

HOLD

THE LINE

1 T H E S S A L O N I A N S

HOLD THE LINE - 1 THESSALONIANS

Week	Passage
1	Acts 17:1-15
2	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
3	1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
4	1 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
5	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
6	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
7	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
8	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
9	1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
10	1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family and friends here:

TERM 4 - 2018

How to use this book:

1. PERSONAL READING

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.

2. GROWTH GROUPS

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. CHURCH

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

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www.evchurch.info/series

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INTRODUCTION: 1 THESSALONIANS

After the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15), Paul once again set out from Antioch, this time with Silas, on his “second missionary journey”. They met Timothy in Derbe and took him along with them (Acts 16:3). In addition to revisiting some of the churches he had established on his first missionary journey, Paul also ventured into new areas to preach the gospel.

After being imprisoned in Philippi, Paul and his companions came to Thessalonica where they preached the gospel in the Jewish synagogue on three Sabbath days (Acts 17:2). 1 Thessalonians 2:7-11 tells us that Paul had time to work in Thessalonica, and Philippians 4:16 tells us that the Philippian church partnered in Paul's ministry by sending him aid in Thessalonica. So while Paul's stay appears to be longer than three weeks, it was nevertheless fairly short.

During the ministry of Paul, Silas and Timothy in Thessalonica a number of Thessalonians believed the gospel and a young church sprung into existence (see Acts 17:4 and 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10; 2:13). Paul's stay in Thessalonica was ended by violent Jewish opposition. The persecution that broke out drove Paul and his companions to leave the Thessalonian church while it was in its infancy. The Jews from Thessalonica even followed Paul and his companions to Berea to stir up trouble for them there also.

Paul was anxious about the Thessalonians and whether they were standing firm in the faith (1 Thessalonians 3:5). He longed to see them, but it was not possible for him to return to them (1 Thessalonians 2:17-18), so he sent Timothy to find out how they were going and to strengthen and encourage them in their faith (1 Thessalonians 3:2-3).

1 Thessalonians was written on Timothy's return to Paul with the good news that the Thessalonians were standing firm in the Lord (1 Thessalonians 3:6-8). Paul was overjoyed and wrote to encourage them to continue on in the faith.

Paul likely wrote 1 Thessalonians from Corinth a few months after he had planted the church there (around 50 A.D.). This makes it one of the earliest writings of the new Testament.

Despite the church's infancy it was in many ways a model to other churches throughout Greece (1 Thessalonians 1:7-8). They were doing well: their turning to Christ had been genuine (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10) and they were growing in faith, hope and love (1 Thessalonians 1:3). Paul is greatly encouraged by how the church is going. However, being young in the faith it was a church that

had a lot yet to learn, and so Paul wrote to them regarding some issues about which they had questions or needed further instruction. He also wrote to spur them on to do what they had been doing more and more.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 is the hinge verse of the letter. For the first three chapters Paul has been speaking to the Thessalonians about the way they received the gospel, about his ministry among them, about his concern that they might not be standing firm in the faith, and about his great joy at Timothy's report that they are indeed standing firm. In 1 Thessalonians 4:1 he says, "...we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more." They are a church that is going well, that is growing in holiness, and maturing in spite of persecution. But here Paul encourages them to do this "more and more". The letter is like a big pat on the back that affirms how they have been living in order please God, and encourages them to keep pressing on.

The last two chapters of 1 Thessalonians contain a variety of instructions and teaching that Paul believes the Thessalonians need to hear in order to help them grow and mature further so that they might live increasingly to please God. It is likely that some of the instructions are in answer to questions the Thessalonians had for Paul, as passed on by Timothy, or at least areas in which Timothy observed the Thessalonians needed further instruction or teaching during his time with them.

Some of the big themes in the book of 1 Thessalonians are: the power of the Word of God (seen in its effect on the Thessalonians); how to do gospel ministry (as Paul defends his ministry); how to pastor people (seen in Paul's intense concern for the Thessalonians); how to cope with suffering (seen in the Thessalonians' response to persecution); how to live in order to please God; what will happen when the Lord returns; and how we should live in light of that day.

It is a rich and encouraging book. May the Lord enable us to live in order to please Him more and more as we study 1 Thessalonians!

