



1 Thessalonians

A 17-WEEK INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES

By Lisa Hughes

Welcome

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?*

There is no better foundation for a believer than the rock-solid Word of God. It's my prayer that your faith and love for the Lord will be strengthened as you study His Word in these lessons. I want your hunger for the Scriptures to grow as you study its truths. And more than anything else, I want you to know that you can live upon the Word of God.

Steadfastness, assurance, and hope are the characteristics of all those who build upon the unshakeable foundation of the Word of God. That's why I'm so thrilled you've found your way to this Bible study. Our Bibles contain all the wisdom and guidance we'll need for our daily life (2 Peter 1:3). God's Word is one of the primary means God uses to strengthen our faith and sanctify our hearts. That's why it's so important to dig into the details of the Scriptures and mine the treasures tucked away for us there.

Scripture Paths Bible Studies are in-depth, inductive studies of the Scriptures. Each lesson endeavors to teach you how to feed yourself when you delve into God's Word. As you spend time on each lesson you will grow in Bible knowledge and understanding, learn how to apply the Scriptures to your life, and become more firmly convinced than ever that God's Word is authoritative, complete, without error, and sufficient for your life.

HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES*:

1. *Purposefully prepared.* Each lesson has a unique goal, whether it's to train you in the art of studying the Scriptures or to showcase the point of the passage. None of it is busywork—it's lifework for our souls.
2. *Plan ahead.* Adding a Bible study to an already busy life takes preparation. You'll need to figure out when you can complete your lessons. Do you like to set aside bits of time each day to work on the lesson or do you prefer to do it all in one sitting? Try experimenting with a method that works best for you.
3. *Persevere.* Keep going to the Lord for wisdom, for strength, and the desire to press on when life gets busy and you find it difficult to finish your lessons.
4. *Pray.* Ask the Lord to transform you through the study of His Word. Use your study time to get to know the Lord better.

5. *Prompt your memory.* Try to glean little nuggets of truth or application from each lesson, and then share them with someone. This will help solidify what you're learning and encourage someone else too.

6. *Put it into practice.* Nearly every lesson has questions for you to apply to your life. To study just to study is not our goal. Studying to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures, of the Lord, and how to live lives honoring to Him is what we're aiming for. Look for opportunities to apply God's Word.

There are treasures upon the surface of the Word which we may pick up very readily: even the casual reader will find himself able to understand the simplicities and elements of the gospel of God; but the Word of God yields most to the digger. ~Charles Spurgeon

THE GOAL AND PURPOSE OF THIS BIBLE STUDY

Grace to you and peace John Calvin wrote, “We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God, because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it.” It’s that premise which propels me to write and study the Bible for myself and encourage others to study along with me. God has revealed Himself in the pages of Scripture. The Bible is complete and authoritative and contains everything we need to live for His glory. It’s in the study of the Scriptures that we grow in our knowledge of God and are transformed into His likeness. A commitment to lean on and live in God’s Word is a distinguishing characteristic of a Christian, as Jesus explained to a crowd of His followers in John 8:31-32: “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Because all “Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work,” (2 Tim. 3:16) we study inductively in order to glean as much as we can from the Word of God. Inductive Bible study consists of observation, interpretation, and application. Simply put, *observation* is noticing what the author is saying; *interpretation* is finding out what he means; and *application* is employing those truths in your life.

As you study this book of the Bible, it is my prayer you will grow in your commitment to the Word of God as *the* source of life and godliness, and that you will accept it, not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the Word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe (1 Thess. 2:13). As a young man Jonathan Edwards (one of America’s most famous theologians and preachers) made a list of resolutions he desired, by God’s grace, to do his best to live by. One of those commitments is resolution #28: “Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.” May you see the study of God’s Word making such a difference in your life that you bear the fruit of wisdom and knowledge, overcome sin, and daily grow in godly conduct and love for Christ.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Lisa Hughes

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Feel free to tailor this study to your needs. Some have found it works best for them to complete the lesson in one sitting, while others find that breaking up the lesson by answering a few questions each day works the best for them. Try experimenting with different ways to complete each lesson, you'll soon discover what works for you and produces the most spiritual benefit.

Some of the lessons have what I call "Eager Beaver" questions. They're rabbit-trail questions. They don't really fit with the theme of the passage, but they're interesting, nonetheless. They're there for your enjoyment and growth.

Another feature of the Bible studies is the opportunity to do word studies. Whenever I want you to study a word further, I'll include the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance number with it. The Strong's number is basically a reference number attached to most words found in the Bible. That number allows you to search for it in different reference works easily—even when you don't know Hebrew or Greek. The easiest way to find the biblical definition is to use one of the many websites devoted to helping people study the Bible. Sites like www.blueletterbible.com and others like it, allow you to type in the Strong's number easily to find the word's definition. I do have a step by step guide for doing a word study the "old fashioned way," using books! If you plan to do your word definitions that way, then be sure to look for the guide I've put together to help you. *These tools are valuable for any Bible study student, yet not mandatory for completing these lessons.*

If you're new to studying the Bible then you may feel a bit overwhelmed, but I want to encourage you to stick with the study. Studying the Bible takes planning on your part and commitment, but the spiritual blessing and personal growth in Christ makes any "hardship" worth it. Remember, the goal of studying the Bible is that you would grow more in Christ, so start each lesson with a time of prayer asking the Lord for wisdom and His grace to study His Word, then continue to seek the Lord as you complete the lesson.

If you're a leader and you're introducing this study to your ladies for the first time, be sure to encourage them a lot! Though each lesson was written to achieve a specific purpose, you may find your ladies would fare best if they take two weeks to complete each lesson. If that's the case, feel free to do so. You want the ladies to enjoy studying God's Word, so keep encouraging them. Pray together, memorize a chapter out of the book, and dig into each lesson. As you work on the lessons each week you will all gain a clearer picture of our great God, His will for us, and how to live for Him.

And what could be better than that?

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore, my soul observes them.
 The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.
 I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for Your commandments.
 Turn to me and be gracious to me, after Your manner with those who love Your name.
 Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.

