children of the DAY
1 & 2 Thessalonians
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Listening Guides with Answers

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In today’s opening session, we’ll turn to the first of two letters we’re studying, and we’ll give ourselves completely to the first four words. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and record them here:

___Paul___, ___Silvanus___, and ___Timothy____


1. Silas (Silvanus) entered a ___gap____ ___ripped____ ___open____ by a ___severed____ ___relationship____. (Compare Acts 9:26-28.)

   In preparation for the next point, compare specific wording in Acts 15:39 to Hebrews 10:24. The Greek lexical term used in both verses is paroxusmós (English “paroxysm”).

2. The ___same____ ___edge____ that can ___sharpen____ can also ___slice____ (Prov. 27:17).

   Now let’s see the third member of this party of three added to the mix. Read Acts 16:1-5.
3. The ___ next ___ person ___ we ___ meet ___ could become one of the ___ dearest ___ people in our lives.

Fast-forward to Acts 17:1. Follow it up with verses 2-10.

4. A journey ___ gone ___ awry ___ could lead to the exact ___ frame ___ of ___ mind ___ God is looking to use.

As we dedicate ourselves to the task ahead, we're going to reach ahead long enough to snatch a phrase out of 1 Thessalonians 4:9: "For you yourselves have been ___ taught ___ by ___ God ___." This English phrase is drawn from one rare compound word in the Greek: theodidaktai.

➤ Look inside the back cover for the map you can use throughout this study.
Group Session Two

REVIEW THE WEEK
Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week’s homework.

Principal Questions
DAY 1: Over how many Sabbaths did they serve in Thessalonica? (p. 16)
DAY 2: Who wrote each letter to the Thessalonians? (p. 19)
DAY 3: How, according to Paul, did the gospel come to the Thessalonians? (p. 25)
DAY 4: The Thessalonian believers “became” what two things (1 Thess. 1:6-7)? (p. 28)
DAY 5: What sounded forth from the Thessalonians after their conversion? (p. 32)

Personal Discussion Questions
DAY 1: How are you impacted by the knowledge that the Holy Spirit had you in mind as Scripture was penned? (p. 18)
DAY 2: What good memory do you have from a harsh season of your life? (p. 20)
DAY 3: How would you describe the Holy Spirit within you bearing witness? (p. 24)
DAY 4: Do you embrace or struggle with the fact that our God is filled with joy? (p. 28)
DAY 5: Describe a situation in which you witnessed or participated in “the excited transmission” of the gospel. (p. 34)

VIEW THE VIDEO
Introduction

Today we return to 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and do not forget the added significance: It is highly probable that we are reading the first drops of inspired ink from the pen of the apostle Paul.

From the opening verses of this five-chapter letter, we can draw the following applications:

1. Three groups are in operation at all times in a thriving body of believers:
   ___WE___, ___YOU___, and ___THEY___.
   - ___WE___: The ___Effectual___
   - ___YOU___: The ___Affecting___
   - ___THEY___: The ___Affected___
“In Acts and the letters bearing Paul’s name about 100 names, often coupled with a score of assorted titles, are associated with the Apostle.”

2. WE get the privilege of telling YOU that you are loved by God and chosen (1 Thess. 1:4).

3. Often we hope God is at work, but sometimes we get to know it (1 Thess. 1:5).

4. In a world of pretense and platforms, we better be ready to prove ourselves. “You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake” (1 Thess. 1:5, ESV).

5. A geographical lesson from Thessalonica: Each circle of believers faces outward so that THEY can see us and we can see them.

6. Until Jesus comes back, we keep coming back (1 Thess. 1:10).

Group Session Three

REVIEW THE WEEK
Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week’s homework.

- Principal Questions
  DAY 1: What happened to Paul and Silas after they were dragged into the marketplace before the authorities (Acts 16:22-24)? (p. 39)
  DAY 2: What two gifts might believers share with those to whom they minister? (p. 44)
  DAY 3: What action verb describes how we journey with God? (p. 47)
  DAY 4: Focus on 1 Thessalonians 2:14. How had the Thessalonians become “imitators of God’s churches in Christ Jesus that are in Judea”? (p. 51)
  DAY 5: In 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, what words did Paul use to describe the Thessalonian Christians? (p. 58)

- Personal Discussion Questions
  DAY 1: What do you think He’s searching out and testing our hearts to find? (p. 41)
  DAY 2: Does 1 Thessalonians 2:8 stir up a story of your own? (p. 46)
  DAY 3: How does Christ walking among the churches encourage you? (p. 49)
  DAY 4: Share a time when you experienced some form of persecution because of your belief in Jesus. (p. 51)
  DAY 5: Have you ever avoided relationships to avoid pain? (p. 59)

VIEW THE VIDEO

Introduction
Today we will revisit 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 and draw a diagram depicting the makings of a healthy child in the family of God. These questions will help drive our pens:

According to 1 Thessalonians 2, what would _____ whole_____ _____parenting____ look like?

