

1 THESSALONIANS: FAITH. LOVE. HOPE.



Week Eight: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Memory Verse

John 14:6, "Jesus answered, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

- **Big Idea:** God's plan is to help us become more like Jesus

At the Start (5 minutes)

- **Question:**
Have you ever wondered what God wants for your life?
- **Starter:** *'The Right Stuff'*
Show the kids an empty pillow case and ask how comfortable it would be to rest your head on. Ask them, "How can I make this more like a comfortable pillow?" Start filling the case with cotton or stuffing of some kind until it is full just like a soft pillow. Use this to talk about how God fills us with the same Spirit Jesus was filled with until we become more and more like Jesus.

Sing Together (5 minutes)

STORY (10 minutes - Lead Teacher)

After Paul wrote to the Thessalonians about having more and more love for each other and everyone around them, he went on to say that he wanted their actions and their lives to look more and more like they were following Jesus. They were already doing that, but he believed they could become even more like Jesus, by following his ways even closer!

He said that God's will was to 'sanctify' them, which means, to make them become more like the humans God created them to be - to reflect the image of God more - to be more like Jesus! He warned them about selfish desires that each of us feels in our body, which try to take us away from following Jesus. He called those "impurities", meaning they were not clean or whole. But God wants us to be clean and holy. He also wrote that if we reject how God wants us to live in order to give into our selfish desires, that we were rejecting God Himself!

So, how are we supposed to turn away from our selfish desires and turn toward God's ways? Well, remember that Paul started with love. Before writing about our actions and the ways we're supposed to live, he told of the way God loves us and how we are to experience His love. The more we increase in experiencing God's love, the more love we have for others. The more love we have, the better we'll become at following God's ways.

When Paul wrote that it's God's will to sanctify us, he meant that God has a plan to make us more like Jesus. And what God wants to do, He does! How does He do this? Well, Paul ended this part of the letter by reminding the Thessalonians that God has given us His Spirit. The same Spirit who empowered Jesus to love the world and give his life for it, now fills Jesus' church. Because of Him, we can love and live in God's ways. But it's important that we do not reject God's work, but choose to partner with Him in it.

[Dialogue Questions - suggestions for families to discuss]

- What does it mean to be sanctified? Who sanctifies us?
- What happens if we reject God's sanctifying work?
- How can we become more like Jesus?

Prayer:

God, thank You for loving us. Help us to trust in Your Spirit and partner with You to become more like Your perfect Son, Jesus. Amen.

To Do On Your Own (After Being Dismissed)

- **Craft/Activity** (try one of the following):
 - Use the coloring page and/or notes page attached
 - Watch 'Kids Telling Parables' video and retell the story to each other:
https://youtu.be/mKwq3VwH9_w
 - Have older kids read Jesus Storybook Bible to younger kids

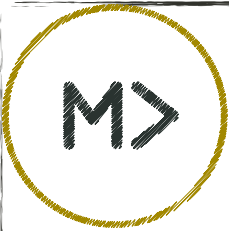
- **BLESS Activity:**

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 **Sabbath** rhythm.

With the extra time off from school and many places being closed right now, talk as a family about how you can make the most of this time to rest. Not just playing video games or watching TV - but to truly rest in the glory and goodness of God.