Psalm 119:129-133

1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS COMMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Not all commentaries are created equal, so it's important to get ones that will guide you in a literal, grammatical, historical, contextual way. We're concerned with discovering what God meant by what He said, rather than hearing about someone's new-fangled ideas foisted on the text. Below are some of the commentaries I used when writing the Thessalonians studies.

SPECIFIC TO THESSALONIANS COMMENTARIES:

Richard Mayhue, *1 & 2 Thessalonians: Triumphs and Trials of a Consecrated Church*
John MacArthur, *1 & 2 Thessalonians MacArthur New Testament Commentary*
Leon Morris, *1 and 2 Thessalonians (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*
Warren Wiersbe, *Be Ready: Living in Light of Christ's Return (NT Commentary: 1 & 2 Thessalonians)*
Gordon Fee, *The First and Second Letters to the Thessalonians (The New International Commentary on the New Testament)*

GENERAL COMMENTARIES

New Bible Commentary, D. A. Caron, editor
The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 2, Robert L. Thomas, editor
Word Biblical Commentary, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, F. F. Bruce

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE WORKS:

Talk Thru the Bible, Kenneth Boa and Bruce Wilkinson
How to Study the Bible, Richard Mayhue

How to Do a Chapter Observation¹

Begin with prayer, asking God to show you how His Word fits together. Ask Him to reveal the gems of His Word as you approach it. Pray for a clear mind and the ability to see the truths in His Word.

1. Read straight through the chapter using the *Bible Text Handout*. This will show you the flow of the chapter. *Mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears.* This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. Mark *repeated* words or phrases. Mark any other words that seem *important* to the chapter or are strongly *emphasized*.
2. Next, *list* the phrase containing the key words on a separate sheet of paper. *This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words.* Be sure to *cite* the verse references when you list your key word information. For example, in James chapter 1, with *God* as your key word you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time God is mentioned in James. For Chapter 1, it would start with a list like this: Vs. 1—James, a bond-servant of God or God has bond-servants Vs. 5—ask God for wisdom. Vs. 5—God gives wisdom generously, without reproach.
3. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter. Look for things the author is telling his readers to do or be.
4. Now, list them on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.
5. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner, or like* will help you find these words or phrases.
6. Mark *contrasting* words: light/dark, love/hate; the word “but.” Look for phrases or thoughts that are being contrasted.
7. Now list what you discovered from the comparisons and contrasts on the extra paper you’ve been using or at the side or bottom of the *Bible Text Handout*.

¹ This process for Bible study originated from the Precept Inductive Bible Studies method. Through the years, other people have adapted it or come up with similar methods on their own, just as I have for my studies. The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor, as we stop, observe, and consider every one of His recorded Words, in their context, during Bible study.

8. Mark *transition* terms: *therefore, for, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms.
9. Mark expressions of *time*. Look for words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
10. Look for *lists* of words, phrases, or related thoughts. Number the lists within the Bible text, then record your list out to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper. This will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action. For example, in James 1:5-6 we find a list about how God responds when we ask him for wisdom. We discover 1) He gives wisdom generously; 2) He gives wisdom without reproach; 3) He desires that we ask in faith, without doubting. Be sure to mark or write down any “nuggets” you observed which you thought were interesting.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of what is in this chapter. You aren't making any interpretations or applications to your life at this time. Your task at this stage is to look for the treasures that God has put in the chapter.

How To Do a Word Study

There's a couple ways you can do this. You can do your Bible word study using the internet or a Bible program like Logos. There are quite a few good Bible study websites available on the internet like www.net.bible.org; www.blueletterbible.org; www.biblestudytools.com; or www.biblegateway.com. Each site is set up a little different but you should find a section on "word studies" for each of them.

Or you can do your Bible word study in the time-honored tradition of using books! Below you'll find a step-by-step guide in how to do a word study from the Bible.

Starting with the basics

You will need an *Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* [Strong's or Holman's] that matches the Bible you study out of – like NASB or KJV. Then you will need *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*.

Now what?

1. In the main part of the Concordance find the word you wish to define. Example: *consider* from Hebrews 3:1.
2. Write down the number assigned to it. You will need this number for the dictionary. In our example *consider* from Hebrews 3:1 is Greek word #2657.
3. Now flip to the back of the Concordance. This section of the concordance is divided into Hebrew words from the Old Testament and Greek words from the New Testament. You will need to make sure you are in the Greek section so you can find #2657. Once you locate the right number then you can see the Greek spelling of the word as well as the English transliteration of the word. You will need to write down the English transliteration of the word [for our example it is *katanoeo*. You will also find a short definition of the word here in the concordance.

2657 κατανοέω [*katanoeo* /kat·an·o·eh·o/] v. From 2596 and 3539; **TDNT** 4:973; **TDNTA** 636; **GK** 2917; 14 occurrences; **AV** translates as "consider" seven times, "behold" four times, "perceive" twice, and "discover" once. 1 to perceive, remark, observe, understand. 2 to consider attentively, fix one's eyes or mind upon.

4. Now you are ready to look up your word in *Vine's Dictionary of Biblical Words*. Make sure you are in the Greek section if you are looking up New Testament words or the Hebrew section if you are looking up Old Testament words. Go to the back of the dictionary and look up your word using the English transliteration of the word, in our example it is *katanoeo*. This step will show you the different English words the Greek word has been translated into. For example: *katanoeo* has been translated into *behold*, *consider*, *discover*, or *perceive*.

5. Now, look up the English version of the word. In our example we look up *consider*. Find the right definition for the word by checking the English transliteration and the Strong's number assigned to it. Check to make sure that the Greek number is the same and then read away. Remember, that context is what gives a word its meaning and variation of meaning. The dictionary will supply you with all the meanings and translations of the word and how it is used differently in different verses.

CONSIDER [from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words]

1. *eidon* (Aor. of ὀράω, 3708), used as the aorist tense of *horaō*, "to see," is translated "to consider" in [Acts 15:6](#), of the gathering of the apostles and elders regarding the question of circumcision in relation to the gospel.

2. *suneidon* (συνειδῶ, 4894), *sun*, with, and No. 1, used as the aorist tense of *sunoraō*, to see with one view, to be aware, conscious, as the result of mental perception, is translated "considered" in [Acts 12:12](#), of Peter's consideration of the circumstances of his deliverance from. See KNOW, PRIVY.

