

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

I Thessalonians 5:12-28

Ice Breaker: What's an evidence of God's grace you've seen this week?

Ice Breaker: What do you think are essential qualities of a trusted leader in the church? What would make you lost trust in a leader?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging and exhorting them to pursue holy relationships with their leaders, each other, and with God. What does he first exhort them towards in regard to their leaders?
2. Who are the leaders in the church? In our church? What does God expect from the leaders of the church? (see I Tim. 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5-9). What does God expect of us in relationship to our leaders?
3. Take some time as a Small Group to pray for your church leaders. Pray that God would protect them from the attacks of the devil and pray that they would first be faithful to lead their families and then to lead us with the grace God supplies.
4. How does Paul instruct the church to care and love one another? How do his instructions change depending on the type of person in need of care?
5. Paul calls the church to be patient with all people. How does God's patience for us allow us to be patient with others? Is there someone in your life God has called you to admonish, encourage, or help? If not, ask the Lord to use you this week.
6. Read vs. 16-18. Which one of these commands is most difficult to do for you to be faithful? What are the barriers to rejoicing, praying, and thanksgiving?
7. What does it mean to quench the Spirit? How do we make sure we do not quench the Spirit but also make sure we discern what is from the Spirit?
8. What tools has God given us to discern the Spirit's voice and work?
9. Paul concludes his letter with reminding us that God will complete the work of sanctification in us. How does or should this truth change the way we live? How does it change the way we work out our own pursuit of holiness?