

1 Thessalonians 1 for Growth Groups

For week commencing 20/5/24

Warm up Option 1 We talk up what we value in life, and what we value in others. What sorts of things do you find yourself praising in others?

Warm up option 2: Have you been in the situation where your boss / your senior has made the effort to speak to you about ... doing all that was required and more? What is the effect of a meeting like that?

In today's passage, the Apostle Paul is thanking God for this model church.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1.

There's always so much in Paul's letters!

1. What are some hard-to-understand words or ideas here?
2. What, in this church, is Paul glad to find? (v2-3)

He calls them a 'model' church (v7).

3. What is the proof that God is at work in this church? (v4-7)
4. What actions and commitments is this church taking up in v6-10?
5. What does it look in our time and place...
 - ...to turn from idols? (v9)
 - ...to wait for the Son from heaven? (v10)

Let's apply this chapter to our prayer life:

6. From this chapter, what might we pray will be true and active in our church life?
7. From this chapter what might churches be praying for people who are yet to come to God?

A practical exercise

Our church is praying that we can reach the lost. Our leaders want us to pray that God would bring 2 people to turn to Him in repentance and faith this year.

Can we as a group take up praying for people we know who are not yet Christian? Some of us have a long list of such people. Others of us feel like we have little contact with those who are yet to believe.

We have a short exercise to help us do this. Three steps (see diagram below).

- From the given areas of life, try to write down at least three names.
- Now circle three people whom you have regular conversations with.
- Out of these three, which one are you particularly eager to see turn to God in 2024?

Can we share these names with the group, and commit to praying for them each week for the coming months?

Pray in response to our passage, and for these people now.

Who can we pray for as a group?

- Write down at least three names from each of the given areas.
- Circle three people whom you have regular conversations with.
- Out of these three, which one are you eager to see turn to God in 2024?

Me **Spouse**

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Other <small>(people you regularly see eg hairdresser)</small>					
Church					
Family					
Leisure					
Work					
Neighbours					