



THESSALONIANS

READING GUIDE

Paul encourages a young church (and us) to live with hope, faith, and love while they wait for God's Kingdom to come in full.

TALK: 1 THESS. 1 & 2

What stood out to you most in Paul's gratitude for the Thessalonians (1:2-10)?

In what ways do you think "faith," "love," and "hope" (1:3) still shape Christian maturity?

Paul speaks of turning from idols to serve the living God (1:9). What modern "idols" might we need to turn from today?

What's your gut reaction to the idea that Jesus rescues us from "the coming wrath" (1:10)?

Paul describes his ministry as gentle, like a nursing mother (2:7). Why might that image be significant for spiritual leadership?

How can we become people who "please God, not men" in our daily lives (2:4)? Have you found yourself ever doing the opposite?

Paul and his team shared not just the gospel, but their lives (2:8). Who has done that for you?

Are there barriers that keep you from sharing your faith with others? What would it take to overcome one of those?

WALK:

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Write a letter of gratitude to someone who has shared their life and faith with you. Let them know how their actions impacted your life and faith.

MEMORY VERSE:

We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1 Thessalonians 1:3



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TALK: 1 THESS. 3 & 4

Paul's deep concern for the Thessalonians' faith (3:1-5) shows strong pastoral love. Who are you spiritually responsible for or invested in?

When have you felt encouraged in your walk with Jesus by someone else's faith (3:6-10)?

Paul prays they'll grow in love for each other (3:12). Where in your life is love growing?

Chapter 4 shifts to instruction: "live in order to please God" (4:1). How does that phrase challenge or comfort you?

What does holiness look like today (4:3-8)?

Paul calls believers to love "more and more" (4:9-10). How do we avoid growing numb or selfish in our love over time?

What are some ways Christians today can "win the respect of outsiders" (4:11-12)?

The Thessalonians were grieving but hopeful (4:13). Is there a part of your life where you're grieving without hope? How might this passage gently redirect that grief?

WALK:

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Practice 10 minutes of silence each day. Pray, "Lord, what do you have for me today?", and then spend time in God's presence listening and reflecting.

MEMORY VERSE:

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:1



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TALK: 1 THESS. 5 & 2 THESS. 1

What makes it hard to live with constant readiness (5:2)?

What do you think it means to be “children of light” (5:5)? How does that change how we live?

How do you personally stay awake and sober spiritually (5:6–8)?

What role does community play in encouraging and building one another up (5:11)?

Paul gives a flurry of instructions (5:12–22). Which one challenges you most right now?

How do you understand the phrase “the one who calls you is faithful” (5:24)?

Paul says suffering Christians will be counted “worthy of the kingdom” (2 Thess. 1:5). What does that mean to you?

What comfort can be found in God's justice for the oppressed and afflicted (2 Thess. 1:6–10)?

How might our desire for vengeance distort our picture of God's justice?

WALK:

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Intentionally encourage three people this week—be specific and sincere. Maybe they are people you see regularly, even at home, or maybe you haven't seen them in awhile.

MEMORY VERSE:

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11



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TALK: 2 THESS. 2 & 3

Paul urges believers not to be “easily unsettled or alarmed” about the end times (2:2). What tends to unsettle you most in our world today?

What misunderstandings do you think modern Christians have about the return of Christ?

In verse 2:15, Paul says “stand firm and hold to the traditions.” What anchors your faith during turbulent times?

How does Paul's prayer in 2:16–17 offer peace in uncertain times?

How do you think laziness can become a spiritual issue as described in chapter 3?

How would you describe the balance between trusting God and taking personal responsibility?

Verse 3:13 says, “never tire of doing what is good.” What drains your motivation to keep doing good?

What spiritual habits help you stay focused when things feel overwhelming?

WALK:

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Take a break from distressing news this week. Instead of following every troubling detail, pray for peace in one area that you feel deeply disturbed by.

MEMORY VERSE:

And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:13



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