

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

I Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Ice Breaker: Describe a time when you were felt deeply homesick or what's the longest you've been away from your spouse or family?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Context: How has Paul described his relationship and feelings toward the Thessalonian church so far in this letter?
2. In what way was Paul torn away from the church in Thessalonica? (see Acts 17:1-10)
3. Who is it that hindered Paul from seeing the Thessalonians face to face? How did Paul react to this? Why is it important to identify the works of Satan in the world? How is he at work today? What are some truths we should remember when dealing with this great, defeated foe?
4. What does Paul mean when he calls the Thessalonians his hope, joy and crown of boasting? What does this say about Paul's relationship to this church?
5. Who is your crown of boasting before the Lord? Who might the Lord be calling you to pour into for God's glory and your joy?
6. Why was it so necessary, in Paul's eyes, to send Timothy to the Thessalonians? What was he concerned about?
7. Discuss how a personal presence affects ministry? What's the difference between a sympathy letter and a personal visit?
8. What model of care and love does Paul show that we are to have for Christians brothers and sisters in our church?
9. Even in this pandemic, how can we show our love and care for others in affliction even though we are prevented from extended personal presence? Why is it important we remember that affliction is part of the Christian walk?