 5:12-14

**Potential Open:**

- How are you helped and encouraged by your Christian family?

Study:

- 1) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. According to this passage, what are the responsibilities of church leaders toward those they lead?
- 2) What are the responsibilities of those they lead?
- 3) Why does Paul's instruction preclude either pastors or laypeople "lording it over" each other?
- 4) Why do pastors and laypeople sometimes find it difficult to live in peace with one another?
- 5) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14 and write down what attitude does Paul encourage between believers?

- 6) Why do the idle, discouraged (timid), and weak especially need patience from others in the church?
- 7) What sort of people (or problems of people) make you impatient?

Apply:

- 1) Who in your relational network needs your support and patience?
- 2) How is God calling you to care for them?

PRAY:

- Thank God for delivering you from His wrath and giving you salvation in Christ.
- Ask God for help to live at peace and to be patient with all for the sake of His glory and the reputation of the Church.