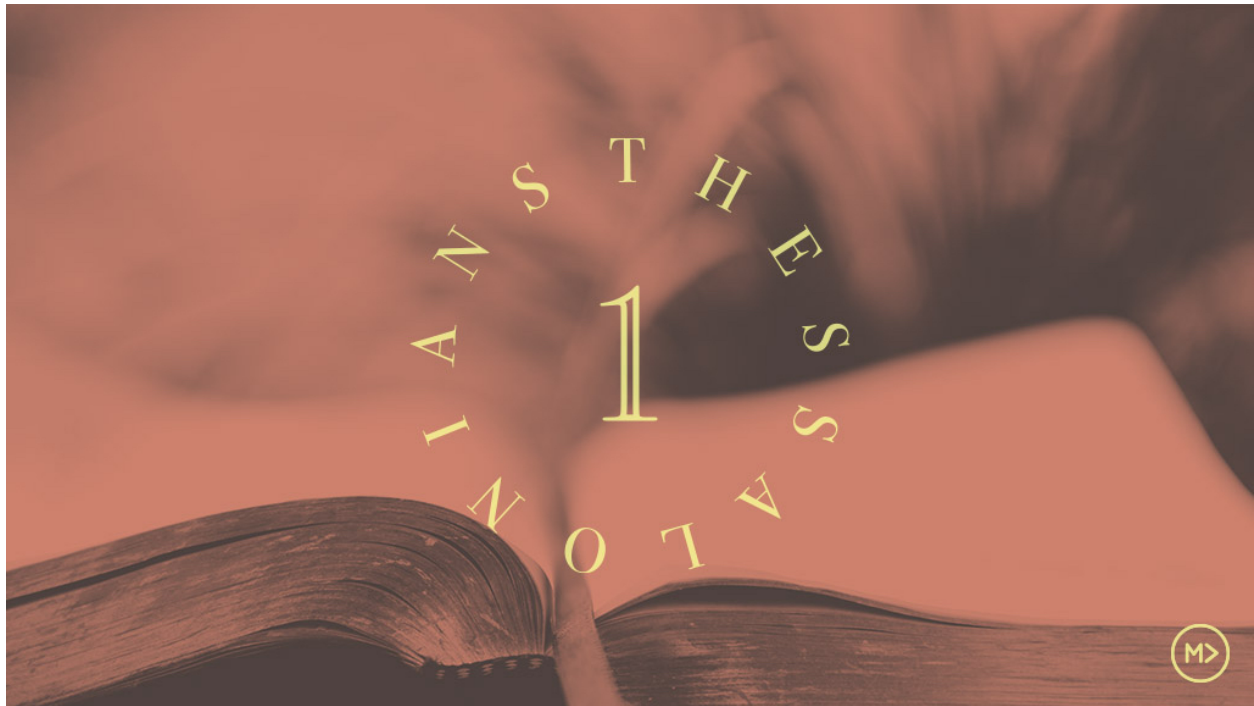


# 1 THESSALONIANS: FAITH. LOVE. HOPE.



## Week One: Acts 17 & 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

### To the Teachers

*This letter to the Thessalonians is one of encouragement and thanksgiving for their faithfulness, but also a call to live even more as God's people. Let's be thankful as a church how God has worked in us, and also ask Him to draw us deeper into His Story. Pray for the kids to be filled with faith, love, and hope.*

- **Big Idea:** The Good News of God's kingdom brings us faith, love, and hope.

### As Kids Enter (15 minutes - Classroom)

- **Object Lesson:** *The lead teacher can do this with everyone in the main room, or each teacher can do this in their own classroom.*  
Have two balloons already filled, one with air only and another with air and water inside. In front of the kids, hold a lighter underneath the first balloon. Let it pop! Then, hold a lighter under the balloon with water. It should not pop. Talk about how when we're filled with Jesus' Spirit we will be able to stay strong in the troubles of life.

*Watch this video to see it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnXZt-EOWGU>*

## Sing Together (15 minutes)

## STORY (30 minutes - Lead Teacher)

A long time ago in a country far away, a few people decided to go visit as many places as they could to tell them the good news of Jesus. They had a few ideas of where to go, but sometimes the Spirit of God would change their plans and send them somewhere else. One of the first places they were sent to was a city in Greece, called Thessalonica. This city was under Roman rule and they obeyed Caesar as their king. They also worshipped a lot of different gods.

