

## BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Letters to a Growing Church

May 18, 2025



Welcome + Icebreaker: "Is there a song that has touched you in the last couple of weeks?"

1. 1. Read I Thessalonians 3:1-4, Philippians 3:20-21, Romans 8:28-29
  - What are some of the things these verses tell us that Christians are destined for?
  - Why do you think Paul tells the church in Thessalonica that they are destined for persecution?
  - As an American Christian, do you feel like you are destined for persecution, or destined for a happy, smooth-sailing life because of your faith in Jesus?
  - As an American Christian, do you run from the possibility of persecution or accept it as just the normal course of things?
2. Read I Thessalonians 3:5-8, Philemon 6 & 7
  - How does the faith and love of someone else encourage you?
  - How does persecution increase faith?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:9 & 10, Acts 17:1-10
  - Why was Paul so concerned about the faith of the Thessalonian church?
  - Why do you think he was so eager to go back to Thessalonica?
4. Read I Thessalonians 3:11-13, Philippians 2:1-4
  - How does God work to make Christians' love for each other increase & overflow?
  - Does it automatically happen when you walk through the church doors, or is there a mindset that Christians need to adopt?

- According to verse 12, who else are Christians supposed to love?
- Is it harder to love those inside the church or those outside the church?

5. Read I Thessalonians 3:14, Luke 6:45 & 46
  - How does God strengthen our heart?
  - How does a person store up good things or evil things in his/her heart?
  - This week, what are some concrete steps you can take to encourage another Christian?

#### Next Steps:

1. Choose one daily distraction you will cut out of your routine for at least one week. Replace it with prayer or reading scripture.
2. Think of a current or recent trial you have had... write out how God did use (past), or can use (current) this trial to strengthen you.
3. Ask God to put one person on your heart to pray for and encourage. Consider starting a prayer journal if you have not already.

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