

Dig Deeper @Home – “Raised and Returning”
Complement to lesson on 4/19/26 – “Crowns of Boasting”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What was one of your most memorable failures in Junior or Senior High School?
2. What was one of your accomplishments you are most proud of during those years?

MEMORIZE – 1st Thessalonians 5: 9-11

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

READ – Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What in these verses is interesting? What is confusing?
 - d. What are the verses revealing about God? What are the verses saying about people?
 - e. In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. **Re-read verses 1-4** - How does remembering Paul’s suffering in Philippi enhance our understanding of his boldness in Thessalonica? What does it mean to be approved by God and entrusted with the Gospel? How does this motivate us to please God rather than people?
3. **List the characteristics of a faithful witness for Christ given in this passage.** Which do you possess? Which do you wish to develop?
4. **Re-read verse 14-20** How did the Thessalonians become "imitators" of the churches in Judea, and what does this teach us about suffering for our faith? Why do you think Paul called the Thessalonians his hope, joy and crown?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – “Real and Encouraging”

Share with the group someone who has been a godly influence on your life to encourage you in your faith journey. In what real ways did they encourage you? List some things that are important as you share your faith with others.

What are some ways that people try to present the Gospel that can turn people away? How are you attempting to avoid these mistakes, and yet be a witness to the people in your life?

SING (or listen to)

Sing to the King - <https://youtu.be/biLCWOXgl2Q>

And Can it Be - <https://youtu.be/th7PfDoRmaM?list=TLPQMTAwNDIwMjYGrIHtGzb3vA>

In Christ alone - https://youtu.be/m_063OI38RQ

Yet Not I, But Thru Christ in Me - <https://youtu.be/zundjUFazfg?list=TLPQMTAwNDIwMjYGrIHtGzb3vA>

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, for this week.

Sending prayer based on the message:

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, 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.