

# 1 THESSALONIANS

MORE AND MORE FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

# I THESSALONIANS

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MORE AND MORE FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

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# I THESSALONIANS

# OVERVIEW

For starters...

Have you ever gotten a ~~letter~~ ~~e-mail~~ text message from someone and read it over and over trying to understand what they really meant? Were they serious? joking? sarcastic?

If we do that with messages received **today** imagine the great need to carefully consider this letter from Paul written almost 2000 years ago.

This first lesson will look at the letter as a whole dissecting major themes, tones and patterns.

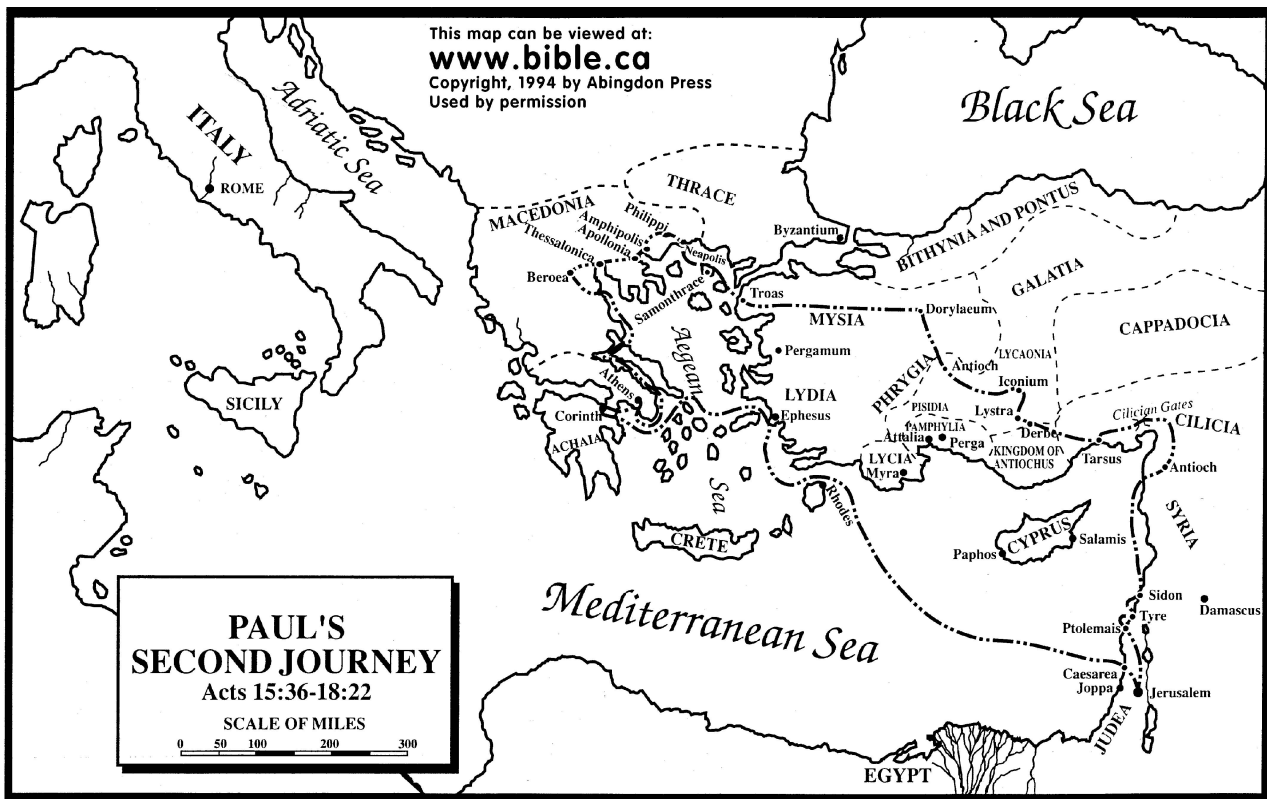
Fill out this chart as a part of completing the steps on the next page

Title:	Author:	Date:	Purpose:	
Key Verse:	Recipient(s):			
Visual Summary: How would you illustrate the book?				Other Notes:

## First Background

- Get a quick idea of the background to the letter.

Thessalonica was originally an ancient town named *Thermaí*, meaning "Hot Springs." The town gave its name to the Thermaic Gulf of the Aegean Sea on whose shore it stood. In time it became an important city because of its strategic location. Cassander, the Macedonian king, founded the more modern city in 315 B.C. and named it for his wife, who was a half-sister of Alexander the Great. It was the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia, and it stood on the *Via Egnatia*, the Roman highway to the East. In Paul's day it was a self-governing community with enough Jews in residence to warrant a synagogue (Acts 17:1). "Under the Romans it was the capital of the second of the four divisions of Macedonia, and when these were united to form one single province in 146 B.C. it became the capital, as well as the largest city of the province."