Or, to put it another way: How would we diagram _____no-holes_____ ____parenting_____?
1. Nurtured

2. Affectionately  Desired

3. Accepting Parent’s
   Very   Self

4. Exhorted
   Greek *paramuthéomai*
   Greek *parakaléo*

5. Encouraged

6. Charged to Walk Worthy

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Group Session Four

REVIEW THE WEEK
Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week’s homework.

**Principal Questions**

DAY 1: Why did Satan hinder them from getting back to the Thessalonians? What do you think Satan was seeking to prevent by keeping them apart? (p. 65)

DAY 2: Exactly how did Paul go about proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ? (p. 69)

DAY 3: What was Timothy sent to Thessalonica to do? (p. 72)

DAY 4: By what did Paul not want the Thessalonians to be moved? (p. 77)

DAY 5: What profound change in the language of prayer is first introduced in 1 Thessalonians 3:11? (p. 81)

**Personal Discussion Questions**

DAY 1: What examples illustrate the dangers of “legalism” and “license”? (p. 65)

DAY 2: Which of the equations on page 70–71 (including your own additions) speak to you most personally and specifically? (p. 71)

DAY 3: Do you ever feel like all the planning has flown the coop and you’re just reacting? Describe a time you felt that way. (p. 76)

DAY 4: What maladies come to mind at the mention of the word “affliction”? (p. 77)

DAY 5: What does the possibility that Paul may have dictated some of his letters through Silas contribute to your understanding of their relationship? (p. 83)

VIEW THE VIDEO

**Introduction**

In today’s session, we will return to the third chapter of 1 Thessalonians and consider the madness and the gladness of deep personal involvement.

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5. Note the madness:

1. The ____entitlement____ to the ____unbearable____ (v. 1).

Check this definition: ____vulnerable____: “from Latin vulnerare to ____wound____

(1) capable of being ____physically____ ____wounded____

(2) open to ____attack____ or ____damage____”

Capture Paul’s frame of mind in 1 Corinthians 2:2-5 and 2 Corinthians 11:28.
2. The ____high-cost____  ____investment____ (v. 5).

3. The evaporating ____illusion____ of ____control____ (v. 5).

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:6-8. Note the gladness:

1. The ____pure____  ____reciprocity____ (v. 6).

2. The ____sheer____  ____relief____ (v. 7).

3. The ____coloring____ of ____memory____ (v. 6).

4. The ____coming____  ____alive____ (v. 8).

Conclude with verse 12. From Chrysostom’s Homilies on 1 Thessalonians 4.

“Do you see the ____ unrestrainable____  ____madness____ of ____ love____ that is shown by his words? Make you to increase and abound ...”²

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Group Session Five

REVIEW THE WEEK
Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week’s homework.

Principal Questions
DAY 1: What kind of life did Christ say He’d come to give in John 10:10? (p. 90)
DAY 2: Exactly why did the Thessalonians have no need for anyone to write to them about brotherly love? (p. 94)
DAY 3: What two reasons did Paul give for the directives he issued in verse 11? (p. 98)
DAY 4: What group of people has the first access at the coming of the Lord? (p. 103)
DAY 5: What similarities and differences did you note between Exodus 19:16-20 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18? (p. 107)

Personal Discussion Questions
DAY 1: How does the phrase “more and more” contradict the notion of a place of arrival in this earthly journey in which we simply maintain from there? (p. 90)
DAY 2: Do you have an example of someone who seemed to have learned biblical truth straight from God without textbook, training, or a human teacher? (p. 97)
DAY 3: What is the most prominent lesson you’ve had to learn about minding your own business? (p. 101)
DAY 4: What might be gained through thinking of death in terms of sleep? (p. 104)
DAY 5: What are you most curious about concerning end-time events? (p. 106)

VIEW THE VIDEO

Introduction
This week in our homework, we purposely dodged portions of 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 so we could save them for today’s session. This countercultural segment of Scripture centers on ___sexual____ ___ethics____.

