

# THESSALONI

FAITH IN UNCERTAIN T

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1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

## 6: Genuine gospel partnership

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**ACTIVITY** (feel free to tackle this over two weeks)

the things that Paul urges the Thessalonians to do :

each of them better as a group?

each of them better as a church? (I'd love nothing more than your thoughts, let me buy you a coffee)

## NEXT STEPS

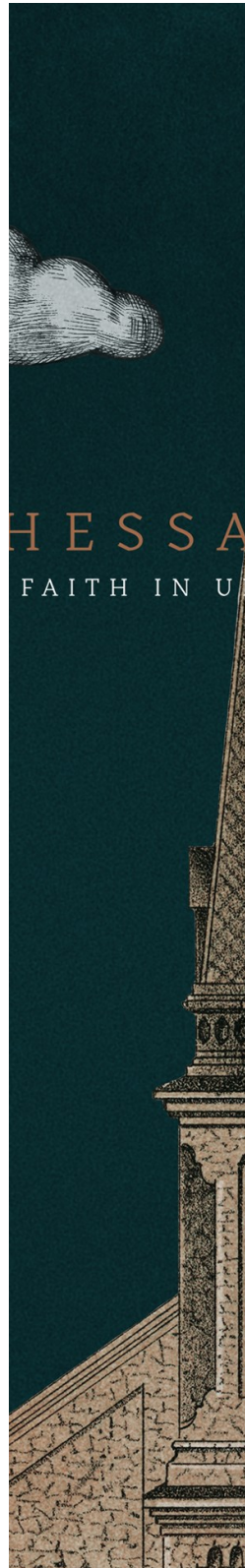
What does this passage teach us about a healthy church, under God. What has your heart taken from this passage?

Apply these things for each other and the church.

What is God at work in your life this week? What have you been grateful for? Spend time thanking God

Are there issues at work, church, family or life? Share and pray for gospel transformation and joy.

Who do you need to forgive, apologise to or be honest with? Is there anyone who could encourage or build up in faith? Confess your sins to God



## GENUINE FAITH IN UNSTABLE TIMES

Paul and Silas visited Thessalonica for a few weeks, they preached the gospel, establish this little church. They got kicked out of the city because the Jews were jealous (Acts 17:1-9). Having been forced to leave, Paul and Silas (2:17), Paul and Silas send Timothy to see you (3:1-5). The letter that we know as 1 Thessalonians comes to the church in response to Timothy's report (1:1-13). And wonderfully, it's good news!

These guys are the real deal, they've stuck with you in hard times and he wants them to keep going. He encourages them, communicates his love for them, he desires to be with them, his ongoing concern for you from a distance. He's delighted with their progress and wants them to keep going.

He's aware that there are many dangers facing your church from the outside and from within. He knows that Satan will try to destroy her and will use any means possible. At the same time he's confident in the power of the gospel for your lives. So he reminds them of what he taught them about gospel living when he was there, he gives them instructions about putting sin to death, honouring God and learning from them, turning from lust and immorality. He encourages you to live with each other in holiness and righteousness, and that all they can to live at peace.

ere's also an important emphasis on suffering and  
pe. By nature we live in what the famous sociologist  
Charles Taylor calls "the imminent frame" but the Chris-  
n understanding of life is very different. 1 Thessaloni-  
s teaches that our identity is found in the past and our  
ure shapes the way we live in the present. Jesus will  
urn, we need to be alert and we need to encourage  
ch other to press on in hope.

ul repeatedly mentions how they received the gospel in  
ffering (1 Thes. 1:6; 2:2, 14, 17; 3:1-4) and some of  
eir number had even been killed. Paul addresses this  
ue head on by offering two words of encouragement in  
e face of death but I'll leave you to uncover what they  
e for yourself (4:18, 5:11)

ust this book will leave you deeply encouraged. It's a  
ok about God's power, a celebration of a group of  
ristians who put on faith when things looked uncertain,  
t on love when they experienced cruelty and put on  
pe when they experienced suffering. The devil may dis-  
b the peace for a time, the authorities may even kill us,  
t God is at work, and Jesus will win.

*Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you com-  
letely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be  
pt blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He  
who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it"*

*1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

## WEEK 6 | GENUINE GOSPEL PART

### Personal time in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

<sup>12</sup> Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge  
work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and  
you. <sup>13</sup> Hold them in the highest regard in love because  
Live in peace with each other. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, broths  
warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the  
help the weak, be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup> Make sure th  
pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do wha  
each other and for everyone else.