3. *katamanthano* (καταμανθάνω, 2648), lit., "to learn thoroughly" (*kata*, "down," intensive, *manthano*, "to learn"), hence, "to note accurately, consider well," is used in the Lord's exhortation to "consider" the lilies. [Matt. 6:28](#).¶

4. *noeo* (νοιέω, 3539), "to perceive with the mind" (*nous*), "think about, ponder," is translated "consider," only in Paul's exhortation to Timothy in [2 Tim. 2:7](#). See PERCEIVE, THINK, UNDERSTAND.

5. *katanoeo* (κατανοέω, 2657), "to perceive clearly" (*kata*, intensive, and No. 4), "to understand fully, consider closely," is used of not "considering" thoroughly the beam in one's own eye, [Matt. 7:3](#) and [Luke 6:41](#) (KJV, "perceivest"); of carefully "considering" the ravens, [Luke 12:24](#); the lilies, v. 27; of Peter's full "consideration" of his vision, [Acts 11:6](#); of Abraham's careful "consideration" of his own body, and Sarah's womb, as dead, and yet accepting by faith God's promise, [Rom. 4:19](#) (RV); of "considering" fully the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, [Heb. 3:1](#); of thoughtfully "considering" one another to provoke unto love and good works, [Heb. 10:24](#). It is translated by the verbs "behold," [Acts 7:31-32](#); [Jas. 1:23-24](#); "perceive," [Luke 20:23](#); "discover," [Acts 27:39](#). See BEHOLD, DISCOVER, PERCEIVE.¶

6. *logizomai* (λογίζομαι, 3049) signifies "to take account of," [2 Cor. 10:7](#) (RV, "consider," KJV, "think"), the only place where the RV translates it "consider." See ACCOUNT.

Companion Volumes

Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament. This is arranged by book and moves through the text explaining and defining key words along the way.

Wuest's Word Studies in the Greek New Testament. Wuest died before he finished all the New Testament, but what is completed is a treasure for word studies. This is arranged in the same way as Vincent's book is arranged.

5. What was the author's purpose in writing the book?

6. What general subjects are covered in the book?

7. What are the key words in the book?

8. What is the atmosphere or general tone of the book?

Now you may consult your Study Bible notes, Bible dictionaries/encyclopedias, or commentaries. Feel free to go back and add any extra information you have learned to complete any of your answers to the preceding questions.

9. Explain the sequence of events surrounding Paul's visit to Thessalonica (see Acts 17:1-18:5).

10. What do you discover about the city of Thessalonica from your study Bible or Bible dictionary/encyclopedia?

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Lesson #2, Chapter 1 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

1. To begin, read through Chapter 1. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 1. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verse 1).

 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 2-10).

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things God did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers. Your answer might look like this: God chose the Thessalonians for salvation according to verse 4.

6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. What do you learn about the Thessalonians in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse reference that supports your observations.

8. What do you learn about the gospel and God's Word in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

9. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

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Lesson #3, Chapter 1:1-5

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. Though Paul is the author of the book of Thessalonians he includes the men who minister with him in verse 1. What do you learn about these men from the following verses?
 - a. Silvanus: Acts 15:22, 32, 40; 18:5; 2 Corinthians 1:19; 2 Thessalonians 1:2.
 - b. Timothy: Acts 16:1-3; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15.
2. Read Acts 15:40-18:6 and note the ministry highlights that Silas had with Paul on what's known as Paul's "Second Missionary Journey."
3. What elements about Paul's ministry do you observe from the sampling of verses to follow? See Romans 16; 1 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:2; Ephesians 6:21; Philippians 1:1; 4:21; Colossians 4:10-14.
4. Paul's ministry methodology is essentially *discipleship*. What do you observe (from the verses above) about discipleship at its most basic level that is absolutely crucial for us to understand? How are you applying this principle in your life?

5. What do you learn about the *church* from verse 1?

6. In verses 2-4 Paul's affection for the Thessalonians is manifested in what 4 actions?

7. The word *constantly* in the NASB (ESV just translates as *remembering*; NKJV *remembering without ceasing*; NIV *continually*) carries with it the idea of an incessant cough. When you apply that definition to how Paul prays, what do you learn? What is his prayer life like?

8. What elements in your prayer life are similar or different from what Paul writes here in verses 2-5? What aspects do you want to make sure you incorporate into your prayer life?

9. As Paul is praying and thanking God, what 3 things does he keep in mind about the Thessalonians according to verse 3?

10. Define *work* [Strong's #2041].
 - a. Define *labor* [Strong's #2873].

 - b. Define *steadfastness* [Strong's #5281 (NKV *patience*; NIV *endurance*)].

11. For some insight into what Paul meant by *work of faith* look at 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8 and 4:9-10. How was their *work of faith* manifested? See also Ephesians 2:10 for a good summary of what the phrase means. What did you learn?

12. Robert Thomas commenting on *labor* says, “So great is the concern for the object that love does not stop with ordinary effort, but goes the second mile and even beyond for the sake of another.” See Philippians 2:25-30 to see a living illustration of this principle. What do you learn about a *labor of love*?

13. The phrase *steadfastness of hope* does not signify a resigned hopefulness in something that may happen, but a determined enduring that looks forward with assurance to that “hope.” See 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:23. What do you learn about the Thessalonians’ hope?

14. Look over your answers to questions 11-13. Prayerfully examine your life for a *work of faith*, a *labor of love*, and a *steadfastness of hope*. What area do you think needs some attention? What are some things you might prayerfully change or add to these areas?

15. In verse 4 what two things do you learn about the Thessalonians? Notice how Paul uses similar terminology in 2 Thessalonians 2:13 and Ephesians 1:4-5.

16. Look up a *small* sampling of verses that reveal God’s role in salvation. Take note of *who* is doing the action, then note what they *do* from the verses that follow:
 - a. John 1:12-13; 6:44-45; Acts 13:48; Romans 8:3, 29-30; 9:23.

- b. 1 Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 1:4-5, 11; 2:5; Colossians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2:12; 5:23.

