



Sermon Discussion Guide

Message and Model - Tim Knipp

10/4/26

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- *Tell about a time in your life when you were able to pass on a skill or a passion to someone else. Or, has there ever been a time when you tried to do that and it didn't go well?*

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying***
- *Scripture from this week: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10*
- *If your group did not meet last week, it might be helpful to review the context of the letter. Who are the Thessalonians? Why is Paul writing to them?*
- *In v. 5, how does Paul describe the way he shared the gospel with the Thessalonians? What do you think that would have looked like practically? It's not specifically in the text, just be creative and make your best guess. (If people are struggling, give them an example: One thing he described is "power", so that could have been miracles, healing, addictions broken, relationships restored, etc)*
- *In v. 6 and 7, Paul praises the Thessalonian believers for becoming imitators of him and models to others. Imagine you lived in Thessalonica - what changes might you have noticed or heard about in the lives of these new Jesus followers in our city? They could be obvious or subtle.*

Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- *Tim told a story about the woman who had visited Hillcrest and stressed the importance of people having the opportunity to encounter the living God.*



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Like Paul with the Thessalonians, what are some ways that people can encounter the living God in our context today?

- *In our culture, what are some barriers we might face to sharing what God has done and who God is with others?*

Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
- *Who is one person in your life who has given you the opportunity to encounter the living God? What did that person do that was so meaningful - how did they communicate to you who God is or what He is like?*
- *Who is one person who comes to mind as someone who God has placed in your sphere of influence? What are some ways you can help them encounter the living God – how could you share who God is and what He is like with them?*
- *What are some personal barriers you have faced to sharing about God with others? (Optional: take time to troubleshoot those together, or in smaller groups below)*

Time of Prayer

- *Suggestion: Break into groups of 3-4 and make sure everyone has had a chance to share about this question: Who is one person who comes to mind as someone who God placed in your sphere of influence? What are some ways you can share who God is and what He is like with that person?*
- *Ask the Lord to empower each other to communicate his care, love, and power to these specific people on our minds. Ask God to remove any barriers and to move in power in these peoples' lives. Just as He did for Paul in Thessalonica back then, he can do for us in Bellingham today! The same Spirit is at work.*