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in al  
es; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies w  
tempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> rej  
of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you thro  
through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept b  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who call  
ful, and he will do it.

<sup>25</sup> Brothers and sisters, pray for us. <sup>26</sup> Greet all God's pe  
kiss. <sup>27</sup> I charge you before the Lord to have this letter re  
brothers and sisters.

<sup>28</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

## NEXT STEPS

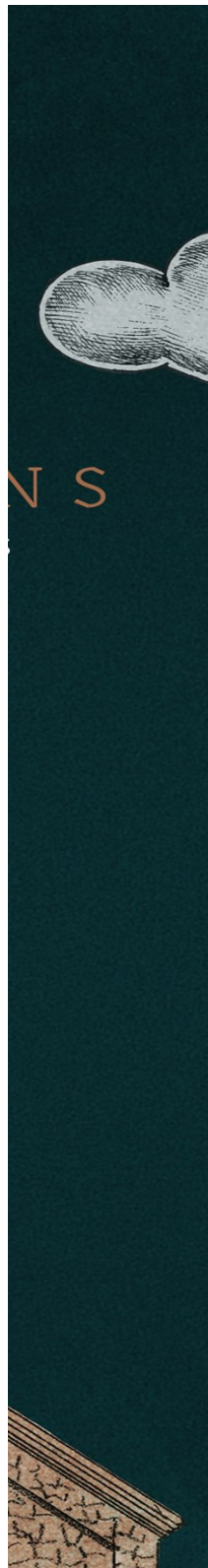
out the nature and outcome of the Christian hope. What  
ur heart from this passage?

n at work in your life this week? What have you been  
e you thankful for? Thank God for these things

? Are there any issues at work, church or family life?  
up and pray for gospel transformation and joy.

l witness going? Think of someone in your life, what is  
ow can the church community help? Pray for courage to  
ness to work together.

u need to forgive, apologise to or be honest with? Is  
could encourage or build up in faith? Confess your sins  
m



## FURTHER RESOURCES

### DAILY DEVOTION

Each day I take time out to read a chapter of  
pray about it for myself and the church. The  
let you in on that habit and invite you join to  
somewhere in the Psalms and drop them e

### COFFEE CATCH UP

I'd love to buy you a coffee or catch up at t  
whatever you want to do really. Bottom line  
you and I want to help you grow.

Truth is I don't just want this for you. I want  
I want to get to know you better and learn t  
and get the encouragement I need to live o  
share the gospel with my neighbours.

We can talk about anything you want, chur  
Arsenal football club, whatever you want. I  
hands I'd be keen to open the bible and pra  
not, that's good too.

## THE BIBLE

ing the bible, I'm eager to help you establish healthy hab-  
and prayer. I've helped people do this in the past and  
d transform lives this way. Here are a few good re-

### ing Plans

ct.com/reading-plans/

e year reading plan, ask a hand-  
it with you, set up a group  
anically, hold each other ac-  
simple and as tricky as that.



Bible in a Year' Listen as you  
over you. Let me know you're  
n talk about what you're read-  
e dwell app.



erbiblechurch.org/member-resources

ne with God' bible reading ar-  
f as a booklet and work through  
time or with a mate. I began pre-  
that was scarily similar before  
e already exist and they're great.



## GROWTH GROUP

### 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-5:11

#### Read v.13-18

What's the relationship between information, grief and ho

What is the essence of and the grounds for our hope?

Will those who are already asleep miss out in any way wh  
turns? Explain.

How is this information to be used?

#### Read v.1-3

When and how will the day of the Lord come?

What is the day of the Lord? (OT term—look up if you don

#### Read v.4-11

Why are Christians not surprised by this day?

How should they/we live differently?

Why should they/we live differently?

What does it mean to be awake and sober?

How does the Christian hope motivate holiness of life?

and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should  
thief. <sup>5</sup>You are all children of the light and children of  
t belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then, let us  
who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup>For  
sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at  
ve belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and  
ate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup>For God did  
suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord  
died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we  
with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build  
t as in fact you are doing.

