

Living God's will | 1 Thessalonians 2021 Fall #11

Tips: Worship is one of the 5 priorities groups are focused on developing. (Care, Bible, Prayer, Service, Worship) One group I visited had a member who volunteered to choose a different worship song from his spotify playlist and print the lyrics each week for the group. The group would sing along with music on a portable speaker. After the quarter was completed they had a nice notebook of song lyrics they could use over the next few quarters. This was a great way to give a member ownership of the group and make worship music a part of their experience together.

Announcements: Thanksgiving marks the official end of the Fall Quarter. Groups are encouraged to take a break from meeting regularly so that folks can participate in other Advent activities with their families and friends. Planning a social or service activity with your group is always a great way to stay connected.

Administration: Now is the time to talk to your group and see if they are open to adding new people for winter quarter. Registration for winter quarter will start January 8th and meetings resume the week of January 16th. You might also start talking about what material you would like to discuss.

My Story Questions

These questions help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one.

- 1) Do you have close friends who live more than a few hours away? How do you stay in touch?
- 2) If you had the option, would you rather.....remodel your house or buy a new one? Explain.

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1&2-

- 1) What did Paul remember before God about the Thessalonians in 1:3? How often did he remember those things according to 1:2 and 2:13.
- 2) What praiseworthy things of others will you remember before God? Declare them to God.
- 3) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17 How can I make conversation and praise more of a constant in my days?

Read 1 Kings 19:9-18-

- 4) What do you observe about how God communicated with Elijah? How is the gentle whisper Elijah heard like the Holy Spirit we hear (John 14:26)?
- 5) What did Elijah hear and what do you most often expect to hear from God when he speaks: direction, comfort, or reprove?

Read 1 Thessalonians 3 & 4

- 6) After praising their faith and love, Paul asks God to keep them "holy." How does his prayer in 3:11-13 show dependence on God?
- 7) What does it look like to have a "heart" that reflects God's heart?
- 8) Use Paul's list in chapter 4 and ask God, "What do I need your help to avoid? What do I need your help to engage in?"

Read Romans 12

- 9) What similarities do you find between this chapter and 1 Thessalonians 4?
- 10) Is transformation more about what you do or what you don't do? Explain.
- 11) What area of your life do you think looks most like the world? Least like the world?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5

- 12) Look at the benediction prayer in 5:23. Who is responsible for your sanctification? What is the promise given?
- 13) What words describe the thoroughness of God's transforming work in your life? How does that make you feel?

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time.

- 1) Ask God, "What is something that you love about me?" What do you want me to love about You?.
- 2) Ask God, "How can we dialog more during the day about transformation and holiness.

For Further Application

- 1) Use the prayers Paul spoke over the Thessalonians as a model for those on your prayer list. Insert their names.