Keep the following continuum in view as we move through our discussion:

There are ___limitations___  There are ___no___ limitations  
regarding ___sexual____ ___conduct____  regarding ___sexual____ ___conduct___
1. What God dictates here is ___ pertinent ___ now ___ and it was pertinent ___ then ___ (v. 3). The Greek word for sexual immorality is ___ porneía ___.

2. What God dictates here is ___ doable ___. See v. 1: “just as ___ you ___ are ___ doing ___”

3. What God dictates here is ___ learnable ___. See v. 4: “that ___ each ___ of you ___ learn ___”

4. What God dictates here is ___ honorable ___. See v. 4. God does not ___ require ___ of us what cannot ultimately ___ honor ___ us.

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Group Session Six

REVIEW THE WEEK
Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week’s homework.

Principal Questions
DAY 1: Exactly what will come “like a thief in the night”? (p. 116)
DAY 2: What two pieces of attire do children of the day “put on” (1 Thess. 5:8)? (p. 122)
DAY 3: What words or concepts pop into your mind when you hear “wrath”? (p. 123)
DAY 4: To whom are the responsibilities listed in 1 Thess. 5:14-15 assigned? (p. 132)
DAY 5: How should we pray? What do you think “pray constantly” means? (p. 136)

Personal Discussion Questions
DAY 1: What part of your experience fights to distort your biblical beliefs? (p. 115)
DAY 2: What one event in your life shook you to your most awakened state? (p. 121)
DAY 3: How does God’s wrath differ from ours? (p. 126)
DAY 4: What is an admonition you accepted and a reason you’re glad you did? (p. 131)
DAY 5: Which of the exhortations in 5:16-22 do you think you need most to apply in your present circumstances? Why? (p. 135)

VIEW THE VIDEO

Introduction
Today we are going to narrow the lens on four rapid-fire verses toward the conclusion of the First Letter to the Thessalonians. First Thessalonians 5:19-21 encapsulates a segment sparse on words and immense in implication and application.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 (ESV)—Do not quench the Spirit.
1 Thessalonians 5:20 (ESV)—Do not despise prophecies.

Let’s throw some questions out on the table:
What are prophecies, how do they rank, and what is their purpose?

What are they? Consider these two definitions:

- **Prophecy:** “Reception and declaration of a word from the Lord through a direct prompting of the Holy Spirit and the human instrument thereof.”
- **Propheúo**: “To prophesy ... To foretell things to come ... to declare truths through the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit whether by prediction or otherwise ... To tell forth God's message, hence the noun *propheías*, prophet, is the proclaimer, one who speaks out the counsel of God with the ____ clearness____, ____ energy____, and ____ authority____ which spring from the consciousness of ____ speaking____ in ____ God's ____ name ____ and having received a direct message from Him to deliver. Thus one may prophesy without being a prophet in the strict sense of the word. *A prophētēs*, both in the Old Testament and New Testament, is not primarily one who foretells things to come, but who (having been taught of God) speaks out His will (Deut. 18:18; Isa. 1; Jer. 1; Ezek. 2; 1 Cor. 14:3).”

**How do they rank?** We can set no ____ extracurricular ____ word ____ on the same standard with ____ Scripture ____.

**What is their purpose?** 1 Corinthians 14:3 (NIV)—“But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their ____ strengthening____, ____ encouragement ____ and ____ comfort ____.”

**Must knows:**

- Prophecies can be quite ____ legitimate ____ . They are by their ____ extracurricular ____ nature ____ incomplete ____ (1 Cor. 13:9).

- Prophecies ____ must ____ be ____ tested ____. Keep in mind how much easier it is to ____ eliminate ____ than to ____ examine ____ (Acts 17:11; Matt. 7:15).

Dr. Gordon Fee: “Despite the fact that the ministries of the Spirit can be ____ abused ____ in the Christian community, Paul's own deep appreciation for the central role of the Spirit in individual and corporate life will not allow for ____ correcting ____ abuse ____ by ____ commanding ____ ____ disuse ____. Rather, the antidote for ____ abuse ____ is proper ____ use ____.”

**Concluding bottom line**

Believers in Christ cannot be both ____ lazy ____ and ____ Spirit-led ____.

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Group Session Seven

REVIEW THE WEEK

Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week’s homework.

