

# THANKSGIVING AND ENCOURAGEMENT 1 THESSALONIANS 1

## Chi Alpha Lifegroup Guide 1 Thessalonians

### LESSON PREP

- Identify the gospel truths in the chapter
- Read Acts 17
- Define grace, idol, justification, sanctification, and glorification

### PRE LG TEXT MESSAGE QUESTIONS

What consumes most of your time, thoughts, and energy?

This is what we'll be discussing at Lifegroup tonight as we begin our study on the book of 1 Thessalonians.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

1 Thessalonians  
1:9-10

### 10N1 FOLLOW UP

What idols have you identified that need uprooting?

How will you uproot them?

What will you replace them with?

### OVERVIEW

The following video by The Bible Project gives a great overview of the book of 1 Thess.: <https://youtu.be/No7Nq6IX23c>

### INTRODUCTION

- Review the context resource for the book of 1 Thessalonians.

### Be an example (1 Thess. 1:1-8)

- When you think of “faith”, “love”, and “hope”, what related words come to mind? Paul attaches “work”, “labor”, and “steadfastness” to these words. Why do you think he does this? What implications does this have as you examine your own faith, love, and joy?
- The Thessalonians imitated Paul and then others imitated the Thessalonians. Have you become an example to anyone? Are people imitating you as you embody Jesus Christ?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *We have a saying in Chi Alpha that you should always have a Paul and a Timothy in your life. What this means is that no matter what stage of life you are in, you should always have a spiritual mentor (usually someone older and more mature, like Paul) to pour into you and a spiritual mentee (usually someone younger and less mature, like Timothy) for you to pour into. There should be a continuous flow of discipleship through you.*

### Idolatry is a heart issue (1 Thess. 1:9-10)

- If the Thessalonians have turned from idols to God, what does that say about the nature of idols? What false god distracts you from serving the true God? How is that false god “lifeless” instead of “living”?
- How does the Thessalonians’ transformation correspond to believer’s experience of past justification, present sanctification, and future glorification?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Ever since the Garden of Eden, idolatry has been a fundamental heart issue. An idol is most often a good thing gone bad; something we have inflated, someone we will either sin to get or sin if we don't get. We must make the hard choice of forsaking idols (rejecting strong desires) for a Savior. The Holy Spirit begins the lifelong process of uprooting these God substitutes from within.*

### APPLICATION

- In verse 4 and 10 we see that we are loved by God and saved from wrath. How does this affect how you live?
- What are some idols in your life that you need to turn from so that you can “serve the living and true God”?

