

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 1 - Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

1TH 1:1 Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you.

1TH 1:2 We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. [3] We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1TH 1:4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. [6] You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. [7] And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. [8] The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia--your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, [9] for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. Who wrote this letter? (1:1)
2. To whom was this letter written? (1:1)
3. What did Paul remember about the Thessalonians? (1:2-3)
4. What made Paul believe God had chosen the Thessalonian believers? (1:4-10)
5. How had Paul presented the gospel to this audience? (1:5-6)
6. How had the Thessalonians responded to the gospel message? (1:6-7)

7. For what kind of faith were the Thessalonians known? (1:6)
8. Whom did the Thessalonians imitate? (1:6)
9. How had the Thessalonians' lives been a model for others? (1:7-10)
10. What changes did the Thessalonians make in their lives when they heard the gospel? (1:9)
11. What were the Thessalonians anticipating? (1:10)