

“Encouragement for New Believers”
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Take-Home Truth: *Living out our faith through our work, labors of love, and our prayers can open up avenues to share the gospel to a hurting world.*

Christ-Connection: *The truth of Jesus Christ and our position “In Him” enables us to love others with affection and encouragement.*

Hook: *(Ice-breaker question. Get the group talking!)*

1. *Has there ever been a time when you were new at something like a new employee, a new student, a new resident of your neighborhood, etc? How did you feel in the beginning and how did those feelings change over time?*

Engage: *(Observe the passage and engage with the text)*

2. *Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 focusing specifically on verses 1-4. What stands out to you as you read this passage? Discuss your observations as a group.*

3. *In Duane’s message, he brought out three reasons why Paul wrote to the new believers in Thessalonica:*

- *To confirm them in the truths of the Gospel*
- *To condition them to continue in holy living in the midst of persecution*
- *To comfort them regarding Christ’s return*

How do these 3 reasons help shape your understanding of discipleship?

Reflect: *(Reflect upon the key take-aways from the sermon)*

4. Paul mentions to the Thessalonians of their position in Christ (Verse 1). Why is it important for every believer to know and understand their position in Christ? (Read Ephesians 1:3-14 and notice the number of times you see the words "In Him." Also notice the promises attached to our position in these verses)

5. Duane mentioned that the possessions the Thessalonians had were "grace" and "peace." Why are these important to a new believer to possess, understand, and live out? Why are these just as important for a seasoned believer?

6. In verse 3, Paul specifically mentions the Thessalonians' work that was produced by faith and the labor prompted by love. How does faith influence your work? Why is it important to labor in love?

Respond: (Apply the truths of God's Word to your heart, affections, and actions)

7. In this upcoming week, in what ways can you share the love of Christ with others through your work, your labor, and your prayers?