 - c. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5-7; James 1:18; 1 Peter 2:9.
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- 17. How has the truth of this doctrine—God loving and choosing you—impacted you? What affect has it had on your life?

 - 18. From verse 5, name four things that you notice about Paul's *gospel*.

 - 19. From the following verses write a summary statement about the gospel: Romans 1:16; 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 24; 15:1-11; and Ephesians 2:1-10.

 - 20. How did the 4 elements of the gospel mentioned in verse 5 work in you at the time of your salvation?

 - 21. What kind of men did Paul and his coworkers prove to be as stated in verse 5? See 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

22. The message preached was authenticated by the conduct of Paul and his coworkers. How does living in such a way that there is no discord between what you say and what you do validate your message? Are there any areas in your life in which your words and actions don't match up? What steps do you need to take to make sure they do line up with each other?

O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO,
I REST MY WEARY SOUL IN THEE;
I GIVE THEE BACK THE LIFE I OWE,
THAT IN THINE OCEAN DEPTHS
ITS FLOW MAY RICHER, FULLER, BE.
— GEORGE MATHESON, 1882

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Lesson #4, Chapter 1:6-10

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. By way of review, summarize Paul's train of thought in verses 2-5.
2. Who did the Thessalonians imitate (verse 6)?
3. When did the Thessalonians become imitators (verse 6)?
4. Look up 1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1; Ephesians 5:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; and Hebrews 6:12 to see who we are to imitate and to what degree we are to imitate them.
5. Do you say as Paul does, "Imitate me as I follow Christ?" If so, how does that guide your conduct and help you to follow Christ more closely? If you don't want people to imitate your behavior, why not? Could it be that you need to work on some areas?
6. Trace the progression of the *Word* in verses 5, 6, and 8 (NIV translates it *message* in verses 6 and 8). What do you observe about its work and effect upon those who hear it?
7. How did the Thessalonians receive the word or message preached (verse 6)?

8. Read Acts 17:5-10 to remind yourself of the atmosphere into which the new believers found themselves. See also 1 Thessalonians 2:14 and 2 Thessalonians 1:4 for a further description of their trials. What do you learn?
9. From verses 6 and 7, explain how the Thessalonians became an example to all believers.
10. Define *example* [Strong's #5179 (NIV *model*)] from verse 7:
11. Look up the following verses to see what the Bible has to say about being an example: Philippians 3:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:9; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7; 1 Peter 5:3.
12. The Scriptures teach that we are to be examples of godliness for one another. How have you been encouraged to excel still more by someone else's example?
13. Verse 8 reveals the next step the Thessalonians took in response to the message of the Gospel. What did they do?
14. The Thessalonians had been so enthusiastic in sharing their faith that the stage was already set for Paul and his coworkers when they traveled through other areas of Macedonia and into Achaia. What did the Thessalonians tell those that they met about Paul and his message (verses 8-10)?

15. What kind of reception or entrance did Paul have in Thessalonica (see verses 5-6, 9)?

16. What actions accompanied their turning as described in verse 9?

17. The Thessalonians' turning represented a complete change in their life—a 180-degree, exact opposite kind of turn. As you think of your life, even now after salvation, how are you turning to God and from idols, from sin, from the world's distractions?

18. Compare what the Bible says about idols with the living and true God.
 - a. Idols: Psalm 115:4-8; 135:15-17; Habakkuk 2:18-19.

 - b. God: Deuteronomy 5:26; Joshua 3:10; Jeremiah 10:7-16; Acts 14:15.

19. Richard Mayhue in his commentary on this passage states, "An idol is anything, any attitude, any belief, or any god that so captures a person's attention and allegiance that God does not have pre-eminence." The Thessalonians turned their backs on all that was empty and false and served and worshiped the living and true God. Is there any idol or allegiance in your life that you need to turn away from so you can serve the living and true God more completely?

20. Who are the Thessalonians waiting for and why (verse 10)?

21. Look up the following verses about the coming of Christ. What do you observe about His coming from each? See 1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 8; James 5:8; Revelation 1:7; 3:11.

22. What kind of attitude are we to possess concerning the coming of Christ: 1 Corinthians 1:7; Philippians 3:20; 2 Timothy 4:8; Titus 2:13?

23. What path do you find your thoughts taking concerning the return of Christ? Do they echo the sentiments of the Paul in the above verses or do your thoughts take a different path? Are there any attitudes that you need to adjust in your thinking so that you may respond with a wholehearted, "Come, Lord Jesus, come!"

CHRIST IS THE EXEMPLAR OF OUR LIFE. WHERE THERE IS THE SAME LIFE WITHIN, THERE WILL, THERE MUST BE, TO A GREAT EXTENT, THE SAME DEVELOPMENTS WITHOUT; AND IF WE LIVE IN NEAR FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD JESUS WE SHALL GROW LIKE HIM. WE SHALL SET HIM BEFORE US AS OUR DIVINE COPY, AND WE SHALL SEEK TO TREAD IN HIS FOOTSTEPS, UNTIL HE SHALL BECOME THE CROWN OF OUR LIFE IN GLORY.

— C.H. SPURGEON

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #5, Chapter 2 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

1. To begin, read through Chapter 2. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 2. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-8).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 9-12).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 13-16).
 - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 17-20).
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things *God* did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers. Your answer might look like this: God gave Paul boldness to preach the gospel to the Thessalonians according to verse 2.

6. List what you learn about *Jesus Christ* in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. What do you learn about the Thessalonians in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references that support your observations.

8. What do you learn about the gospel and God's Word in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

9. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #6, Chapter 2:1-12

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. How do the contents of Chapter 1 tie in to 2:1-12?
2. In verses 1, 2, 5, 9, 11 Paul tells the Thessalonians *you know* or *you recall*. What things does he want them to remember?
3. Paul had been driven from Thessalonica by the Jews violent reaction to the message of salvation through Jesus Christ (see Acts 17:5-10 and 1 Thessalonians 2:15). Yet even with Paul gone the Thessalonian church still came under attack (see 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:14). The attack also included an attempt to undermine and discredit Paul's character, motives, and ministry. What hints to this opposition against Paul do you find in verses 1-12?
4. In verse 1 Paul says his coming to them was not in vain. How did the Thessalonians know that? See Chapter 1 for clues.
5. In verse 2 Paul refers to suffering and mistreatment while in Philippi. See Acts 16:11-40 and give a quick synopsis of the events.
6. *When* did Paul share the gospel with the Thessalonians (verse 2)? *How* or in what manner was the gospel shared (verse 2)?