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Something you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible - amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, "He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, "You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God's purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It's totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term's suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

YEAR 1: TERM 1

Week 1	Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Week 5 Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11
- Week 6 Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13
- Week 7 Exodus 11-15, Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15
- Week 8 Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17
- Week 9 Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19
- Week 10 Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21

YEAR 1: TERM 2

- Week 1 Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24
- Week 2 Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26
- Week 3 Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28
- Week 4 Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2
- Week 5 Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4
- Week 6 Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6
- Week 7 Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8
- Week 8 Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10
- Week 9 Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12
- Week 10 Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14

YEAR 1: TERM 3

- Week 1 Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16
- Week 2 Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18
- Week 3 Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20
- Week 4 Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22
- Week 5 Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24
- Week 6 1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26
- Week 7 1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28
- Week 8 1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2
- Week 9 2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4
- Week 10 2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

YEAR 1: TERM 4

- Week 1 1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8
- Week 2 1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10
- Week 3 1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12
- Week 4 2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14
- Week 5 2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16
- Week 6 1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2
- Week 7 1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4
- Week 8 1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6
- Week 9 2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8
- Week 10 2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10

YEAR 2: TERM 1

- Week 1 2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12
- Week 2 2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14
- Week 3 Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16
- Week 4 Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2
- Week 5 Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4
- Week 6 Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6
- Week 7 Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8
- Week 8 Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10
- Week 9 Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12
- Week 10 Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14

YEAR 2: TERM 2

- Week 1 Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16
- Week 2 Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2
- Week 3 Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4
- Week 4 Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6
- Week 5 Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8

- Week 6 Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10
- Week 7 Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12
- Week 8 Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14
- Week 9 Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16
- Week 10 Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20

YEAR 2: TERM 3

- Week 1 Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1
- Week 2 Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40
- Week 3 Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50
- Week 4 Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6
- Week 5 Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10
- Week 6 Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20
- Week 7 Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30
- Week 8 Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- Week 9 Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4
- Week 10 Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon

YEAR 2: TERM 4

- Week 1 Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7
- Week 2 Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13
- Week 3 Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5
- Week 4 Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John 1-6; 2 John; 3 John
- Week 5 Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5
- Week 6 Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10
- Week 7 Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21
- Week 8 Haggai 1-2; John 1-12
- Week 9 Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17
- Week 10 Malachi 1-4; John 18-21

DAY 2

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7

Read Acts 17:10-15

1. Paul travelled to Berea. What did he do when he got there? Considering what had just occurred in Thessalonica, what does this show us about Paul?
2. What attitude did the Bereans have towards Paul and the Scriptures? How can you be more like the Bereans in this way?
3. When the Jews in Thessalonica learnt that Paul was preaching the Word of God in Berea, what did they do? What does this show about them and about the nature of some opposition to the gospel?

Prayer: Pray that you would be someone with a growing hunger to read the Bible more and would check everything you hear and think against it.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 2: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

DAY 1

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

1. Who wrote 1 Thessalonians and to whom was it written?
2. When was 1 Thessalonians written? (Think through the movement of Paul and his companions in the following verses to answer the question: Acts 17:13-15; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2; Acts 18:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 3:6)
3. What does it mean that the church of the Thessalonians is in “God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”? What sort of relationship do we as individuals and as a church have with God?

Prayer: Praise God that He has gathered us to Himself and each other in Jesus.

WEEK 2: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

DAY 3

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

1. In verse 4, Paul says, "For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you...". How does Paul know that the Thessalonians have been loved and chosen by God? (Verses 4-6)
2. How did the Thessalonians respond to the message of the gospel? How did their reception of the gospel affect their lives? (Verses 5-6)
3. When we share the gospel with people, is it merely with words? How does this passage encourage you in sharing the gospel?

Prayer: Praise God for choosing you in love to be His, and enabling you to accept the gospel message with joy. Pray that you might share the gospel with family and friends, and that it might come to them with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.

DAY 4

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

1. In verse 7, Paul describes the Thessalonians as a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. In what way did the converted Thessalonians become role models to other believers?
2. What has happened as a result of the Thessalonians' response to the gospel? (Verses 7-10) How has the gospel "rung out" from Thessalonica?
3. The Thessalonians' faith, love, and hope impacted greatly on how they lived. They were changed so radically by the gospel that people "everywhere" talked to each other about it (1 Thessalonians 1:8-10). In what places and at what times of the week are you most recognisable as a Christian, and in what places and at what times in your week are you least recognisable as a Christian?
4. What must we do to be Christian models worth imitating? The Thessalonian church had a major impact on the world around them. What must we do as individuals and as a church to have a similar impact on the world around us?

