Starting point:
If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

OVERVIEW

• In what way does Paul conclude most of his letters?
  Pastor mentioned that God's Word, God's instructions to us should never be separated. What did he say must go together?

Biblical instructions REVEAL TO US HOW TO WALK AND TO PLEASE GOD

1 Thess. 4:1-2

• What is the significance of Paul using the words, “Ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus?”
• What do we learn from Deut. 5:32-33 about the connection between “instructions and living?”
• What is in it for us when we walk in such a way that God is pleased with us?
• What do we learn from Enoch in Gen. 5:21-23 and Noah in Gen. 6:9/6:22/7:5 about their walk with God?
• How do the following verses help us better understand God's instructions and our application to life?
  • Psalm 27:1-5 and 13-15
  • Isaiah 40:28-41
Biblical instructions REVEAL BASICS OF RELATIONSHIPS

1 Thess. 4:3-8

- Read 1 Thess. 4:3. Pastor stated the Greek word for SANTIFICATION is HERIOS. It is the word for HOLY. So be SANTIFIED IS TO BE HOLY. With that background what is Paul saying in v. 3?
- What do we learn from 1 Peter 1:15-16 about God’s intention for us?
- What is the root meaning of the Hebrew word for HOLY?
- Why do people see that as a problem?
- What does 2 Timothy 2:20-21 tell us about our call to sanctification?
- What was different in Paul’s teaching about sexual behavior and the Greek/Roman cultural beliefs and behaviors?
- Why would Paul tackle this problem?
- What can we learn from Matt. 5:27-28 and 1 Cor. 6:15-20?
- Where do we find genuine Freedom?

Biblical instructions REVEAL LIFE TOGETHER

1 Thess. 4:9-12

- What is the theme Paul talks about in these verses?
- What is Paul asking of the Thessalonians in vs. 9?
- What was Paul’s concern about the belief some of the Thessalonians had, at this time, regarding the return of Jesus Christ?
- What is Paul telling the Thessalonians in vs. 11-12? How does this apply to us?

APPLICATION

- Is your “walk” (personal behavior) pleasing to God?
- Are you seeking to “excel still more” in your obedience to God’s “instructions and commands?”
- What specific areas of your life is God presently work on?
- Are you responding to His leadership?
- When you think of “the will of God,” what comes to mind?
- Why should you serve God by being sexually pure?
- If a young person asked you to give at least two practical reasons why he/she should “wait until marriage” before sex, what would you say and why?
- Are you willing to take God’s word at face value?
- How can you grow in your brotherly fondness of fellow believers?
- What will it take for you to realize that Jesus observes all that you do and that the Holy Spirit is grieving when you don’t work with Him?