Sermon Discussion Guide
Trials and Temptation: Tim Knipp
11-15-26

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.*
- *This week's message reminded us that God is with us in struggle, with others in struggle. Spend some time in prayer for each other, for those we know going through difficulty and suffering, for the world around us.*
- *Music tends to get me in the right mindset. A couple songs I love that help me to remember truth in suffering or remember the love of God in the midst of trial are the following. Give a listen and take a moment to share. If you have other songs, poems, art that help you in the same way, share with the group.*
    - *Jill Phillips - House of Grief*
    - *Andy Gullahorn - Resurrection*

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
- *Reread all of 1 Thessalonians aloud, focusing special attention on 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5.*
- *What were Paul's concerns about the church in Thessalonica? What were his hopes for them?*
- *How were Paul's hopes and concerns for the Thessalonians different from those in other churches he'd visited? Dig into Paul's other letters to compare. (Phillipians 1:8-10 is a good starting point).*

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.*
- *Imagine your community around you. Your family, those you work with, your neighbors, your friends, extended family, etc. What difficulties may they be going through? How have you seen them respond to suffering? Have you had*



Sermon Discussion Guide
Trials and Temptation: Tim Knipp
11-15-26

interaction with them during this time? Have you had chances to be with them and help?

- *Pastor Tim noted the disconnect in the world regarding suffering. That it tends to be just an obstacle to getting more happiness in our lives. What does it mean to be marked by the suffering of Christ? To love and serve a God who is in the midst of our suffering and not cold and removed? What ways does Hillcrest embody this with the different types of community and worldwide involvement? What areas do we need more help to be with those in trouble?*
- *How has the church nationally missed the calling to speak into the suffering of those around us? What words, ideas, thoughts have replaced or repackaged following a crucified savior to sound easier to follow or "happier"?*

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.*
- *Things to remember this week:*
    - *God is with you in the midst of suffering. Not as a statue but as one who knows and seeks to comfort and encourage.*
    - *God is also with your neighbor, friend, family,*
    - *And as a follow up and challenge to those of us who may not be in the midst of suffering or hardship... how can you be God's voice, his hands and feet, his caring and compassion for others.*
- *Spend some time in prayer again for each other. For hardships we may not be able to speak aloud. If this means times of silence, solo walks, group prayer, singing of hymns, etc. Take time.*

Time of Prayer

Sermon Discussion Guide

Trials and Temptation: Tim Knipp

11-15-26