



Sermon Discussion Guide

Sharing the Gospel and Our Lives - Tim Knipp

10/18/26

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.*
- Share about a fun communal moment from this week. Something you got to do with other people, or a conversation you had that was especially fun, meaningful, or memorable.
- Conversely, share a moment when a relationship or interaction got contentious or difficult.
- What qualities do you look for in a potential new friend? When you meet someone, what immediately causes you to think you could be good friends? Share an example of a current friend if one comes to mind!

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
- What state were Paul, Silas, and Timothy in when they arrived in Thessalonica? Were they healthy? Injured? Encouraged? Disappointed? Review Acts 16:11-40 as needed.
- At the beginning of the chapter Paul notes that their visit was not a failure. What was their goal? Why did they consider it a success? Speculate why others might view it as a failure.
- Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12. Notice what analogies Paul uses to describe their relationship to the Thessalonians. What specific characteristics do you think he is trying to describe?
- Reading through verses 1-12, what kinds of relational traps are mentioned that Paul and the others could have fallen into? (point to fear of opposition, people pleasing, flattery, seeking money or praise, etc)

Look - Connections to our world today



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- *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.*
- Think of a time when someone in your life treated you in the way Paul describes (like a mother or father caring for their children, shared their soul in a self-sacrificing, life-giving way). What feelings arise when you think about that time or person?
- What makes a soul-sharing relationship like this unique when it is centered on God? What is the relationship missing when the focal point is yourselves?
- What costs or challenges have you experienced in practicing this soul-sharing kind of relationship? What costs do you anticipate or fears you experience that keep you from practicing this kind of friendship?
- How does this passage show about God's participation in our relationships and the challenges that come?

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.*
- Identify a relationship in your life that God is challenging you to go deeper, or reframe to be centered on him rather than yourselves. What practical step can you take this week to initiate?
- As a small group, in what ways do you see this kind of soul-sharing relationship centered on Christ happening? Brainstorm ways you would like to see that expand and deepen as a group.
- God does not ask us to live this way out of our own strength. What specifically do you need to ask God for today?

Time of Prayer



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- Split into small groups or pairs and pray for each other and the relationship they wish to grow deeper or reframe centered around Christ.