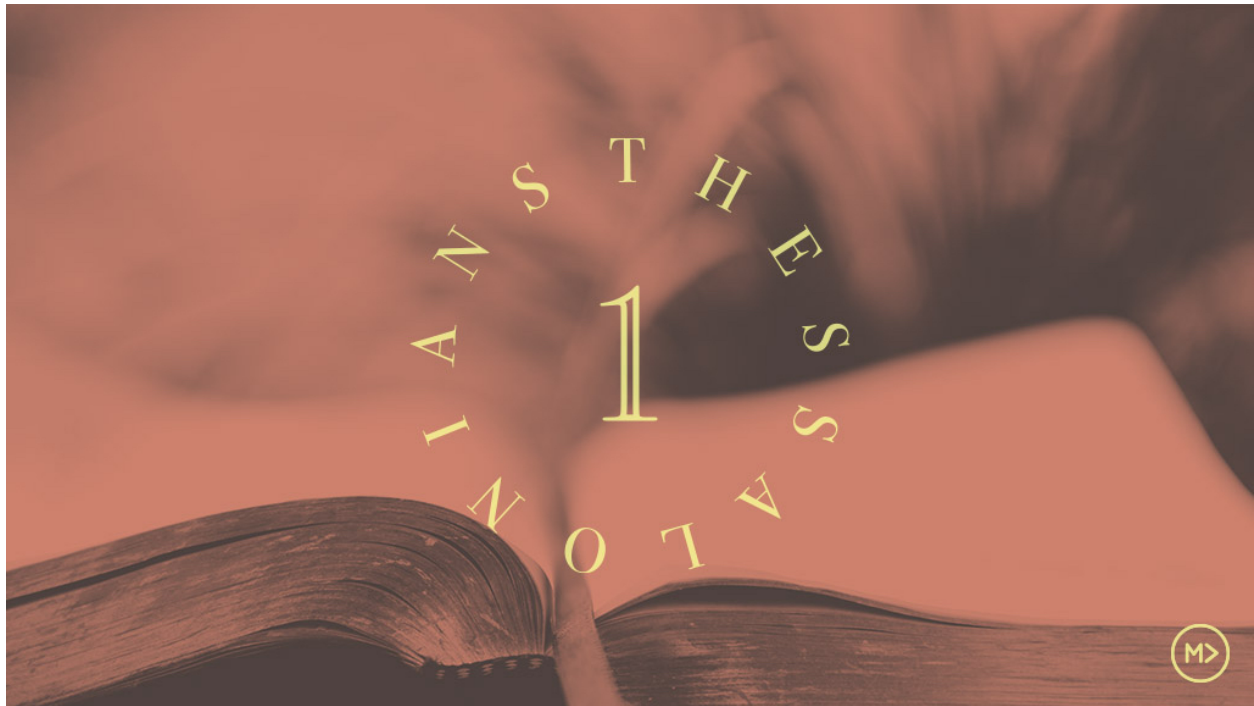


1 THESSALONIANS: FAITH. LOVE. HOPE.



Week Three: 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

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:** More important than how hard you believe, is what you believe in

As Kids Enter (15 minutes - Classroom)

- **Question:**
What is faith? What does it mean to have faith? Have you ever struggled with faith?
- **Starter:** *'Faith in the Unseen'*
Get a volunteer from the kids and blindfold them. Give them directions and commands to walk around the room. Then, place a chair behind them and tell them to sit. They have to trust you to see for them.
Here's an example of this activity: <https://betterbibleteachers.com/2014/11/how-to-explain-faith-to-sunday-school-kids/>

Read Hebrews 11:1, “*Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.*”

Faith in God means trusting in Jesus when we can't see him and allowing his Spirit to guide us and see for us.

Sing Together (15 minutes)

STORY (30 minutes - Lead Teacher)

When Timothy told Paul and Silas all about how the Thessalonian church kept their faith in Jesus, they were so happy to hear the news! Remember, it was very difficult to have faith in Jesus in their city. It's not that people had a problem with faith. No, in fact, everyone there had faith. It was just that most people had faith in something other than Jesus.

Most Thessalonians had faith in false gods. They had faith in their own abilities. They had faith in their money and possessions. They had faith in other people. Pretty much anything but Jesus. So, the few people in Thessalonica who put faith in Jesus had a hard time. Not only were the other people in their city (*including their own friends and families*) angry about their faith in Jesus, but the new Jesus followers probably had a lifetime of memories from putting their faith in other things. It might have sounded much easier to go back to those things and turn away from Jesus altogether.

This is why Paul prayed for a chance to see them, to help complete what was lacking in their faith. Wait - wasn't Paul thankful for their faith and happy they trusted Jesus? What was their faith missing?

Think about this story: One time a man brought his son to Jesus and said, “An evil spirit is attacking my boy. If you can, please have compassion and help.” Jesus said, “*If* I can? Everything is possible for the one who believes!” The man then said, “I do believe. But help my unbelief.” So, Jesus saved his son.

You see, the man had faith in Jesus, even if he also had a little doubt. The important thing is, he asked Jesus to help him with his doubt - which means, *he had faith Jesus could take away his lack of faith!* God can work with your little faith, and cause it to grow into something big and beautiful. You don't have to have the biggest faith to come to Jesus. You can also come to him with your doubts... and trust he will take care of it.

This is what Paul wanted for the Thessalonian Christians. They believed the good news of Jesus, but they also needed that faith to grow, to trust Jesus even more - with every part of their lives. And it would. Because Jesus is faithful to take our little faith, and make it something amazing. Do you trust him to do that for you?

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- What is faith?
- If someone has no faith in Jesus, does this mean they have no faith? What else might they have faith in?
- What do you think is better - having a little bit of faith in Jesus or having a ton of faith in anything else?

In Breakout Classes (30 minutes - Classroom)

- **Prayer:**

God, we believe You are in control of the whole world and You are good. We believe You sent Your Son, Jesus, to rescue the world. We believe You sent Your Spirit to help us see. We believe. Help us with our unbelief! Amen.

- **Craft:**

Use the coloring page attached and talk about how faith is like a seed that grows into something more.

- **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 **Listen** rhythm. Paul also once wrote in the bible that, *"faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ"* (Romans 10:17). Take some time to listen to God speak to you this week. You can pray, sit in silence, and ask your parents to help you read the Bible.

Faith
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