

## **Dig Deeper @Home – “Return of the King”**

### **Complement to sermon on December 25, 2016 – “The Opportune Present”**

#### **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 5**

##### **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. In verses 1-11, Paul contrasts people who are drunk/night with people who are sober/day. Write down observations you see about these two groups of people.
  
4. Verses 12-22 is a rapid fire of commands and reminders to the church in Thessalonica. Look through this list. Identify the commands you follow well and which ones you need to improve on. What will it look like to do these "more and more" in your life?
  
5. Verses 23-24 make up the benediction.
  - a. According to this, who does the sanctifying?
  
  - b. What parts of us are to be kept blameless? Are all these parts blameless in you?
  
  - c. What is our hope and faith based on in keeping these areas blameless? (hint:v24)

**Summarize 1st Thessalonians 5 in your own words using three sentences or less.**

## **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 5. Feel free to use one of these or any you might come up with.

### **Reading the whole letter (in one sitting)**

Paul says in 5:27, "I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers." When a letter is read, the receiver reads it in its entirety. Unfortunately, we typically read only sections of scripture at a time. So, read the letter of 1st Thessalonians completely through in one setting. (Reading it through a couple times is even better). Then write down or discuss things you noticed or connections that were made as you read or heard this letter read in its entirety.

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

### **For Unto Us/Open the Eyes of my Heart**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ue6FbiHf30&list=PLTKNPn6Epd2ryULcL9Gw2tprzLL8XAbxa&index=2>

*A great song worshipping God for sending Jesus and asking God to open our eyes and hearts to receive Jesus.*

### **Hymn - Angels from the Realms of Glory - #128 in Mennonite Hymnal**

Be sure to sing all 5 verses of the great hymn celebrating the birth of "Christ the newborn King."

## **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 the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.