7. The boldness Paul speaks about in verse 2 is always with reference to proclaiming the gospel. What do you learn about this bold proclaiming from Acts 9:27-28; 18:26; 19:8; Rom. 15:15; 2 Cor. 3:12; Eph. 6:19-20?

8. What “boldness” characterizes you when you talk with others about Jesus Christ? What things do you learn from Paul that might help you more boldly share the gospel?

9. In verse 3 Paul defines his exhortation by 3 things it was *not*. What do you learn about Paul’s exhortation?

10. In verse 4 *approved* has the idea of being approved or proven by testing. Paul and his coworkers were tested and approved by God and then entrusted with the gospel. See Acts 26:16-18; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Col. 1:23-24; Titus 1:3. What do you learn about being entrusted with the gospel?

11. In verses 4-6 Paul explains how he speaks the gospel of God. What do you learn?

12. Paul’s proclamation of the gospel can be summed up by the phrase from verse 4, *so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God, who examines our hearts*. How does that statement define Paul’s ministry, his life, and his relationships?

13. How much of your life is defined by that same attitude found in Paul? What areas do you need to work on so that you may say, “So I speak (or act), not as pleasing men, but God, who examines my heart.”

14. After contrasting how he *didn't* speak or act while among the Thessalonians, Paul then explains in verse 7 how they *did* act. What do you learn?

15. How did Paul and his coworkers live out the gentleness and tenderness of a nursing mother according to verses 8-9?

16. Paul says he and his coworkers behaved “devoutly, uprightly, and blamelessly” toward the Thessalonians (verse 10). Define each of those terms.
 - a. Define *devoutly* [ESV, NIV *holy* (Strong's #3743)].

 - b. Define *uprightly* [ESV, NIV *righteous*; NKJV *justly* (Strong's #1346)].

 - c. Define *blamelessly* (Strong's #274).

17. How did Paul speak to the Thessalonians (verse 11; both the NIV and ESV place these qualities in verse 12)?
 - a. Define *exhorting* [NIV *encouraging* (Strong's #3870)].

 - b. Define *encouraging* [NKJV, NIV *comforted* (Strong's #3888)].

- c. Define *imploing* [ESV, NKJV *charged*; NIV *urged* (Strong's #3143)].
18. Verse 12 gives the purpose for that excellent behavior and speech. What is it?
19. What does it mean to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord? See Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 1:27; Colossians 1:9-12.
20. Why is a worthy walk required of believers (verse 12)?
21. How is that a motivation for you to live a more godly life

I EXHORT YOU IN THE LORD TO GO ON IN YOUR JOURNEY TO HEAVEN, AND TO BE CONTENT WITH SUCH FARE AS CHRIST AND HIS FOLLOWERS HAVE HAD BEFORE YOU; FOR THEY HAD ALWAYS THE WIND ON THEIR FACES, AND OUR LORD HATH NOT CHANGED THE WAY FOR US, FOR OUR EASE, BUT WILL HAVE US FOLLOWING OUR SWEET GUIDE.

— SAMUEL RUTHERFORD

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #7, Chapter 2:13-20

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. In the verses that precede it what does the phrase *for this reason* refer to in verse 13?
2. What do Paul and his coworkers continually, always, constantly thank God for (verse 13)?
3. Define *receive* (Strong's #3880) and *accept* [NKJV *welcomed* (Strong's #1209)].
4. In verse 13 notice the emphasis is on the Word of God rather than the preachers (as is also the case in 1:5, 8). What do you learn about the Word of God from this verse?
5. Now look up Jeremiah 23:29; Colossians 1:5-6; Hebrews 4:12-13; and 1 Peter 1:25 to see how the Scriptures attest to the power of God to work in your life. What do you learn?
6. Paul is thankful because the Thessalonians received and accepted God's Word, recognizing its worth and power and authenticity as from God though it was preached by men. Give an example from your life of how you *received and accepted the word for what it really is—the Word of God*.

7. What are some ways you have seen the Word of God change you? What are some practical ways in which you depend upon God's Word so it can change you?

8. Who did the Thessalonians imitate and in what way did they imitate them (verse 14)?

9. What observations can you make about the Jews from verses 14-16?

10. Verse 15 gives us a clue as to the motivation of the Jews' persecuting the believers. What is it?

11. Paul says the Jews are *not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men*. Why (verse 16)?

12. In verse 16 Paul says the Jews *always fill up the measure of their sins*. Explain what this phrase means after looking up the following verses to help refine your understanding: Genesis 15:16; Matthew 23:32; Romans 2:4-8; 1 Peter 3:19, 20; 2 Peter 3:7, 9.

13. What was the consequence of the Jews' continued rebellion (verse 16)?

14. What were the circumstances surrounding Paul and his coworkers being separated from the Thessalonian believers? See Acts 17:5-10.

15. The NASB text doesn't adequately convey the true meaning of verse 17. The NIV and KJV do a better job when they similarly translate the phrase *out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you*. What reason does Paul give for not being able to come to see the Thessalonians (verse 18)?

16. Though Satan had thwarted Paul from coming to them, what truths did Paul understand? See Genesis 50:20; Psalm 46:1-2; Romans 8:28; and 2 Corinthians 4:15-17.

17. How are those truths a comfort to you as you encounter obstacles and hindrances in your life?

18. What terms does Paul use to describe his feelings for the Thessalonians (verses 19-20)?

19. Second Thessalonians 1:3-5 gives more insight into why Paul says the Thessalonians are his *joy in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming*. What do you learn?

20. Who will be your joy in the presence of Jesus at His coming? What is the point of rejoicing in the changed lives of believers at Christ's return?

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #8, Chapter 3 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

1. To begin, read through Chapter 3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 3. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-5).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 6-10).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 11-13).
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.
3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things *God* did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.

