

Imitate Our Labor and Hardship

2 Thessalonians 3:7-8 – Discussion Group Leader Handout

Bible Passage

“⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we did not act in an unruly manner among you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you;”

Discussion Questions

I. **Imitate** Paul’s model... (v. 7a)

- a. What are some reasons why our culture opposes imitation?
- b. How can we imitate a person while also trying to imitate Christ?
- c. What dangers might you encounter if you try to do things your own way?
- d. What are some of the benefits of learning by imitation?
- e. Will imitation always be conscious and intentional? How should this affect who you spend your time with? How should we choose who to imitate?

II. **... because his model isn’t harmful** (v. 7b-8a)

- a. What are specific ways we can practice imitating our leaders? *1 Tim 4:12*
- b. Why is attention to detail important as we progress in sanctification?
- c. What are some situations where a person might feel tempted to mooch off someone else? How are these examples of theft in the heart?
- d. What are some digital or electronic temptations to taking without paying? Why do these matter, even though we might think nobody is watching or “getting hurt”?

III. **... because his model is helpful** (v. 8b)

- a. What are some ways that God has been generous toward you?
- b. How have you been served and blessed by Anchor Bible Church?
- c. What other motivations should encourage our diligent labor? *Eph 4:28, 1 Th 4:12*
- d. How can you cultivate a lifestyle of selfless sacrifice and eager generosity?
- e. What are other ways you can aim to be a blessing instead of a burden?
- f. How does more time with someone help you imitate them better?

Prayer Requests

- Pray that we would bold in imitating the models set by our godly leaders
- Pray that God would sanctify our church leaders and keep them above reproach
- Pray that we would refuse temptations to avoid paying what we owe
- Pray that we would spend less and work more so we can be generous