

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

I Thessalonians 3:6-13

Ice Breaker: Does anyone have any New Year's Eve traditions?

Ice Breaker: As we look at the upcoming year, what are some personal goals you have for 2021?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Context:** It's been a while since we've studied the book I Thessalonians. Take some time to read about the planting of this young church in Acts 17:1-10 & I Thessalonians 1:1-10. What do we know about this church from these passages and Paul's time there?
2. In our passage, what report did Paul receive after Timothy returned from Thessalonica, and how does Paul react to this good report?
3. In verses 10-13, what does Paul pray for the Thessalonians now that he's heard news of their growing faith?
4. Why do you think Paul desires to see them face-to-face? Why does he see it as necessary? What is lost when ministry cannot be done in person?
5. What can be done for those who are unable to receive face-to-face ministry because of this pandemic? What are some dangers we should be aware of when engaging in virtual ministry?
6. Paul has great affection for this church, and news of their growth comforts him in affliction. Who has invested in your life that cares about the outcome of their faith? How did they minister to you that was most meaningful to you?
7. What are some ways you can disciple or invest in others in 2021? If you're not sure who you should invest in, take some time to pray as a group to open the door for a discipleship relationship.
8. What are some spiritual hopes and desires you have for 2021, both personally and for the church? Take some time to plan and pray that God may make us more like Him this year.