6. List what you learn about *Jesus Christ* in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. What do you learn about the Thessalonians in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references that support your observations.

8. What do you learn about the gospel and God's Word in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

9. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #9, Chapter 3:1-5

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. What is Paul's train of thought connecting 3:1-5 to 2:17-20?

2. What action did Paul take when he said "we could endure it no longer" (verses 1-2)?

3. What was the purpose in sending Timothy to the Thessalonians (verses 2-5)?

4. Define *strengthen* [ESV, NKJV *establish* (Strong's #4741)]:
 - a. Define *encourage* [ESV *exhort* (Strong's #3870)]:

5. Though the Thessalonians turned from idols to a living and true God and were growing in their faith, Paul knew all too well the importance of continued grounding in the Word of God. What do you learn about the process of strengthening and encouraging believers in the faith from the following verses? See Acts 15:32; 16:4-5; Romans 1:11-12; 16:25-27; 1 Thessalonians 3:10.

12. Paul says in verse 3 that he was destined for affliction and in verse 4 he told them he would suffer affliction. How did Paul know that? See Acts 9:15-16.
13. The Scriptures have much to teach us about enduring persecution for the sake of Jesus Christ. From the following verses note the cause of the persecution and/or the encouragement in affliction and anything else you find interesting! I know there are a lot of verses here. I grouped them so it wouldn't feel quite so daunting. This is still only a representation of verses on suffering from the Scriptures. Persevere, dear hearts!
- a. Matt. 5:10-12; 10:21-22, 24, 34-39; 24:9:

 - b. Mk. 10:29-30; Luke 6:22-23; 12:51-53; Jn. 15:18-20; 16:2, 33:

 - c. Acts 14:22; Rom. 8:35-39; 2 Tim. 3:12; Jas. 1:12:

 - d. 1 Pet. 2:20-21; 3:14; 4:12-14; 5:9; 1 Jn. 3:11-13:
14. Trials and persecutions will come, but what else do the Scriptures teach in regard to persecution? See 2 Cor. 4:17-18; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 5:10.

15. In verse 5 Paul states another reason for sending Timothy to the church. What do you learn?

16. What does it mean if something has been done in vain?

17. What is the connection between Satan's tempting the Thessalonians and Paul's labor being in vain?

18. Look up the following references to see how Paul regarded his work. What kind of attitudes and actions do you glean from these verses: 1 Cor. 15:10, 14, 58; 2 Cor. 6:1; Gal. 2:2; Phil. 2:16; 1 Thess. 2:1-2?

19. What's the big deal? Why is Paul so concerned that his labor toward them might have been in vain?

20. Are there areas in your life in which Paul (or your pastor or discipler, someone who has built spiritual truths in your life) might say, "My labor has been in vain in her"? If so, what are some steps you need to take to correct that area in your life?

21. What are some ways in which a spiritual leader's labor has born fruit in your life?

“Forward, believer in Christ, to the toils, duties, and trials of another stage of life’s journey! Jesus is enough for them all. Jesus will be with you in them all. Jesus will triumphantly conduct you through them all. Beloved one, live in the constant expectation of soon seeing Jesus face to face; conversing with He whom here below, cheered, comforted, and sweetened many a weary step of your Christian pilgrimage. That moment is speeding on. In a little while and all that now wounds and ruffles, tempts and pollutes, will have disappeared like the foam upon the billow, and you shall eternally repose your weary soul in the bosom of Jesus!”
Octavius Winslow

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #10, Chapter 3:6-13

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. Verse 6 begins with the contrasting word *but*. What is being contrasted here in verse 6 from what occurred in the previous verses?
2. Timothy's report has 3 elements to it. What are they?
3. Paul says Timothy brought us "good news" (*euangelisomai*). With the exception of this verse, Paul always uses this word in his writings to refer to the good news of the gospel that God sent His Son to die for men's sins. Yet here Paul is not referring to the good news of the gospel message but to Timothy's happy report. What did Paul want to convey to the Thessalonians by using the word (*euangelisomai*) "good news" in this way?
4. How does Timothy's report encourage Paul and Silas (verses 7-8)?
5. What distress and affliction is Paul referring to in verse 7? See 2:2 and 3:1-5.
6. Review the previous chapters and list the pressures and trials that the young Thessalonian believers were under.

7. What does Paul mean when he says, “while you are standing firm we are happy?” Look up 1 Corinthians 16:13; Philippians 4:1; and 2 Thessalonians 2:15 to help formulate your answer.

8. How does God’s word cause you to stand firm in the Lord?

9. What does the knowledge that the Thessalonians are standing firm in the Lord produce in Paul (verses 9-10)?

10. What 2 elements of Paul’s prayer life are seen in verse 10?

11. What does *earnestly* [Strong’s #5228 and 4057 (*exceedingly* NKJV)] mean?

12. Are the elements of regular, frequent, earnest prayer a part of your daily habits? What part of Paul’s example do you think you need to work on in your life? What are some ways you can begin to implement your ideas?

13. What does Paul mean when he says complete what is lacking in your faith? See also Romans 1:11; Philippians 1:25; and Colossians 1:28.

14. In verses 11-13 Paul prays as he writes to the Thessalonians. What is his first request (verse 11)? What are the other times when Paul mentions this desire in the book?

15. What is Paul's next petition for the Thessalonians (verse 12)? How did God answer that prayer (2 Thessalonians 1:3)?

16. Though the Thessalonians were standing firm in the Lord, Paul knew some of the areas they needed to grow in. He prays that they will grow in love. How might that love for others be manifest? See 4:9-12; Romans 12:10-21; Titus 3:1-2.

17. Paul prays that the Thessalonians will increase and abound in love for one another for what purpose (verse 13)?

18. Paul uses a similar progression of thought in Philippians 1:9-10 and Colossians 1:21-23. What similarities do you find between verses 12-13 and those texts?

19. The Scriptures frequently refer to standing blameless before God. See 1 Corinthians 1:7-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 1 Peter 5:10; Jude 24. How do those verses give you encouragement as you think about the day when you will stand before God?