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## WEEK 1 | GENUINE GOSPEL TRANS

Personal time in 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the  
Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. 2 We  
always thank God for all of you and continually  
mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember  
before our God and Father your work pro-  
duced by faith, your labor prompted by love,  
and your endurance inspired by hope in our  
Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and  
sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you,<sup>5</sup>  
because our gospel came to you not simply  
with words but also with power, with the Holy  
Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we  
lived among you for your sake. 6 You became  
imitators of us and of the Lord, for you wel-  
comed the message in the midst of severe  
suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.  
7 And so you became a model to all the believ-  
ers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord's  
message rang out from you not only in Mace-  
donia and Achaia—your faith in God has be-  
come known everywhere. Therefore we do  
not need to say anything about it, 9 for they  
themselves report what kind of reception you  
gave us. They tell 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 rescues us  
from the coming wrath.

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# GROUP

## 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

1 Thessalonians and how is this encouraging in the circum-  
stances (1:1-10 and 5:23)

What are Paul and his team doing for them? Why?

How does the sovereignty of God shape and give perspective to church life  
and ministry?

Love. What are these and what do they produce?

Why do you think that the Thessalonians are loved and chosen by God?

How do you think that the gospel came “with power, the holy spirit and  
power”?

How do they become imitators and a model?

What are the Thessalonians famous for?

How do the Macedonian report reveal about the gospel and the proper  
response to it?

# WEEK 5 | GENUINE GOSPEL HOPE

## Personal time in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.



## NEXT STEPS

about growing in love and holiness of life. What has God  
from this passage? Are there changes you need to make?  
e them?

in at work in your life this week? What have you been  
e you thankful for? Thank God for these things

? Are there any issues at work, church or family life?  
up and pray for gospel transformation and joy.

l witness going? Think of someone in your life, what is  
ow can the church community help? Pray for courage to  
ness to work together.

u need to forgive, apologise to, or be honest with? Is  
could encourage or build up in faith? Confess your sins  
would teach you to love (as in fact he is already doing)

## PRAYER + NEXT STEPS

This passage is about Paul's thankfulness for the genuine  
salonians faith, hope and love. What has God put on you  
passage?

How has God been at work in your life this week? What h  
learning? What are you thankful for?

How are you going? Are there's any issues at work, church  
Share with the group and pray for gospel transformation

How is your gospel witness going? Think of someone in yo  
their next step? How can the church community help? Pr  
speak and willingness to work together.

Is there anyone you need to forgive, apologise to or be ho  
there anyone you could encourage or build up in faith? C  
and pray for wisdom

## 2 | GENUINE GOSPEL MINISTRY

Personal time in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

and sisters, that our visit  
 results. We had previ-  
 on treated outrageously  
 y, but with the help of  
 all you his gospel in the  
 on. For the appeal we  
 from error or impure  
 ing to trick you. On the  
 those approved by God  
 e gospel. We are not  
 but God, who tests our  
 ever used flattery, nor  
 o cover up greed—God  
 e not looking for praise  
 you or anyone else,  
 s of Christ we could  
 ority. Instead, we were  
 ong you.

er cares for her children,  
 cause we loved you so  
 ed to share with you  
 God but our lives as  
 ber, brothers and sis-  
 hip; we worked night  
 be a burden to any-  
 the gospel of God to

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## GROWTH GROUP

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

### Read v.1-2

What does Paul, Silvanus and Timothy want for them? Why?

### Read v.3-8

Sometimes people stress about finding God’s will for the future. What is God’s will for our lives?

What is the relationship between sexual sin and...?

- a. our bodies
- b. the knowledge of God
- c. our brothers and sisters

What are some reasons for taking sexual sin seriously?

### Read v.9-12

What are they confident about the Thessalonians? Why?

Why do they repeat themselves?

What would the result of this growth in maturity be?

# GENUINE GOSPEL GROWTH

brothers and sisters, we  
are in order to please  
you. Now we ask you  
to do this more  
because of the instructions we  
received from the Lord Jesus.

You should be sanctified:  
sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that  
you are to control your own  
conduct and honorable, <sup>5</sup>not  
like the pagans, who do not  
care in this matter no one  
takes advantage of a brother or  
sister. Do not despise all those who come  
to you and warned you  
not to call us to be impure,  
because therefore, anyone who  
does not reject a hu-  
man tradition that denies  
every God who gives

life to you for one another we do  
it for you yourselves  
and are to love each other  
as you love all of God's family  
who are in truth. Yet we urge you,  
not to do so more and  
more because of our ambition to lead a  
quiet life and your own business  
matters, just as we told  
you that life may win the re-  
ward but you should know that you will not be

## 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

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You are witnesses, and so is God, of how ho-  
ly, righteous and blameless we were among  
you who believed. For you know that we dealt  
with each of you as a father deals with his own  
children, encouraging, comforting and urging  
you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you  
into his kingdom and glory.

