Sermon Discussion Guide
Invest in Souls: Sarah Kobayashi
11/22/2026

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.*

- Getting to see someone grow can be such a unique and beautiful experience. Share a time when you got to "see the lightbulb turn on", witness someone learn a new skill, understand a new concept or shift patterns or ways of thinking. Why was that moment memorable for you?

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand* ***what the text is saying****:*

- Read 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13. What are Paul's hopes for the Thessalonian church? How do those compare to those voiced in the previous verses 1-5?
- Paul and Silas receive a glowing report from Timothy. How might their response in verses 6-13 have been different if Timothy's report was disheartening?
- This chapter kind of sounds like it could be the end of the letter, but there are two more chapters! What would you expect to come next? Continued encouragement, teaching and instruction on something, a reprimand, communicating plans to visit? Think about what you might want to say if you were in Paul's shoes. Be as specific as you can!
- Paul prays that the Thessalonians' love for one another and for all people would grow and overflow. What would this look like? Imagine someone you know who embodies this, what about their life would make you say that? What actions or attitudes? You could also look at examples from Jesus. In what stories do we see him embodying this overflowing love for all people?

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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.*

- Timothy's glowing report on the Thessalonians brings them new life, great joy, and they dive into earnest prayer. Paul and Silas are INVESTED in this community and what happens to them. What possible pitfalls or dangers do you see looming had Timothy's report come back disappointing?
- In this passage, Paul presents a quite idyllic picture of what life together as a Christian community can look like, with mutual encouragement, blessing, and prayer. Where have you seen this example in your life? In what relationships or context have you seen this play out? In what relationships have you seen this play out poorly? These could be personal relationships, or ones you've observed.
- In what relationships in your life do you have this kind of investment and passion? Or what relationships do you wish would look more like that?
- In what ways have you shown a love for others that overflows? In what ways would you like to grow?

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.*

- Do you tend to lean towards apathy or overinvestment? How is God calling you to better reflect his character in these relationships?
- What step would you like to take to grow in your love, care, and prayers for other people?
- Look at Paul's prayer in verses 11-13. Who in your life would you like to pray this prayer over?

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Time of Prayer

- Consider praying Paul's prayer in verses 11-13 over specific people. Commit to doing that daily for the next week, and the next time you meet as a group you can share what that experience was like.