

These questions are provided for your further study and application of the message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others.

LifeGroup Discussion

Date: January 27, 2019

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

1. Obeying the commands of 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 goes against our natural inclinations. Why should our joy, prayers, and thankfulness not fluctuate with our circumstances or feelings? What most often keeps you from being joyful, prayerful, and thankful?
2. Read Romans 5:2-5. We must not only rejoice in God's hope and grace but also in our sufferings because suffering can be beneficial. Think back to a difficult time in your life. What did you learn?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-11. Paul endured many hardships in the pursuit of God's will. As Brian said, we all want to be like Paul without learning like Paul. Why is it so hard to be weak and dependent?
4. Brian said that to pray without ceasing is to turn every situation into an opportunity for prayer. By doing so we can recognize our dependence on God and his daily presence. Which do you most often forget, your dependence or his presence? Why is it important to remember both?
5. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says that we must give thanks in all circumstances. Paul is not teaching to thank God *for* everything that happens, but *in* everything that happens. What is the difference between the two? God also promises to work everything for our good (Rom 8:28). What is the difference in what is for our good and what feels good?
6. Philippians 2:14 teaches that we mustn't grumble or complain. What happens to your faith when you do either? What does your view of God change to when you grumble or complain?
7. Family verse: Read and memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Talk about what it means to rejoice, to pray, and to be thankful.