• **Principal Questions**
  - **DAY 1:** What exhortation is recorded in Colossians 4:17? (p. 142)
  - **DAY 2:** Compare 1 Thessalonians 3:12 to 2 Thessalonians 1:3. What answered prayer do you see reflected? (p. 146)
  - **DAY 3:** What did God tell the prophet Ezekiel to do before he spoke to Israel? (p. 150)
  - **DAY 4:** How did Paul describe the symbiosis in Colossians 1:29? (p. 157)
  - **DAY 5:** Who is in charge of providing what we need to do God’s will? (p. 158)

○ **Personal Discussion Questions**
  - **DAY 1:** Have you found other people’s contributions encouraging or discouraging lately? Explain. (p. 144)
  - **DAY 2:** How has God used others to encourage, train, or direct you? (p. 149)
  - **DAY 3:** Would you like to share your letter with your small group? (p. 153)
  - **DAY 4:** In what task could you use some equipping from the Scriptures? (p. 155)
  - **DAY 5:** From your experience, how are preparing and repairing distinct? (p. 159)

VIEW THE VIDEO

Introduction

In our homework this week, we began to unravel the sacred parchment of the Second Letter to the Thessalonians. Six words from the center of chapter 1 will preoccupy us today: When the ____ Lord ____ Jesus ____ is ____ revealed ____.

The lexical Greek word is *apokálupsis:* “____ Revelation ____ , uncovering, ____ unveiling ____ , disclosure. One of three words referring to the Second Coming of Christ (1 Cor. 1:7; 2 Thess. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:7,13). The other two words are *epipháneia,* appearing (1 Tim. 6:14), and *parousía,* coming, presence (2 Thess. 2:1). *Apokálupsis,* a ____ grander ____ and more comprehensive word, includes not merely the thing shown and seen but the ____ interpretation ____ , the unveiling of the same. The *epipháneiai,* appearances, are contained in the *apokálupsis,* revelation, being separate points or moments therein. Christ’s first coming was an *epipháneia* (2 Tim. 1:10); the second, an *apokálupsis,* will be far more ____ glorious ____.”
We’ll invite the apostle Peter to come alongside Paul through his own inspired letter and help us broaden our grasp of those six words. Savor the NET Bible translation of 1 Peter 1:1-2:

From Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those _____ temporarily _____ resided ______ abroad _____ (in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, the province of Asia, and Bithynia) who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father by being set apart by the Spirit for obedience and for sprinkling with Jesus Christ’s blood. May grace and peace be yours in full measure!

Now read 1 Peter 1:3-9. Note three distinct time periods:
1. _____Now_____
2. A _____little_____ while _____
3. When Jesus is _____revealed_____

According to 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, when the Lord Jesus is _____revealed_____
• _____Relief_____ will _____come_____ to the “_____afflicted_____”.

• “Relief” in the Greek is _____anesin_____. Find the term also in 2 Corinthians 2:12-13 and 2 Corinthians 7:5-7. Reflect on this relief in view of Matthew 24:21-22.

• _____Eternal_____ _____relocation_____ will be assigned.

• _____Marveling_____ will occur (v. 10).

• He will be _____glorified_____ in His _____saints_____ (v. 10; Rom. 8:18-19).

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Group Session Eight

REVIEW THE WEEK

Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week’s homework.

- Principal Questions
  DAY 1: What three sources of potential alarm did Paul list in 2 Thess. 2:2? (p. 166)
  DAY 2: What specific events occur before the Day of the Lord (2 Thess. 2:1-7)? (p. 171)
  DAY 3: What characteristic of the spirit of the antichrist is in 1 John 4:2-3? (p. 176)
  DAY 4: Based on 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 alone, why are people perishing? (p. 182)
  DAY 5: What did Paul tell the Thessalonians to stand firm and hold onto? (p. 186)

- Personal Discussion Questions
  DAY 1: Have you ever been duped by someone who proved to be an imposter? (p. 168)
  DAY 2: What will you be thankful to find missing in Christ’s coming kingdom? (p. 172)
  DAY 3: Which historical rulers might qualify as types of antichrists? (p. 175)
  DAY 4: What do you think any process of sifting can be meant to accomplish? (p. 180)
  DAY 5: What do you think it means to keep yourself in the love of God? (p. 185)

VIEW THE VIDEO

Introduction
As we approach our final week in our study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, we come to one of the most mysterious portions in the letters combined. We will discuss what we can know clearly and what we can at least know more about.