Prayer: Pray that we as individuals and as a church would be so radically changed by the gospel that we would be a model for other Christians to copy, and that the Lord's message would ring out from us across the coast.

WEEK 2: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

DAY 5

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

1. What does verse 10 tell us about Jesus?
2. Verses 9-10 are a good description of how someone becomes a Christian. From these verses, what must someone do to become a Christian?
3. The Thessalonian church turned to God from idols (Verse 9). What do you think are idols in Australia today? What things are you tempted to serve or depend on before God?
4. In verse 10, Paul describes the Thessalonians as “waiting for his Son.” What does it mean practically to be “waiting for Jesus?”

Prayer: Pray that you might continue to live as you were saved: continually turning away from idols to serve the living and true God in greater and greater degrees, and having an eager and growing expectation of the coming of Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

DAY 2

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

1. What do we learn from verses 3-6 about Paul's:
 - a. message?
 - b. motives in ministry?
 - c. methods in ministry?
2. How should Paul's example shape the way we and our church are involved in sharing the gospel?
3. Some people today want to argue that in ministry "the end justifies the means," that it is okay to do anything to bring people into the church. Considering Paul's example, why is it important to consider the methods that we use in ministry?
4. Why is it important to examine our own motives in ministry? What can we do about impure motives that we might have?

Prayer: Pray that we would be a church that ministers with integrity, sharing the gospel entrusted to us with motives and actions that please God. Pray also for your own motives in serving Christ and His church.

DAY 4

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:6-12

1. Why did Paul work so hard “day and night” while he was with the Thessalonians (verses 9-12)? You might also want to look at 1 Corinthians 9:7-12. How might we imitate this principle of Paul’s in the ministry of our church, and in our own personal ministry?
2. What did Paul and his companions share with the Thessalonians? (Verse 8) What does this teach us about the nature of gospel ministry?
3. In verse 10, Paul speaks of his life lived in the presence of the Thessalonians as he shared his life with them. Why is the way we live so important for our witness to the gospel? What areas of your life might be a hindrance to your witnessing to friends and what can you do to change this?

Prayer: Pray that we would share our lives with our brothers and sisters, especially if we have a position of leadership, and that as we do so we would seek to live holy, righteous and blameless lives.

WEEK 3: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

DAY 5

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Six times in this passage Paul makes clear that he is recalling for the Thessalonians things they already know regarding his mission in Thessalonica (2:1, 2:2, 2:5, 2:9, 2:10, 2:11). All this leads us to ask why Paul reminds the Thessalonians of these things.

1. Acts 17:1-15 tells of Paul's time in Thessalonica. Now in 1 Thessalonians Paul is writing to the Thessalonians for perhaps the first time since he left. Under what circumstances did Paul's ministry in Thessalonica end?
2. In 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16, Paul appears to be defending his ministry in Thessalonica. Assuming we are hearing Paul's responses to accusations which have filtered back to him, what sort of things were Paul's "enemies" saying against him?
3. How does Paul defend his ministry? From this, what does Paul believe about when ministry is a success and when it is a failure?

Prayer: Pray for the leaders and members of our church that our ministry would be characterised by the true gospel message, by right motives, by a desire to please God, by gentle but strong leadership, by a desire to share life with each other, and by selfless, sacrificial service.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

DAY 4

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

1. How is Timothy described? What does this teach us about our work in the gospel?
2. Why did Paul send Timothy to Thessalonica?
3. What is Paul's big fear for the Thessalonians? What does this teach us about the value of faith?

Prayer: Pray that God would both impress upon you how precious your faith in Christ is and protect you from having your faith shaken or lost.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 5: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13

DAY 1

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-10

1. Why did Paul send Timothy to Thessalonica? (Verses 1-5)
2. What news did Timothy bring about the Thessalonians on his return to Paul? (Verses 3:6-8)
3. How did Paul respond to Timothy's report about the Thessalonians, and what does this show about him? (Verses 3:7-13)
4. Deep down (where it is possible to be unconcerned or even jealous) how do you respond when you hear other Christians are going well in the faith?

