



C O N T R A S T

A STUDY IN 1 THESSALONIANS

How the Gospel Shapes the Way We Serve September 1, 2024 | 1 Thessalonians 1:1-12 Questions for Study and Group Discussion

*** Before you begin, please read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-12*

1. Icebreaker: Share a time when your gifts, wisdom, and/or time were used to serve someone around you. How did this make you feel? What difference did it make?
2. Why is serving others important?
3. What makes serving others hard?
4. Read Ephesians 4:11-12, then answer the following questions.
 - Who is equipped for service in verse 12?
 - What results from these works of service, according to the end of verse 12?
 - In your own words, explain how this verse underlines the importance of every follower of Jesus Christ using their gifts to serve others.
5. Practice careful observation of 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and make a list of everything you read there that characterizes Paul's ministry to the Thessalonians.
6. Which of these observations (see previous question) stands out to you most? Why?
7. Work back through your list of observations from 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. For each, share what it would look like — in practical terms — to live and serve like this today.
8. What have you learned from 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 about how the gospel shapes our service of others? In what practical ways can this affect why and how you serve?
9. Describe someone whose life is characterized by many of the same "approaches to ministry / service" that you read about in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. What does this value of service look like in their life, as it is lived out there?
10. Are you serving others in a consistent way right now? If yes, what are you doing and how is it making a difference in you? If no, what is keeping you from doing this?
11. What other questions or comments do you have about what you've looked at in the Bible today?
12. What is your biggest take-away from what you've discussed so far? What practical step will you take to apply what you've seen in God's Word?
13. **Challenge:** If you're not serving consistently right now, commit to taking the step to serve others at least once per month. Visit <https://www.brookside.net/difference-makers/> to learn more.
14. **Challenge: Memorize 1 Thessalonians 2:8b** — "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."