

Dig Deeper @Home – “Return of the King”

Complement to sermon on November 27, 2016 – “A Royal Appointing”

MEMORIZE – 1st Thessalonians 1:4

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

READ 1st Thessalonians 1

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What is this passage revealing about God and what is it revealing about us as humans?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life? What will that look like?
3. Paul says that the Thessalonians received the word in much affliction. Read Acts 17: 1-10. In what ways does knowing this help to better understand/receive the words Paul shares in 1st Thess 1?
4. Read 1:3 again and reflect on the following questions...
 - a. What are works of faith? What are labors of love? What does steadfastness of hope look like?
 - b. Why is it important to remember these about ourselves and others? (hint: compare 1:3 with 5:8-10, look also at 1:8)
 - c. What is necessary on our part in order to remember these things about ourselves and others?
 - d. Spend time remembering and sharing works of faith, labors of love and steadfastness of hope that you have experienced. If doing this as an individual, take time to remember and then commit to share with someone this week.

Bottom Line - Give a one or two sentence summary of the scripture:

Experiential

Sometimes activities help us to understand and process biblical truths. The one below is a suggestion for how to experience the truths of 1st Thessalonians 1. Feel free to use one of these or any you might come up with.

Letter of Thanks

Think of someone who has impacted you. Take time to pray for them, thanking God for the impact they have had on you and then write them a letter. In the letter identify what it was that impacted you, what difference it made on you and then encourage them to continue sharing in these ways with others.

SING (a suggested song to sing. Use this or any song you might want to sing)

I want to be Just like You - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Z8bXcBRIU0>

Take time and listen to this song. A good reminder that people (especially kids) will imitate what they see us doing, so it's important that we strive to imitate Christ daily.

Hymn - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - #111 in Mennonite Hymnal

As song that helps us to celebrate the birth of Christ and reminds us to anticipate the coming of Christ.

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson: Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.