

Home Group Discussion Guide

A Model of Believer's Faith – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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The following questions are designed to help groups explore the message above by challenging participants to consider how God is wanting them to apply it to their lives.

*The questions are a **guide** to help lead discussion.*

Please don't feel that all questions need to be asked, instead respond to the needs of your group. If you have new people in your group, take the opportunity to introduce each other and clarify any expectations that are present in your group (such as confidentiality).

GETTING STARTED

1. Can you think of a friendship or work situation where you felt an almost instant connection or synergy with a group of people? What made that partnership so productive?
2. When people think about the Church today, what kinds of qualities or characteristics do you think stand out most strongly?

REFLECTING ON THE MESSAGE

Key Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Acts 16:6-10; Acts 17:1-9

Consider Acts 17:1-9

1. Paul and Silas were only able to minister in Thessalonica for less than four weeks before a riot forced them to leave abruptly. Knowing this context, what surprises you most about how firmly this young church held onto its faith?

Consider 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

2. Paul constantly thanks God for the Thessalonians' "work produced by faith," "labour prompted by love," and "endurance inspired by hope." Why is it significant that these three internal virtues (faith, love, hope) are explicitly tied to visible, external actions (work, labour, endurance)?
3. Paul says the Thessalonians became an example to other believers. What would this example look like for us?
4. Philip mentioned how the Thessalonians turned from idols to serve the living God. What are some of the idols people get caught following today? What does it look like for us to give these things up?

RESPONDING TO THE MESSAGE

1. Consider your last week/ month. Can you identify a specific moment where you were able to express a 'work of faith' or 'a labour of love' for God's glory? What happened?
2. The Thessalonians didn't just gather once or twice a week to keep each other company; the Gospel transformed them completely. What would it look like for our group to step out in a unified "labour of love" to serve a specific need in Alice Springs this month?

OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER

Our Home Groups are the primary place for pastoral care to occur within the Church. We would encourage you to take the opportunity to pray for each other in this space.