Prayer: Pray for a joyful heart that is glad for others who are continuing strongly in their faith in God, even those who have hurt you.

WEEK 5: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13

DAY 3

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

1. Why was the opinion of the Thessalonians (verse 6) so important to Paul both as a man and as an apostle? When we care about what people think of us, is it for the same reasons?
2. Paul made clear that he wanted to visit the Thessalonians personally but couldn't (2:17-18), and so he sent Timothy in his place (3:1-2). But even after this, in his prayer (3:11), he shows that he still wants to visit them. Why is it so important to Paul that he can come to them personally?
3. What does Paul's desire to visit them personally teach us about ministry? How can communication technology (e.g. smart phones, email, social media etc.) be helpful in ministry, and how can it be a threat to healthy ministry?

Prayer: Ask God to give you opportunities to personally encourage and minister to people.

WEEK 5: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13

DAY 5

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

1. How can these verses guide our prayers?

2. Use these verses to write a prayer in your own words.

Prayer: Pray your prayer for our church. Pray it for one other person.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 6: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12

In the first three chapters of 1 Thessalonians, Paul has recalled his history with the Thessalonians, speaking of how they received the gospel and how they continue to stand firm in the faith. In chapters 4 and 5, Paul moves on to instructing the Thessalonians in how to continue to live pleasing God in various areas of life, including reshaping their thinking about the second coming of Christ.

DAY 1

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

1. Before this letter, what instructions have Paul and his companions given the Thessalonians, and on whose authority? Where do we need to look to find out what pleases God?
2. What does it mean to please God? Is it your life's goal to "live in order to please God?". What areas in life do you need to apply this to that you haven't yet?
3. What does Paul ask and urge the Thessalonians to do? Are there any areas in your life where you have stopped moving forward, and need to seek to please God in this area "more and more"?

Prayer: Pray that God would place in your heart a deep desire to please Him by living a holy life in every way, and that He would give you the day-to-day strength to live this out.

DAY 2

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

1. "What is God's will for my life?" is a question people often ask. What is God's will for the Thessalonians and for us? (Verse 3)
2. How are Christians not to use their bodies and sexual desires, and how are they to use them? (Verses 3-8) How does this challenge you?
3. What are the reasons that Paul gives in this passage for living this way?
4. What is Paul referring to when he speaks of "God calling us"? (Verse 7; see also 2 Thessalonians 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9; Jude 1) What is your calling?

Prayer: Pray that you would be obedient to the will of God and be holy, especially in the area of sexuality. Ask for forgiveness and healing for where you have sinned in this area.

DAY 4

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

1. What ambition are the Thessalonians to have? Are your ambitions for life the same as God's ambitions for your life?
2. The issues spoken about in these verses continue to be a problem for the Thessalonians after this letter and so Paul writes about them in his second letter (2 Thessalonians). Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15. With this passage in mind, what does it mean to lead a "quiet life," what does it look like to "mind your own business", and what does it mean to work with your hands?
3. From verse 12, what results will Paul's instructions in verse 11 achieve? Who are the outsiders who are watching your life?

Prayer: Pray that God would enable you to lead a calm and settled life rather than one that is restless. Pray that He would enable you to be helpful to others but not interfering, hard working and not idle.

WEEK 6: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12

DAY 5

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

1. What areas of life are covered by these instructions, and what does this show us about the Christian life?
2. Twice in this passage Paul says that the Thessalonians are living as he had taught them (verses 1 and 10). He goes on to urge them to “do so more and more.” What does this teach us about the Christian life?
3. What is the connection between this passage and the first three chapters of 1 Thessalonians?

Prayer: Pray that God would place in us a strong desire to press on in Christ, growing in holiness and living a life pleasing to Him.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

DAY 2

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21

1. How does the world grieve for those who have died?
2. How is it to be different for the Christian, and why?
3. As you reflect on your approaching death, how firm is your hope of an eternal future with Jesus? What is your hope based on?

Prayer: Pray that you would have a strong hope in your eternal future with Christ that He has won for you by His death and resurrection.

WEEK 7: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

DAY 3

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

1. Will those “in Christ” miss out in any way when Jesus returns? (Verse 15)
2. What should a Christian attitude to death be? (See John 11:35; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Philippians 1:21, 1:23-24, 2:27)
3. From 1 Thessalonians 1:3, what will be the fruit of real hope? Do you see this fruit growing in your life?

