



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week of: 3/22/2020



SERIES: MORE

Big Idea: Walking with God makes us more like Jesus

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Connect and Opening Thought – 10 minutes

1. What has been one of the most dramatic changes in your life recently? With all of the recent changes, name one “hidden blessing” you have seen.
2. The recent coronavirus pandemic has changed a lot of things for a lot of people. Change can be stressful and difficult. But change can also lead to some really good things. Could God possibly be working in a difficult time like this to help all of us pause and evaluate our walk? Have we been walking closely with God or have we been on a path veering away?

Proverbs 3:5-6 says *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.”*

In today’s group study we learn more about a life and walk that please God as we continue down the path of “becoming more like Jesus.”

Bible Discussion – 30 minutes

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:1 refers to our walk and what we are currently doing that pleases God. Identify something you are currently doing that you believe is pleasing to God. Is it possible that God is desiring you to do more of that? Share with the group.
2. Throughout scripture God shows His concern for our walk. (See Genesis 17:1, Exodus 16:4, Joshua 22:5, Romans 6:4, 1 John 1:7, and many more). Why do you think “walking with God” is mentioned so many times?
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 mentions that the will of God is our sanctification. What does the word sanctify mean to you? **Your group may want to look up the definition if needed. Allow each group member time to share one specific way that God has worked in their life over time to sanctify them.
4. Immediately after Paul’s encouragement for the church of Thessalonica to live a life that pleases God, he discusses sexual sin. Why do you think he addresses this topic first?
5. For former pagans (the believers in the church of Thessalonica had only recently started to follow Christ), the lure of sexual sins was strong (see *1 Corinthians 5-6*). As born again believers, we are all “former pagans.” What are some specific allures of sexual sin you have struggled with in the past? Currently?
6. 1 Thessalonians 4:9 is a reminder that Christians are called to “love one another.” How have you seen the church showing the love of God to others recently?

Life Application – 5 minutes

Paul David Tripp said that “The church is not a theological classroom. It is a conversion, confession, repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness and sanctification center, where flawed people place their faith in Christ, gather to know and love Him better, and learn to love others as He designed.”

Discuss the quote with your group:

- How does it relate to what we read in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4?
- How is our church doing “being the church”?
- How well is our small group doing with this?

Challenge – 5 minutes

Identify a specific area in your life that you would like to walk more closely with God. Do you believe that a closer walk with God in that area will result in more love, more growth, and more influence? Discuss with a trusted friend. Pray that you will walk hand in hand with Jesus down the path of sanctification in this area.

Celebrate and Care – 10 minutes

Share wins and difficulties from the past week. Remember to pray for your group throughout the week. Close in prayer as a group.

