Sermon Discussion Guide
What do you love? – Tim Knipp
11.1.26

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.*

- Thinking back on the fall, what is one thing that has brought you joy or been life-giving to you? (Have everyone share briefly - just a way to get a window into each others' lives)

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand* ***what the text is saying****: 1 Thessalonians 2:14-20*

- In v. 14-16, Paul describes the suffering that the Thessalonian believers experienced. In what ways do you imagine they suffered? Why do you think they were willing to go through that?
- In v 17-20, what words and images does Paul use to describe his relationship to the Thessalonian believers?
- Why do you think Paul, a Roman Jew, has become so attached to this small group of Greek believers in Jesus? What was the story arc of Paul's life that led to him writing these words and why does he feel them so deeply?

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.*

There are three ways that we can be shaped by God: *Orthodoxy* (God shapes our minds); *Orthopraxy* (God shapes our behaviors); *Orthopathy* (God shapes our hearts)

-Do you think these changes need to happen in a specific order, and why? (Does He need to change our minds before He can change our hearts? Do our hearts need to change before our behaviors change? Etc.)

-What changes do you think are easiest to make, if any? What are the hardest? Why?

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-Thinking about orthopathy, or God shaping our hearts: Tim said God's hope for our hearts is that we would have rightly ordered loves, which he described as "loving the right things in the right order." In what areas of our lives does God work on our hearts and reorder our loves? (keep this general and short - personal sharing will come in the next section. Examples: finances, relationships, etc)

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.*

- Read Psalm 139:23-24 together. What is the "way everlasting"? Why do we need God to lead us there? Why can't we get there on our own?
- What is one way God has reshaped your heart to align with His as you have walked with Him? It could be a significant shift or a small change. How did this change bring life to you?
- Tim presented us with four questions to stir our thinking about how we currently are ordering our loves. As we read these, let's invite God to search our hearts, being honest with Him and ourselves, and let's ask Him to lead us in the way everlasting. (Read these questions twice, slowly, giving space to think. You can even invite people to write things down if time allows)
    - What do I most love?
    - What would I suffer for?
    - Who do I long for?
    - What is my deep joy?
- What came to mind as you thought about these questions? What is one way that God is inviting you to love the right things in the right order? How would a shift in this area lead to a more fulfilling life?

Time of Prayer

- Have someone pray Psalm 139:23-24 over the group