Prayer: Pray that the Lord would enable you to see death rightly, seeing the victory and joy it is to go to be with Christ even amid the sorrow and pain that death brings. Pray that your hope would bear the fruit of endurance, pressing on in Christ through all circumstances of life.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 8: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

DAY 3

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:6-11

1. Verse 6 starts with “So then”. In light of the fact that Jesus is coming and the Thessalonians are “children of the day” (verse 5), how should they (and we) live?
2. What does it mean to “awake and sober”, and why is this the only appropriate way for Christians to live?
3. Paul uses the soldier image to teach us how to be “awake and sober.” What three things are we to put on?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:3. At the beginning of the letter Paul thanked God for the outworking of the Thessalonians’ faith, hope and love, but here he urges them to put on these very same things. What does this teach us about the Christian life?

Prayer: Pray that you might live as a child of the day, awake and sober, growing continually in faith, love and hope.

DAY 4

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:6-11

1. We have a great hope of salvation. What is our salvation based on, and how has it been won?

2. It is possible to read passages like 5:6-8 and 5:12-22 and slip into thinking that we earn our salvation by how we live. How do verses 9- 11 help us with this?

3. Should knowing that we are “not appointed to suffer wrath” but rather will “live together with Him” (Jesus) because of Christ’s death, motivate us or de-motivate us from living a godly life?

Prayer: Ask God for forgiveness for the many times when you have not lived “together with Jesus”, but your actions have looked more like they belong to the darkness. Give thanks for your salvation won by the death of Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 9: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-22

DAY 3

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

1. In verses 14-15, Paul speaks about how members of the church family are to treat each other. From verse 14, who are the idle, the timid and the weak, and how are we to treat each group of people?
2. In verse 15, there are two instructions. What are the instructions, and which do you find easier, to retaliate or to do good?
3. How do you respond when someone wrongs you? Is there anyone in our church that you are holding a grudge against?

Prayer: Pray that the Lord would enable you to be proactive in being kind and loving to people, and that equally He would enable you not to retaliate, hold grudges, or repay people when they wrong you.

DAY 4

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

1. How are the three commands in verses 16 and 17 linked, and what is the secret to them?
2. What reasons do the Thessalonians and we have for being so full of joy and thanks (see also 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10)?
3. What does it mean that “this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”?
4. How can you be more joyful, prayerful and thankful this week?

Prayer: Rejoice in your salvation. Pray for something that concerns you. Give thanks for something the Lord has done for you.

WEEK 9: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-22

DAY 5

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

For more information on New Testament prophecy see the appendix at the back of the daily reading notes.

1. What do you think it means to “quench the Spirit”, and, considering the context, how would you make sure you didn’t do this?
2. Verses 19-22 seem to be primarily about prophecy, and in these verses it seems that when there is a prophecy it should be tested. From verses 20-22, how are we to deal with New Testament prophecy? (See also 1 Corinthians 14:29; 1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 9-10.)
3. What do you think obedience to verses 19-22 might look like today?

Prayer: Pray that God would mature you in your understanding of His Word so that any time someone shares with you something that they consider to be from God (whether wisdom, guidance, teaching, sermon, prophesy, vision etc.) you would not treat it with contempt, but rather test it to see if it is in line with God’s Word.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 10: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-28

DAY 1

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

1. In verses 23-24, what is Paul praying for? What does this show about Paul and his deepest concerns?
2. Is your great desire for yourself and others to be “sanctified through and through?”
3. Why is Paul confident of an answer to this prayer? What had they been called to?

Prayer: Pray that the Lord might put in your heart a deep desire for yourself and others to be holy and blameless at the coming of the Lord Jesus. Thank God that He is faithful in His plan for us: to make us holy.

DAY 2

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Malachi 1-4; John 18-21

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

1. In verse 25, Paul asks for prayer. What does this show about him and about prayer? How would this request encourage the Thessalonians?
2. What does verse 27 show about what Paul thought of his words in this letter?
3. In verse 28, Paul finishes with a little prayer. What is “grace,” and what is he asking for them? Is this what you desire and pray for others?