What was happening at their present time and is still happening in ours:
1. The working of the ______ mystery ______ of ______ lawlessness ______. The NIV translates the phrase “the ______ secret ______ power ______ of lawlessness.”

2. The ______ active ______ restraint ______ over the mystery of ______ lawlessness ______.
   Consider this quote from Dr. John Stott: “The restraint is both neuter and masculine, ______ something ______ and ______ someone ______, a ______ pressure ______ and a ______ person ______.”

The three most plausible identities of the restrainer:
- The ____ Holy ____ Spirit ____ (He) and the work of the ____ church ____ (it).
- ____ Paul ____ (he) and the preaching of the ____ gospel ____ (it).
- ____ Rome/the Emperor ____ (he) and the ____ empire ____ /power of the ____ state ____ (it).²

What will happen before the Day of the Lord:
1. The ____ restrainer ____ will be ____ out ____ of the ____ way ____ (v. 7b).

2. The ____ rebellion ____ will ____ come ____ (v. 3).

3. The ____ man ____ of ____ lawlessness ____ will be revealed. (v. 3) The word translated “revealed” is the lexical Greek ____ apocalypto ____. Compare v. 9 where the word translated “coming” is ____ parousia ____. According to Dr. C. A. Wanamaker, “That person’s manifestation is a deceptive ____ parody ____ or ‘ ____ anti-parousia ____ ’ of Jesus’ future coming.”³

- Mark 16:15: “ ____ Go ____ into all the world and ____ proclaim ____ the ____ gospel ____ to the whole creation.”

- 2 John 1:7 (ESV): “For many ____ deceivers ____ have ____ gone ____ out into the ____ world ____ ... Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.”

AND THEN …
1. The Day of the Lord will ____ dawn ____ with the ____ appearance ____ of Christ.

2. The Lord Jesus will ____ kill ____ the ____ lawless ____ one with His ____ breath ____ and bring him to ____ nothing ____.

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2. Ibid., 169–170.

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Group Session Nine

REVIEW THE WEEK

Use these questions to guide your discussion of last week's homework.

Principal Questions

**DAY 1:** What do 1 Thessalonians 5:25 and 2 Thessalonians 3:1 have in common? (p. 191)

**DAY 2:** What things are of most importance (1 Cor. 15:1-4)? (p. 198)

**DAY 3:** What command had Paul and his coworkers given the Thessalonians when they were still with them? (p. 199)

**DAY 4:** By what title is God called in 2 Thessalonians 3:16? (p. 205)

**DAY 5:** What thread embroiders together each greeting and benediction? (p. 208)

Personal Discussion Questions

**DAY 1:** Is the idea of receiving rather than achieving a shift for you or have you practiced this approach for years? (p. 194)

**DAY 2:** What are a few specific places you desire for the words of Christ that abide in you to arrive with you over the next month? (p. 198)

**DAY 3:** What is a destructive attitude you've seen go viral among believers? (p. 202)

**DAY 4:** How can you relate to fighting despair and depression over events God has allowed in your path? (p. 204)

**DAY 5:** What are some of the things going through your head on this final day? (p. 207)

VIEW THE VIDEO

Introduction

In this final session, we will tie up our journey together with a string left dangling at the beginning of 2 Thessalonians 3, and the other left waiting at the end.

1. A ___ potent ___ two-fold___ request for ___ prayer___.

- That the word of the Lord may ___ speed ___ ahead___ and be ___honored____. Compare Psalm 147:15.

- That we may be ___ delivered___ from ___ wicked___ and ___ evil___ people.

“Delivered”—Greek rhúomai: “from rhúo, to draw, ___ drag ___ along___ the ground. To draw or snatch from danger, rescue, deliver. This is more with the meaning of ___ drawing ___ to ___ oneself ___ than merely ___ rescuing ___ from someone or something.”1
Note the descriptions “wicked and evil.” The Greek meaning of the first word is particularly interesting. Greek átopos—“from a, without, and tópos, place.” Without place or having no place. Inconvenient, prejudicial, hurtful, evil, improper (Acts 28:6). Of persons: absurd, unreasonable (2 Thess. 3:2); of conduct: inconvenient, unsuitable, improper, wrong.2

Consider what could be a 10-Word Instant Upturn: “For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful.” (ESV)

2. A significantly personal signature. Imagine a handwritten version similar to this:

’Ο ἀστυπασμός τῇ ἐμῇ χειρί Παύλου ... οὕτως γράφω
’Η χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν3

The benediction: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

2. Ibid, “átopos.”