20. When will we stand before God blameless in holiness (verse 13)?
21. The *parousia* or *coming of Jesus* is not a single event, but a term that includes the end times events of the coming of Jesus to snatch away the church in the rapture, as well as His coming back to earth a second time when Christ will set up His earthly kingdom. In the rapture all believers go to be with Him. In the second coming whom does He bring with Him when He returns to earth (verse 13)? For a *mere* sampling of verses to back up that thought see: Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Timothy 5:10; Philemon 7.
22. After completing this lesson read verses 6-13 again. Paul's great joy comes from seeing believers *stand firm* so that someday they will appear before God, blameless with great joy. At this point in your life, would Paul rejoice that you are standing firm in faith? What are some ways you can continue to grow in your walk so that Paul could rejoice at your progress in the faith?

IT IS NOT OUR HOLDING TO GOD,
BUT HIS HOLDING TO US THAT PRESERVES US.
A LITTLE BOAT TIED TO A ROCK IS SAFE,
AND SO ARE WE,
WHEN WE ARE TIED TO THE ROCK OF AGES.
— THOMAS WATSON

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #11, Chapter 4 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

1. To begin, read through Chapter 4. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 4. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-8).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 9-12).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 13-18).
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.
3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things *God* did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.

6. List what you learn about *Jesus Christ* in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. What do you learn about the Thessalonians in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references that support your observations.

8. What do you learn about the loving the brethren in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

9. What do you learn about those who sleep in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

10. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

6. The Scriptures make it clear that we are to progress in our faith. Look up the following verses: Philippians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9-10; 4:3. What do you learn?

7. In verses 1 and 2 Paul reminds the Thessalonians that he had already instructed them in how they should walk. What observations can you make about Paul's instruction from verses 1 and 2?

8. Many people wonder about God's will for their lives. What does verse 3 tell us about God's will?

9. Define sanctification [Strong's #38].
 - a. Define abstain [Strong's #567 (NIV *avoid*)].

 - b. Define sexual immorality [Strong's #4202].

10. How can sexual purity be maintained in a believer's life (verses 3-4)?

11. In case they were foggy on what sexual purity might look like in their lives Paul provides an example in verse 5. What is it?

12. What reason does Paul give for the Gentiles' immorality (verse 5)?

13. What actions or attitudes does verse 5 imply about those who do know God?

14. What further instruction does Paul give in verse 6 for maintaining sexual purity?

15. Paul states the purpose of our calling (verse 7). What is it?
 - a. Look up Leviticus 19:2; Eph. 1:4; 4:19-24; 1 Peter 1:14-16. What do you learn?

16. What solemn promise does Paul make in verse 8?

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #13, Chapter 4:9-18

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. Paul continues instructing his beloved congregation. What issue is he addressing in verse 9?
2. What reason does Paul maintain for not giving more instruction in this area (verse 9)?
3. The Scriptures have much to teach about loving the brethren. Look up this sample of verses to see what the Bible says about this topic: John 13:34-35; Hebrews 10:15-16; 1 John 4:16-21; 5:1-2.
4. As in 4:1, Paul urges the Thessalonians to excel still more in their love toward believers. Survey the books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians to find examples of how the Thessalonians practiced their love for each other.
5. How are you practicing your love for fellow believers? Would Paul say to you, "for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren?" In what ways can you excel still more in your love for other believers?

6. That one little phrase, “excel still more” is a clarion call to continued progress and growth in your walk with the Lord. Paul echoed this same theme in other letters (See 1 Corinthians 9:24 and Philippians 3:14). How is your progress in the faith? Are you pressing on so that you may grow in the Lord Jesus? How is that attitude lived out in your life?

7. Paul’s second reminder to the Thessalonians in this section comes in verse 11. What is it?

8. Some have thought that the Thessalonians may have been so excited about the Lord’s imminent return that they were neglecting their work and care of their homes. This makes good sense in light of the many references to the return of the Lord in this book, especially the section immediately following in verses 13-18 (For similar treatment on this issue see 1 Corinthians 15:58 which also closes a section discussing the return of the Lord). Discuss what Paul meant by the phrase, “lead a quiet life and attend to your own business,” by comparing and contrasting 1 Thessalonians 4:11 and 2 Thessalonians 3:11.

9. Why was it necessary to attend to your own business and work with your hands? See verse 12.

10. The Scriptures address this issue of working and being a witness to others in other letters. What do you learn from the following verses about why we are to work? See Romans 12:11, 13; Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-15; and Titus 3:14. How does this balance out when someone is in need and cannot work or attend to their own business due to “circumstances beyond their control?”

11. How is *your* witness in this area? Do you try to work hard and attend to your own business or do you have a habit of relying on others to help?

12. In verses 13-18 Paul is clearing up some confusion about believers who have already died. Verses 13-14 form Paul's thesis statement. What does he say to the Thessalonians?

13. Paul structures his comments very logically in verse 14 stating, "For if...even so...." What is his line of reasoning (see 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 for more insight)?

14. Paul encourages the believers with the timeline of events of the *parousia*, the coming of the Lord. What will happen during this momentous occasion (verses 15-17)?

15. This "catching up" that Paul mentions in verse 17 is called the Rapture. First Thessalonians 4:13-18 and John 5:25-29 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 are the key texts that discuss this event. Read all three references and record what you learn about the Rapture.

16. Paul ends verse 18 with the words, "Therefore comfort one another with these words." What is it about the contents of the preceding verses that were meant to bring comfort to the Thessalonians?

17. How do those verses comfort and encourage you?

...AND THUS WE SHALL ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD.
1 THESSALONIANS. 4:17

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #14, Chapter 5 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

1. To begin, read through Chapter 5. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 5. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-11).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 12-22).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 23-24).
 - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 25-28).
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things *God* did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.

6. List what you learn about *Jesus Christ* in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. What do you learn about the Thessalonians in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references that support your observations.