Acts 16 is the account of the events leading up to Paul's initial meeting of the Thessalonians in ch 17.

*Acts 16:6-10*

*And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

- 1) On the map, **Circle** the locations named in Acts 16 to track the movement of Paul.
- 2) What do you think Paul was thinking and feeling as God led him and his companions?

In Acts 17, they arrive in Thessalonica.

*Acts 17:1-15*

*Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.*

*The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds.*

- 3) What observations do you have about Paul's interaction with the Thessalonians? Reception?  
Length of stay?

*The underlined phrases give you action points to complete*

Second:FAMILIARIZE

- Read through 1 Thessalonians quickly. (Text is provided on following pages) Then answer:

- 4) What are your initial impressions?
- 5) What is the general atmosphere of the letter?
- 6) Any turning points?
- 7) What strong words or phrases stand out?

### Third: IDENTIFY

- Read again more slowly (but not slow). Assign paragraph titles. (left column works well)
- As you read, look for and color code repeated words and phrases.

### FOURTH: SUMMARIZE

- Give a simple title to the book (try to use picturesque words from the text)
- Choose a key verse. Is there one that summarizes the letter, or carries key themes?
- Fill out the chart at the beginning to track your findings



1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. 9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

2 For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. 2 But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. 3 For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. 5 For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. 6 Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. 7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. 11 For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the

word of God, which is at work in you believers. <sup>14</sup> For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, <sup>15</sup> who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind <sup>16</sup> by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

<sup>17</sup> But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, <sup>18</sup> because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. <sup>19</sup> For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

**3** Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, <sup>2</sup> and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, <sup>3</sup> that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. <sup>4</sup> For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. <sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

<sup>6</sup> But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—<sup>7</sup> for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. <sup>8</sup> For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, <sup>10</sup> as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, <sup>12</sup> and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup> so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**4** Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. <sup>2</sup> For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the

Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

<sup>9</sup> Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, <sup>10</sup> for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, <sup>11</sup> and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, <sup>12</sup> so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**5** Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for 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 might live with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

<sup>12</sup> We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, <sup>13</sup> and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. <sup>15</sup> See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench

the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup> 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.

NOTES from reading:



# 1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-10

## WHAT COUNTS

For starters...

What characteristics do you want to be known for? Why?

Do you think you are marked by those things? Why/why not?

*The first weeks of study will be a learning process. Some steps are harder than others, but you can do it. Watch for these help bubbles throughout the section and start the process of learning how to study the Bible on your own!*

*Marking the text is one key step  
you'll do every week during study.  
Try these two this week and watch  
for more next week.*

<sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

<sup>6</sup> And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. <sup>9</sup> For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

# OBSERVATIONS

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

*This is the key to Bible study, slowing down to see what the author is saying.*

*This week make one observation for every verse. Writing down even simple observations can help you see the text with new eyes. One observation is given for you as an example*

2- Paul used his prayers to thank god

you try...

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

# QUESTIONS

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

*Think with curiosity as you read the Scriptures. Asking questions will help you gain deeper understanding. Come up with a question for each verse.*

2- why was Paul so thankful?

you try...

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

# WORDS TO DEFINE

WHAT WORDS SEEM IMPORTANT?

*Use this space to get a list of interesting key words. This week three words are given for you.*

*faith, hope, love*



## SUMMARY & CONNECTION TO THE WHOLE

*Put into your own words what is Paul saying in this chapter? Then connect the current segment to the book as a whole.*

## DEFINE KEY WORDS

*This week start with defining Faith, Hope and Love.*

*Try using an english dictionary. Can you find any verses in the Bible that define them? What are the opposite of each?*

FAITH:

HOPE:

LOVE:

## KEY VERSE

*You'll be given a key verse from the passage each week. Spend some time thinking about this verse and try to come up with 10 observations and 5 questions about it.*

1:3

remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Each week you'll answer one provided question and work on one question of your own.

Question	Verses from passage	Answer/Notes
<i>How are faith, hope and love related? different?</i>		
Other Observations/Questions	Cross References	

Question	Verses from passage	Answer/Notes
Other Observations/Questions	Cross References	

## APPLICATION

*How can you apply something learned from this study? Is there a specific belief or action that will help you become more like Jesus?*

I THESSALONIANS 2:1-16

# OUR LABOR

For starters...

Describe someone who has cared for you with pure motives? What things did you sense about them?

*This week add the skill of color coding repeated (or similar) words.*

<sup>1</sup> For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. <sup>2</sup> But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. <sup>3</sup> For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, <sup>4</sup> but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup> For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. <sup>6</sup> Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. <sup>8</sup> So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

<sup>9</sup> For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. <sup>11</sup> For you know how, like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup> we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

<sup>13</sup> And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. <sup>14</sup> For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, <sup>15</sup> who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind <sup>16</sup> by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

# OBSERVATIONS

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

*Sometimes it helps to think with a lens as you make observations. Make two observations for each category below*

WHO

*-brothers is used 3 times, once in each paragraph*

WHAT

WHEN

WHERE

WHY

HOW

# QUESTIONS

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

# WORDS TO DEFINE

WHAT WORDS SEEM IMPORTANT?

