



Still Growing: Week 9

Message Date: March 21, 2021

Primary Biblical Texts: 1 Thessalonians 5:11–14

Purpose of the *Still Growing* Series

Still Growing is a close look at the first letter to the Thessalonians. It is a letter written to a community of people to help them keep growing. The Apostle Paul specifically focused on how to pursue faith, love, and hope with this new church in Thessaloniki. Through reading the letter, we will focus on encouraging our congregation to keep growing, as well. We also hope to teach participants how to begin reading the Bible more effectively on their own.

Message Content

This week, Christian encouraged us that the work Paul had for the Thessalonians is also for us, too. We are to “encourage one another and build each other up.” When we do this, the church grows. Paul gave us three ways to do this. We are to admonish “the idler,” the ones who are neither doing wrong nor right, but stuck not walking on the path. We are to encourage “the fainthearted,” the ones who have lost the spark, and come alongside them to exhort them. And we are to help “the weak,” the ones who don’t have what they need for the journey, by giving them what they need to keep going. When we do this, we will help others grow. Since growth is a process, we will need to be patient.

Mixer

1. If you could be an expert in one skill (not super power) that you don’t currently have, what would it be and why?
2. Who was your favorite teacher or coach growing up? What made them so great? What did they teach you?
3. Who taught you about Jesus for the first time? Is there a notable person who helped you grow in faith?

Bible Study: Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11–14

still growing

Admonish the Idler:

1. Where in your life have you been idle? What led to you being stuck? What helps you to get up and start moving again?
2. Be specific. What does it look like to “admonish” another person? Is there a right and wrong way?
3. How has someone admonished you? What did it feel like?

Encourage the Fainthearted:

1. Share a time that you have been fainthearted. What made you feel this way?
2. What are some ways God has met you and encouraged you to not feel fainthearted this year?
3. Who in your life is the best at lifting your spirits and encouraging you? What do they do or say to you?

Help the Weak:

1. How would you define “weak people?” How does that compare with the Greek meaning of “someone who needs help?”
2. Who in your life needs help? Can you or someone you know help them?
3. Who in your life do you end up helping a lot? What’s the line between helping and enabling?

Challenge:

1. Take some time in your group to brainstorm practical ways we can be a church that “admonishes the idler,” “encourages the fainthearted,” and “helps the weak.” Are there any ministries, activities, events or organizations we could partner with? If your group has great ideas, share them with the Renaissance Church Staff or email info@renchurch.com.
2. Why do you think Paul ends with, “Be patient with all of them?” How can we be patient with those that need our encouragement when it may take a long time to see changes or a lot of work to help?
3. Think of 1 person (or 3) who are either idle, fainthearted, or weak. Think of a way you can encourage him or her this week. Write yourself a note to pray for them and then take one action this week to encourage them. Share with your group next week.
4. If you are being idle, feeling fainthearted, or needing help in your weakness, take time to share this with God. Share it with your group and ask them to pray for you. Keep alert to how God might answer your prayer.

Pray Together

Other scriptures on the topic: Matthew 7:24–27, Hebrews 3:13, Psalm 31:24, Psalm 73:26, Isaiah 58:10, Matthew 25:44–45