When Paul and his friends started telling people about Jesus, some of the Jewish people living there believed them. But way more of the Greeks became followers of Jesus! Most of the Jews became jealous and wanted to get Paul and his friends in trouble. They started telling the city officials that they were trying to get the people to stop obeying Caesar and believe that Jesus is their King. They even stirred up a crowd and started a riot in the city! Paul, Timothy, and Silas had to leave that town for their safety, but they always thought of and prayed for the Thessalonians.

One day, Paul had an idea to send Timothy back to check on them. They were worried that those who believed the good news of Jesus would turn back to worshipping false gods because of the pressures around them. Timothy was a Greek citizen, so he could travel back there more safely than Paul or Silas. When Timothy visited and reported back, they were surprised and so happy to hear that the people of Thessalonica were still following and worshipping Jesus!

Even though it was really hard to follow Jesus in their city, and sometimes even dangerous, the believers in Thessalonica knew that Jesus had risen from the dead and that he would one day come back to restore all things. They knew that God had loved them by sending Jesus, that Jesus was faithful to bring us back to God, and that there was hope he would return as the True King. Paul wrote a letter to the Thessalonian church to say how encouraged he was by their faith, love, and hope - and to urge them to continue following Jesus even more!

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

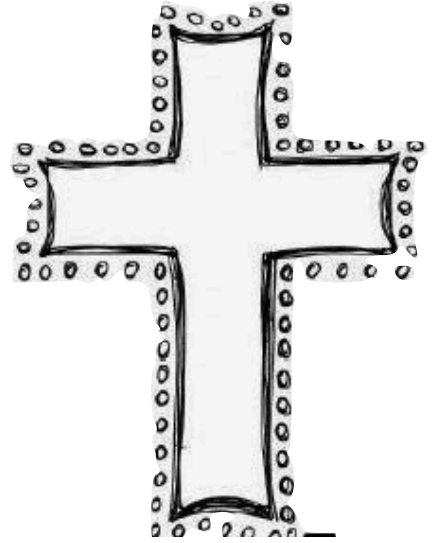
- What does faith mean? What about love? Hope?
- Why do you think the Thessalonians changed so radically, even when it was so hard to live this way in their city?
- What can we learn for how to follow Jesus in our city, today?

### In Breakout Classes (30 minutes - Classroom)

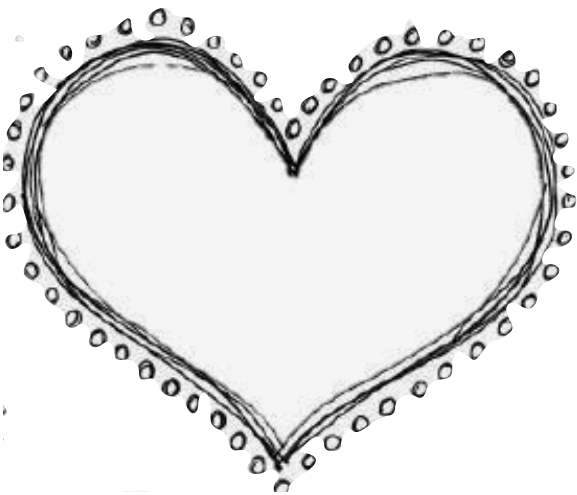
- **Prayer:**  
God, we pray that You would fill us up with Your Holy Spirit so we can live in faith, love, and hope, showing our friends and families what Jesus is like. Amen!
- **Craft:**  
*Use the attached page to create a mini booklet on faith, love, and hope. Have the kids fold on the dotted vertical line, and cut on the solid horizontal line. Then, staple one inside of the other. They can color the pages and use the blank pages to write about ways to show faith, hope, and love.*
- **BLESS Activity:**  
*\*For kids to do during the week\**  
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask the Spirit to help us to *Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak*, and *Sabbath* (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Speak** rhythm. Paul, Timothy, and Silas spoke good news to the Thessalonians that changed their lives. Paul heard back a good report about their faithfulness. The city around them heard and saw the kingdom through their lives. Who can you speak to this week about the Good News of Jesus and his Kingdom?

F A I T H



L O V E



H O P E