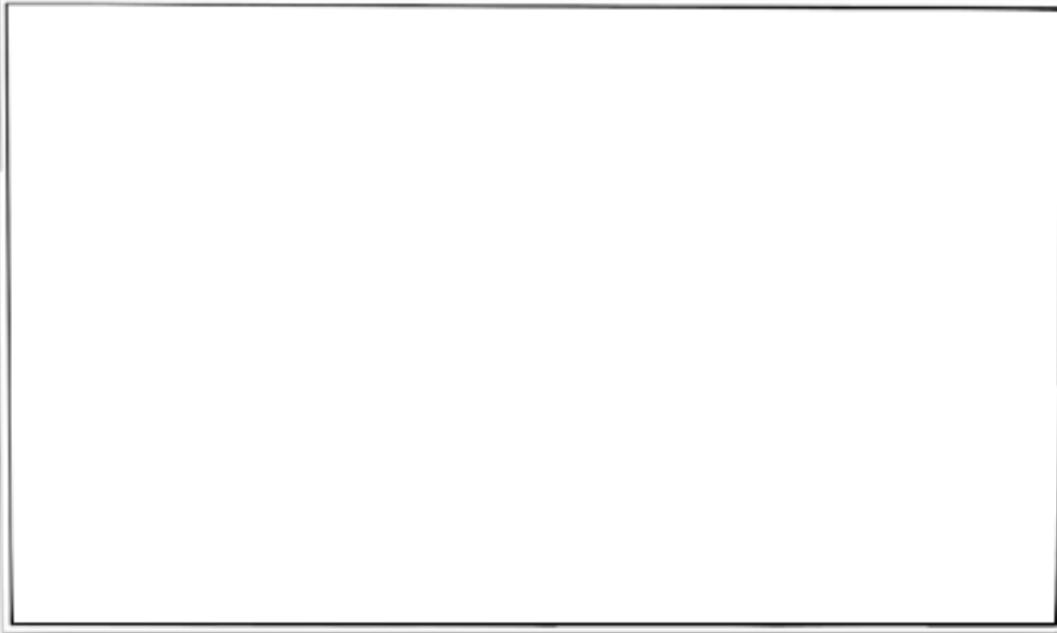


M> Kids
Sermon Notes

Words you heard
but don't know:



Draw a picture from the teaching or one of the songs:



BIBLE PASSAGE:

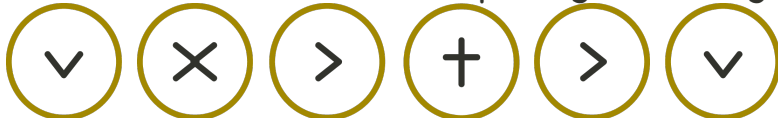
WHAT IS THE
BIG IDEA OF
THE TEACHING?



WHAT CAN YOUR
FAMILY BE
PRAYING ABOUT?

THE TRUE STORY

Color the circle where this passage is taking place in the Story



QUESTIONS FROM THE TEACHING:

.....
.....

1

WHO IS GOD?

2

WHAT HAS HE DONE?

3

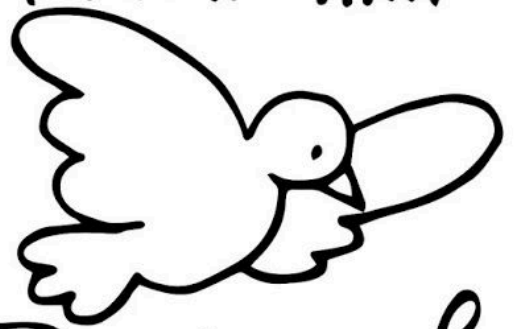
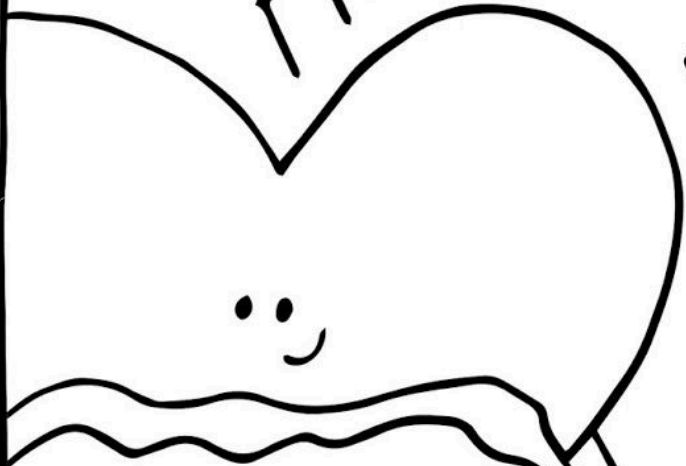
WHO ARE WE?

4

HOW CAN WE LIVE?

"HE who

believes
in ME...
from within him



Will
rivers of
flow

of
"LIVING WATER."

But [Jesus]
said this about
the SPIRIT. JOHN 7:38-39a