And we also thank God continually because,  
when you received the word of God, which  
you heard from us, you accepted it not as a  
human word, but as it actually is, the word of  
God, which is indeed at work in you who be-  
lieve. For you, brothers and sisters, became  
imitators of God's churches in Judea, which  
are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own  
people the same things those churches  
suffered from the Jews who killed the Lord  
Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out.  
They displease God and are hostile to every-  
one in their effort to keep us from speaking to  
the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this  
way they always heap up their sins to the limit.  
The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

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## CONFESSIONS OF AN ORDINARY PASTOR:

I would not be able to claim the things Paul does for all of  
any grievance against me, please call me! I'm a conflict a  
derstand the temptation to avoid uncomfortable situations  
(Courtney). Thing is though I'm teachable and I want to lo  
need a little help sometimes.

## GROUP

### Thessalonians 2:1-16

*They strike up conversations about Jesus as they offer service and inform people about public lectures about the synagogue. In the afternoon, they preach the gospel in the house. When people are saved they divide their time between tent-to-tent to establish them in the faith.*

What do you have for shrinking back from evangelism?

How do these verses teach us about genuine evangelism?

Does having an audience of one make a difference in evangelism?

“Raising children” What does that mean?

How do these verses teach us about genuine follow up?

What do the following analogies teach us about Christian people?

On these lines, why is Paul saying all of this?

Whom does Paul is calling upon in his defence?

On this time, what else are they thankful for?

“What has come upon them at last” For what? What’s he talking about (maybe look into it this week)

## PRAYER + NEXT STEPS

This passage is about Paul’s desire to be with the Thessalonians and his joy over them. What has God put on your heart from this passage?

How has God been at work in your life this week? What have you learned? What are you thankful for? Thank God for these things.

How are you going? Are there any issues at work, church or home? Share with the group and pray for gospel transformation.

How is your gospel witness going? Think of someone in your life and their next step? How can the church community help? Pray for courage to speak and willingness to work together.

Is there anyone you need to forgive, apologise to or be honest with? Is there anyone you could encourage or build up in faith? Confess and pray for wisdom.

## GROUP

### Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

Why did Paul want to see the Thessalonians face to face?

What does 'obstacles that blocked our way' mean?

Why did Paul want to suffer affliction? (See John 15:18-23)

Why did Paul want to see the Thessalonians in person so he sent Timothy instead.

Why did Paul send Timothy?

What did Timothy report back?

What were Paul's major concerns for them?

How does Paul's model of faith, hope and love?

How do Paul's prayers reflect faith, hope and love?

How would you say 'Faith, Hope and Love' summarize the shape of the Christian life?

## PRAYER + NEXT STEPS

This passage is Paul's description and defence of his pioneering missionary work. What has God put on your heart from this passage?

How has God been at work in your life this week? What have you learned? What are you thankful for? Thank God for these things.

How are you going? Are there any issues at work, church or home? Share with the group and pray for gospel transformation.

How is your gospel witness going? Think of someone in your life. What is their next step? How can the church community help? Pray for boldness to speak and willingness to work together.

Is there anyone you need to forgive, apologise to or be honest with? Is there anyone you could encourage or build up in faith? Confess your sins and pray for wisdom.

## GENUINE GOSPEL CONCERN

### Lesson in 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

brothers, when we were separated from you for a moment (not in thought), out of love we made every effort to come to you—again and again—but we were hindered. 19 For what is our reward in which we will be glorified by our Lord Jesus when he comes? 20 Indeed, you are

not understanding it no longer, we are not able to support ourselves in Athens, for our brother Timothy, who is our brother and fellow worker in spreading the gospel, has strengthened and encouraged us. 3 so that no one will despise us in these trials. For you know that we are destined for persecution. If we were with you, we would be persecuted. As it is, as you well know, we are being persecuted. I could stand it no longer if I did not have confidence about your faith. I know that the way the tempter had planned our labors might have

6 But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. 7 Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. 8 For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. 9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. 12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

*Hot Tip: Read Acts 16-17  
for the background to the book.*