children of the DAY
1 & 2 Thessalonians
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Viewer Guides with Blanks

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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:

__________, ____________, and ____________


1. Silas (Silvanus) entered a __________ __________ __________ by a __________ ____________. (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 __________ __________ that can __________ can also __________ (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 ___________ ___________ we ___________ could become one of the
___________ people in our lives.

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

4. A journey ___________ ___________ could lead to the exact ___________ of
___________ 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
___________ by ___________.” This English phrase is drawn from one rare
compound word in the Greek: theodidaktōi.

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

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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 ___________ ___________ of ____________ from the ____________ 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: ____________, ____________, and ____________.
   - ____________: The ____________
   - ____________: The ____________
   - ____________: The ____________
“In Acts and the letters bearing Paul’s name about ‘____________ _____________’, often coupled with a score of assorted titles, are associated with the Apostle.”

2. ___________ get the privilege of telling ___________ that __________ are ________ by God and ______________ (1 Thess. 1:4).

3. Often we hope __________ is at __________, but sometimes we __________ to __________ it (1 Thess. 1:5).

4. In a world of ___________ and ____________, we better be ready to ______________ ____________. “You know what kind of men we __________ 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 __________ _________ _________ and we __________ _______ _______ _______.

6. Until __________ ________ back, we __________ ________ 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)

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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 ____________ ____________ look like?

Or, to put it another way: How would we diagram ____________ ____________?
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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)

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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 ________________ to the ________________ (v. 1).

   Check this definition: ________________ : “from Latin vulnerare to ____________
   (1) capable of being ________________ ________________
   (2) open to ________________ or ________________”

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

3. The evaporating ________ of ________ (v. 5).

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

1. The ________ ________ (v. 6).

2. The ________ ________ (v. 7).

3. The ________ of ________ (v. 6).

4. The ________ ________ (v. 8).

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

“Do you see the ________ ________ ________ of ________ that is shown by his words? Make you to increase and abound ...”

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1. Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th ed, s.v. “vulnerable.”
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)

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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 ____________ ____________.

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

There are ____________ ← There are ______ ______

regarding ____________ ____________    regarding ____________ ____________
1. What God dictates here is _______ _______ and it was pertinent _______ (v. 3). The Greek word for sexual immorality is _______.\(^1\)

2. What God dictates here is _______. See v. 1: “just as _______ are _______."

3. What God dictates here is _______. See v. 4: “that _______ of you _______.”\(^2\)

4. What God dictates here is _______. See v. 4. God does not _______ of us what cannot ultimately _______ 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 ____________ the ____________.

1 Thessalonians 5:20 (ESV)—Do not ____________ ____________.

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 ____________ from the ____________ through a ____________ ____________ 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 *prophétes*, prophet, is the proclaimer, one who speaks out the counsel of God with the __________, __________, and __________ which spring from the consciousness of __________ in __________ 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 *prophétes*, 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 __________ on the same standard with __________.

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

Must knows:

- Prophecies can be quite __________. They are by their __________ nature __________ (1 Cor. 13:9).

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

Dr. Gordon Fee: “Despite the fact that the ministries of the Spirit can be __________ 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 __________ by __________. Rather, the antidote for __________ is proper __________.”

**Concluding bottom line**
Believers in Christ cannot be both __________ and __________.

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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 ____________ ____________ is ____________.

The lexical Greek word is *apokálupsis*: “__________, uncovering, ____________, 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 ____________ and more comprehensive word, includes not merely the thing shown and seen but the ____________, 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 ____________.”
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 ___________________________ (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. ________________
2. A ___ ___________ _____________
3. When Jesus is ________________

According to 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, when the Lord Jesus is ________________ …
• __________ will _________________ to the “_____________.”

• “Relief” in the Greek is _________________. 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.

• _______________ ______________ will be assigned.

• _______________ will occur (v. 10).

• He will be ________________ in His ________________ (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)

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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 ____________ of ____________. The NIV translates the phrase “the ____________ ____________ of lawlessness.”

2. The ____________ ____________ over the mystery of _____________.
   Consider this quote from Dr. John Stott: “The restraint is both neuter and masculine, _______ ___ and _____________, a _____________ and a _____________.”

The three most plausible identities of the restrainer:

- The _______ _______ (He) and the work of the _______ (it).
- _______ (he) and the preaching of the _______ (it).
- _______ _______ (he) and the _______/power of the _______ (it).²

**What will happen before the Day of the Lord:**

1. The _______ _______ will be _______ of the _______ (v. 7b).

2. The _______ _______ will _______ (v. 3).

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

- Mark 16:15: “_________ into all the world and _______ the _______ to the whole creation.”

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

**AND THEN ...**

1. The Day of the Lord will _______ with the _______ of Christ.

2. The Lord Jesus will _______ the _______ one with His _______ and bring him to _______.

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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)

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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 ________________ ________________ request for ________________.
   - That the word of the Lord may ________________ ________________ and be ________________, Compare Psalm 147:15.
   - That we may be ________________ from ________________ and ________________ people.
   - “Delivered”—Greek rhúomai: “from rhúo, to draw. ________________ ________________ the ground. To draw or snatch from danger, rescue, deliver. This is more with the meaning of ________________ to ________________ than merely ________________ from someone or something.”

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Note the descriptions “wicked and evil.” The Greek meaning of the first word is particularly interesting. Greek átopos—“from a, without, and tópos, ___________. ___________ ___________ or ___________ ___________ ___________. Inconvenient, prejudicial, hurtful, evil, improper (Acts 28:6). Of persons: ___________, ____________ (2 Thess. 3:2); of conduct: inconvenient, unsuitable, improper, wrong.”

Consider what could be a ____________ Instant ____________: “For ____________ __________ have _____________. But the ____________ is _____________.” (ESV)

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

‘Ο ἀσπασμὸς τῇ ἐμῇ χειρί Παύλου ... οὕτως γράφω
’Η χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ πάντων υμῶν³

The benediction: The ____________ of our Lord Jesus Christ be ___________ __________ ___________.

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2. Ibid, “átopos.”