## DEFINE KEY WORDS

## KEY VERSE

2:8

So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

Question	Verses from passage	Answer/Notes
<p><i>How does Paul describe his ministry?</i></p>		
Other Observations/Questions	Cross References	

Question	Verses from passage	Answer/Notes
Other Observations/Questions	Cross References	



# APPLICATION

*How did you do with last week's application? Ask each other!*

I THESSALONIANS 2:17-3:13

# CHECKING IN

For starters...

What things can easily distract you from walking in faith, hope and love?

<sup>17</sup> But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, <sup>18</sup> because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. <sup>19</sup> For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, <sup>2</sup> and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, <sup>3</sup> that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. <sup>4</sup> For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. <sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

<sup>6</sup> But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—<sup>7</sup> for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. <sup>8</sup> For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, <sup>10</sup> as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, <sup>12</sup> and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup> so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

# OBSERVATIONS

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

# QUESTIONS

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

# WORDS TO DEFINE

WHAT WORDS SEEM IMPORTANT?

## DEFINE KEY WORDS

## KEY VERSE

2:19,20

<sup>19</sup> For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

Question	Verses from passage	Answer/Notes
<p><i>what things was Paul worried about? Why?</i></p>		
Other Observations/Questions	Cross References	
<p><i>Cross Referencing is using other passages of Scripture that are similar in content to shed light on what you are studying. Read this and note similar concerns in Jesus' teaching</i></p>	<p><i>mark 4:1-20</i></p>	

Question	Verses from passage	Answer/Notes
Other Observations/Questions	Cross References	

APPLICATION

1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12

# MORE AND MORE

For starters...

Why do you think obedience to God is important?



Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. <sup>2</sup> For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

<sup>9</sup> Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, <sup>10</sup> for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, <sup>11</sup> and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, <sup>12</sup> so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

# OBSERVATIONS

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

# QUESTIONS

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

# WORDS TO DEFINE

WHAT WORDS SEEM IMPORTANT?

## DEFINE KEY WORDS

## KEY VERSE

4:1

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

Question	Verses from passage	Answer/Notes
<p><i>Why is sexual immorality such a big deal?</i></p>		
Other Observations/Questions	Cross References	
<p><i>Where am I at in this area?</i></p>	<p><i>gen. 1:22-25</i> <i>1 cor. 6:12-20</i></p>	

Question	Verses from passage	Answer/Notes
Other Observations/Questions	Cross References	

APPLICATION

I THESSALONIANS 4:13-5:11

# WITH THE LORD

For starters...

Earlier in the study you defined hope. What did you put?

How does hope effect your day-to-day life?

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for 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 might live with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

# OBSERVATIONS

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

# QUESTIONS

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

# WORDS TO DEFINE

WHAT WORDS SEEM IMPORTANT?



## DEFINE KEY WORDS

## KEY VERSE

5:9,10

For God has not destined us for 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 might live with him

Question	Verses from passage	Answer/Notes
<p><i>What are the key things to remember about the coming of the Lord?</i></p>		
Other Observations/Questions	Cross References	

Question	Verses from passage	Answer/Notes
Other Observations/Questions	Cross References	

APPLICATION

I THESSALONIANS 5:12-28

# FINAL CHARGE

For starters...

From this semester, what are some of your favorite things about your Bible study leader?

About your group?

About God?

<sup>12</sup> We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, <sup>13</sup> and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. <sup>15</sup> See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup> 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.

# OBSERVATIONS

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

LIFE TOWARD LEADERS

LIFE TOWARD BROTHERS

LIFE TOWARD GOD

# QUESTIONS

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

# WORDS TO DEFINE

WHAT WORDS SEEM IMPORTANT?

## DEFINE KEY WORDS

## KEY VERSE

5:23,24

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.

Question	Verses from passage	Answer/Notes
<p>CHOOSE ONE OF THE COMMANDS GIVEN AND INVESTIGATE WHAT ELSE THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT.</p>		
Other Observations/Questions	Cross References	

Question	Verses from passage	Answer/Notes
Other Observations/Questions	Cross References	



APPLICATION

# I THESSALONIANS

## RECAP

For starters...

Re-read the letter one more time.

Any new insights? Any lingering questions? Any summary statements?

# TO REMEMBER

Flip through your study and write down the key things you want to remember from this study.

# APPLICATIONS

Review your applications. Can you see change in your life after this study?

# SUMMARIZE

Create a final summary of the letter. Something that can help you remember the contents and main points. Choose what works for you: a written paragraph? A picture? An acronym? A poem? A flow chart?