Prayer: Give thanks that we have the Word of God to read, as God has preserved His Word that was written by the apostles in letters like 1 Thessalonians. Give thanks that we can pray, and that prayer is powerful and effective.

WEEK 10: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-28

DAY 5

Read 2 Thessalonians

1. What themes or ideas do you notice in Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians?
2. Are there any themes and ideas that flow on from 1 Thessalonians?
3. What strikes you from 2 Thessalonians?

Prayer: Ask God to help you stand firm and hold to the teachings of the apostles, while you wait for the Lord Jesus to be revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

APPENDIX - NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECY

The gift of prophecy seen in the New Testament is different from prophecy in the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament God spoke to His people through prophets, and the words of God's prophets came with God's authority. The prophets themselves were aware of this, saying things like "This is what the LORD says...". In the Old Testament there are also strong warnings against false prophecy, with the penalty being death.

In the New Testament, it is the apostles (those chosen by Jesus to be witnesses of His life, death and resurrection and to have the ministry of speaking and writing with His authority) who take on the prophet's role of proclaiming the Word of the Lord, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The message spoken by the apostles was one that could not be changed in any way (Galatians 1:6-9) for it comes from God. For Paul, the legitimate heirs and successors of the Old Testament prophets, in terms of authority, were not New Testament prophets, but the apostles.

The essence of prophecy throughout the Bible is not prediction of the future so much as revelation of the mind and will of God. In the New Testament, prophecy is described as being for the "strengthening, encouragement and comfort" of the church (1 Corinthians 14:3). It is a means of building up Christian character, of encouraging and strengthening people, and of giving them comfort in their distress (of course prophecy is not the only gift that does these things).

Prophecy involves speaking to people (1 Corinthians 14:3), in a way that they can understand (in contrast to tongues). It appears to involve receiving a revelation, that is it comes from God (1 Corinthians 14:30). In other words it appears that the "information" contained in the prophecy is not from study but revelation.

This connection of prophecy to "revelation" makes many Christians nervous since it appears to place the gift of "prophecy" on the same level as the inspired Word of God (which came through the Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles). But Paul makes clear in 1 Thessalonians and 1 Corinthians that such an assessment of prophecy is not appropriate. Paul obviously believes that the gift of prophecy is revelatory (1 Corinthians 14:30); but this does not lead him to regard the authority of the prophets as absolute. This is most clear in Paul's instructions regarding the "weighing" of prophecy

in 1 Corinthians 14:29 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 (compare Paul's attitude to his own words and his placement of the "prophets" under his own authority in 1 Corinthians 14:37-38). Prophecy is expected to be mixed in quality and must be tested against God's revealed Word in the Scriptures. Clearly then it does not carry the same authority as those Scriptures.

The fact that the gift of prophecy depends on revelation does not limit us to a form of revelation that threatens the finality of the Bible. In fact the use of "revelation" language in the Scriptures is much broader than we tend to think. So for example, when Peter makes his confession at Caesarea Philippi, he has to be told that the Father had revealed this truth to him (Matthew 16:17) - in other words revelation can take place without the individual knowing that it is taking place or has taken place. Furthermore 1 Corinthians 2:10 speaks of the revelation that comes to all those God chooses. Similarly in Ephesians 1:17 and 3:14-19 the concept of revelation appears associated with the Christian's growing grasp of spiritual realities - a "growing grasp" that can come only through God's grace. Therefore Paul's reference to "revelation" in 1 Corinthians 14 does not mean that prophecy is necessarily authoritative, infallible, or Bible-threatening.

The authority of New Testament prophecy is only grounded in how faithfully it reflects the Word of God as found in the Scriptures.



Seth and Kate Buddhist Asia

As the fourth largest religion in the world, Buddhism comprises 10% of the world's population. The Buddhistic 'Bonba' people are gospel-zero. No gospel. No Bible. No church. No chance to hear about Jesus. Humanly speaking, not a hope in hell. So pray for Seth and Kate as they seek to plant churches in gospel-zero Buddhist Asia.

Kirstin Nepal

Kirstin has worked in Nepal as an Occupational Therapist for the last 7 years. She ministers in a Christian Hospital and has regular opportunities to share her faith and pray for patients. Thank God for the growing church in Nepal and pray for leadership development. Please continue to pray for Kirstin in this context, as she disciples women in her local church, and for her and Binay after their recent marriage.



