

Home Group Discussion Guide

Love At A Distance – 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

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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** for 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. With modern technology, we can text or video call anyone instantly. Do you think this makes long-distance relationships easier, or does it create a false sense of actual "presence"?
2. Have you experienced the feeling of being loved well at a distance? What was it that made it happen well?

REFLECTING ON THE MESSAGE

Key Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

Consider 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

1. Paul states that they were separated "in person, not in thought" and had an "intense longing" to see them. How do we keep people "in thought" rather than falling into the trap of "out of sight, out of mind"?

Consider 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

2. Because he could no longer stand the lack of presence, Paul sent Timothy to strengthen and encourage them. What does this teach us about showing love at a distance?
3. What might this look like for us today?

Consider 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

4. What stands out to you about Paul's response to hearing that the Thessalonians are standing firm?
 - a. Can you think of a time when hearing of someone else's faith actively renewed your own?
5. In verses 11–13, Paul's prayer is not "come back to me" but rather "may the Lord make your love increase and grow in Jesus". How can we reshape our prayers for distant loved ones to be less about our comfort and more about their spiritual growth?

RESPONDING TO THE MESSAGE

1. Who is God inviting you to intentionally love from a distance?
2. What is one practical step you could take this week to encourage and love that person this week?

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.