8. What do you learn about Day of the Lord in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

9. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #15, Chapter 5:1-11

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. Define *times* [Strong's #5550].
 - a. Define *epochs* [Strong's #2540 (ESV, NKJV *seasons*; NIV *dates*)].
2. What span of time is Paul discussing in this section (verse 2)?
3. What 2 groups of people are addressed in this passage (verses 1-11)?
4. List what you learn about those 2 groups from verses 1-11.
5. What do you learn about *the Day of the Lord* from the following verses:
Ezekiel 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11; 3:14; Zephaniah 1:14; Zechariah 14:4-5;
Malachi 4:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4; 2 Peter 3:10?
6. What metaphor does Paul use in verses 4-8?

7. To further clarify this section, try writing out verses 4-8 using its opposite. For example, verse 4 says, "For you, brethren, are not in darkness." The opposite would state: "For you, brethren, are in light."

8. What does Paul want believers to understand and apply to their lives from verses 4-8?

9. From verse 6, define *alert* [Strong's #1127 (ESV *awake*; NKJV *watch*)].
 - a. Define *sober* [Strong's #3525 (NIV *self-controlled*)].

10. What do you learn about the word *watch/alert* from some of the other places it's used in the Bible? See Matthew 26:40; Mark 13:35-37; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Colossians 4:2; Revelation 3:2-3.

11. The definition for *sober* can also be rounded out by observing how it is used in other verses: 1 Thessalonians 5:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8. What do you learn?

12. How does being alert and sober stand in stark contrast with those who sleep and are of the dark?

13. Just in case you got lost in all that talk of night and day, sleep and awake, Paul reminds us of our true state in verse 8. What is it?

14. How are we to respond to that truth (verse 8)?

15. Why are we to make sure we have faith, love, and hope of salvation (verses 9-10)?

16. Contrary to what many say today, where does salvation come from and by what means (verses 9-10)? See also 2 Corinthians 5:15; Galatians 1:4; 2:20; 3:13; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.

17. After answering the above questions, consider: how does Christ's death and our salvation exempt us from the wrath to come?

18. What are you trusting in for your salvation? Do you have the assurance that you are not destined for wrath?

19. How are the Thessalonians to respond to the teaching Paul has just given them (verse 11)?

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #16, Chapter 5:12-22

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. Like a parent sending his child off to camp for a week, Paul is using these last moments in his letter to remind and encourage the Thessalonians in their relationship with the Lord and each other. In verses 12-13, what does Paul request of them?
2. What do you learn about the Thessalonian leaders from verses 12-13?
3. What are some specific ways you can show your appreciation to your church's leaders for their work?
4. Many people say that commands to live in peace with one another mean that we are to tolerate sin or false teaching for the sake of unity or harmony. What parameters are to guide our peaceable living? See John 15:17-24; 1 Timothy 1:3-5; 6:3-5, 11-12; 2 Timothy 2:22-26; and Titus 3:8-11.
5. Who are Paul's exhortations directed toward in verse 14?
6. What does he urge them to do?

7. Aren't these tasks usually reserved for the pastors to do (just like hospital visitation)? Since Paul addresses the brethren, what does that tell you about your responsibilities to other believers?

8. Define *admonish* [Strong's #3560 (NKJV, NIV *warn*)]. Give a description of someone who is unruly (see Titus 1:6, 10-11).

9. What is to be the tone, purpose, and means of *admonition*? See Acts 20:31-32; Romans 15:14; 1 Corinthians 4:14; Colossians 1:28; 3:16; 2 Thessalonians 3:15.

10. Define *fainthearted* [Strong's #3642 (NIV *timid*)]. What do you learn about the fainthearted from Isaiah 35:3-4; Romans 14:1; 15:1-3; Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 12:2?

11. You probably know people in each of the categories mentioned in verse 14. Write down some specific ways to serve them according to these verses.

12. How often are we to seek after what is good for fellow believers—and for all men (verse 15)?

13. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What do those verses teach you about seeking what is good for another?

14. What 3 things are God's will for you (verses 16-18)?

15. What are some things a believer can always rejoice in?

16. We are to pray continually (the idea is like that of a nagging cough). What are some ways you apply this command? How can you implement this important part of a Christian's walk to a greater degree in your life?

17. A thankful spirit is one of the hallmarks of a believer. Write down 20 things for which you can give thanks to God.

18. In Ephesians 5:18-20 we are told to be filled with the Spirit; Galatians 5:16 says we are to walk by the Spirit; and Galatians 5:18 says we are to be led by the Spirit. How would a believer quench the Spirit? See Galatians 5:17-21.

19. The role of a prophet is to impart God's word to His people. What is our attitude to be toward God's Word (verse 20, also 1 Thessalonians 4:8)?

20. Not only are believers to walk in the Spirit and highly regard God's word, but they are to be discerning. What 3 ways are stated (verses 21-22)?

21. Read again verses 19-22. What is your response to God's word? Do you obey what you learn and know is right to do? How can you grow more discerning when it comes to truth and error? How can you increase your love for that which is good and increase your abhorrence of things that are evil?

22. Verses 12-22 detail the actions of a true believer. What heart attitudes must precede and be present with the actions in these verses?

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #17, Chapter 5:23-28 and Review

Read through the book of 1 Thessalonians one more time. Thank the Lord for the truths He has imparted to you through this letter.

1. Paul closes his letter to the Thessalonians with a benediction. What does he pray for in verse 23?
2. Define *sanctify* [Strong's #37].
3. Notice the “full” terms Paul uses in verse 23—*entirely, complete, without blame*. What does that tell you about your salvation?
4. Paul speaks of being without blame—no longer just *positionally* righteous (God sees us that way), but *practically* righteous (We can see growth too). Look up the following verses where that truth is also discussed: 1 Corinthians 1:8; Ephesians 5:26-27; Colossians 1:22; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; Jude 24-25. What kind of a response does that knowledge ignite in you?
5. Paul confirms what he said in verse 23 with what truth about God (verse 24)?

6. A.W. Tozer writes, “Upon God’s faithfulness rests our whole hope of future blessedness. Only as He is faithful will His covenants stand and His promises be honored. Only as we have complete assurance that He is faithful may we live in peace and look forward with assurance to the life to come.” How does the knowledge that God is faithful affect how you live?

7. Review each of the chapters of 1 Thessalonians. Summarize what you learned from each chapter.

8. What impression has the book of 1 Thessalonians made on your heart? How has it changed how you live, how you think?