Craig and Samantha McCorkindale (CMS) Cambodia

Craig and Samantha (Hannah, Clare and Joel) are into their second year in Cambodia. They continue with more independent language learning in the community and Craig will be preparing lessons to teach in Khmer at the Phnom Peng Bible School later in 2018. Pray for continued relationships in their community as they share the love of Jesus there.



The Geneva Push Australia

Geneva Push is an Australian Church Planting Network aiming to inspire, equip and unleash a new generation of church planters dedicated to evangelising churches into existence. Pray for the assessment process, provision of ongoing support and training through coaching, mentoring, and conferences to ensure the biggest impact as church planters.



Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Australia

These churches are committed to praying for one another and continuing to promote planting of evangelical churches throughout Australia. Their pastors seek to provide support and encouragement to one another. FIEC is aiming, with God's help, to plant 100 churches across Australia during the next 15 years.





Jono and Grace Wright
(AIM) Cross cultural ministry in Australia

Jono and Grace Wright, with their kids, have been working amongst Aboriginals in Camooweal for the last 13 years. They are currently on a year's sabbatical undertaking some further Biblical study and being refreshed for future ministry. Pray for the ministries continuing back in Camooweal, including the Sunday meetings, weekly Bible study groups and prayer meetings, Sunday School, Scripture in the local primary school, and weekend Bible schools.



Derek and Anna
(OMF) Southeast Asia

Derek and Anna (Liam, Jasmine and Juliet) are working in theological education and cross-cultural worker mobilisation in Southeast Asia. Pray for Derek as he continues with his classes in a local Bible college and is starting to train people to reach out to minority ethnic groups where there is no church. They are also trying to reach out to their local community, developing friendships and reading the Bible with those interested.



Martin and Jen Shadwick
(AFES) Newcastle University

Martin and Jen (with their 3 children) work with AFES discipling and training Christian students. Martin continues to work with both local and overseas students. Pray for wisdom in balancing ministry and family life, and for new partners to help them continue in this important ministry.



Nicole Berlach
Tuggerah Lakes Scripture Board (TLSB)

Nicole works with the TLSB teaching Year 11-12 Scripture. 3 days at The Entrance Campus. She also meets with students one-to-one and helps organise the FUSE camp for Christian students. Pray for Nicole and the team (also at Tumbi and Berkley Vale High Schools) as they share Jesus with young people who may not have heard.



Colin and Jill Bakon
(SIM) Church and Missionary Mobilisation

Colin's two roles are in church mobilisation in Latin America where he is raising up national teams to run Kairos, with special focus this year on Ecuador and Peru. And he is working with a task force to mobilise for new initiatives within SIM to see work happening in areas where there is no church.

We are kicking off our Summer Series across all EV Growth Groups this term. *Summer Series* is a sermon series run over four weeks in January where we look at topics that might interest our non-Christian friends and family. BUT its in Term 3 and 4 that we survey people we know to find out which topics to do.

This year we are jumping back into a Summer Series theme we ran in 2011 –cause it was so good!

QUESTIONS FOR GOD

Out of all the Summer Series topics we have done over the last few years this has been the stand out when it comes to a survey question. We had heaps of engagement and many EV people said it created great opportunity for discussion and invitations in January.

What's cool about this series is there is no wrong answer! We are going to get heaps of different ideas coming in and it will make for a very interesting series in January.

Asking people to think about a question for God should kick off lots of good conversations, will spark their interest in coming along and listening to one or more of the talks in January. It's also just a great way to start talking to people about church.

Find out more: www.evchurch.info/summerseries

Here's how it works...

WHAT TO SAY?

It might go something like this...

...my church is wanting to put on a really interesting series of talks this coming January. It's called "Top 4 Questions for God". So... we're asking as many people as we can, if they could ask God one question, what would it be? We're going to take the top four asked questions and they will be the topics we look at in church throughout January.



WHO?

You could ask...



People in your household



Friends & Neighbours



School or Workmates



Sports team members

HOW?

You could use any of these methods...



Online: PC, Phone, Tablet

www.evchurch.info



A printed Survey slip

Who are the people who you could ask the survey question to?

Pray for these survey conversations and opportunities to invite them to the Summer Series talks in January 2019.

