

THE BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS

Collegiate Staff Training



Possibly the earliest of Paul's letters, the book of 1 Thessalonians was written from Corinth around A.D. 51-54. In this letter, Paul's seeks to:

1. **confirm** young believers in truths they have already been taught
2. **exhort** them to live in holiness
3. **comfort** them re: Christ's second coming

Work with your staff trainer to determine which inductive study method and resources you will use for studying the book of 1 Thessalonians. Consider the following factors of discipling.

I. DISCIPLING RELATIONSHIPS

Acts 17:1-10 describes the response of different groups to Paul and Silas' teaching during their first visit to Thessalonica. Read Acts 17:1-10. What do you observe about Paul's relationship with the Thessalonians and his message to them?

- A. Now read the book of 1 Thessalonians from the viewpoint of Paul, the author.
- B. Imagine you are one of the believers in Macedonia. Write a letter, email, or text message to a friend telling about the miraculous change you've seen in the believers in Thessalonica. (1 Thess. 1:9-10)
- C. How would you describe Paul's relationship with them?
- D. How was Paul's relationship with them developed and deepened?
- E. Describe Paul's attitudes toward the Thessalonians. (1 Thess. 2:10-12; 2:19)
- F. Read the book from the viewpoint of the recipients. How would you describe the Thessalonians' attitudes toward the Lord? Toward Paul?

II. DISCIPLING PROCESS

What did Paul do to help the disciples in Thessalonica grow? What connection might there be between relationships and activities when discipling people?

III. DISCIPLE'S LIFESTYLE

- A. What do you observe from 1 Thess. 4:1-12 about holiness? Why is it so important to God? How do we grow in holiness? What should motivate our holy living?

- B. How does Jesus' second coming relate to the disciple's lifestyle?

IV. SUMMARY OF 1 THESSALONIANS

- A. Write a definition of discipling based on your observations from this study.

- B. What have you learned from Paul's example of discipling in 1 Thessalonians?

- C. Brainstorm on ways in which you could use Paul's discipling methods described in 1 Thessalonians in your ministry right now.

- D. What steps can you take to grow in your own discipling ministry?

- E. In what ways can a relationship be deepened with someone you're discipling when you don't necessarily have a natural friendship with them (different temperaments, backgrounds, etc.)?

- F. Finally, summarize what you've learned from the book of 1 Thessalonians on one page, if possible. This could be done in a written summary, an outline, a flow chart, an illustration, or whatever way would be most meaningful and memorable for you.

V. PERSONAL APPLICATION OF 1 THESSALONIANS

What has God revealed, clarified or affirmed regarding my...

CALLING (Who I am in Christ, Who we are as Navigators)

CONVICTIONS (What I know and believe)

CHARACTER (Who I'm becoming as I follow and imitate Christ)

COMPETENCIES (What skills I already have and/or need to develop)

CONTRIBUTION (How I minister and serve- now and/or in the future)

What additional step(s) is God prompting me to take as a result of this study in any of these 5 areas?

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