



The Grove

BIBLE CHAPEL

• TAMPA •

LIFEGROUP RESOURCES: 11.17.24 Pulpit Curriculum

Spiritual Leadership Lessons from Thessalonica: Limited Time, Lasting Influence

Main passage: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Lasting influence is built on the prayers of the Church (v. 1a)

- Thessalonica was a spiritually healthy church that grew rapidly over a short period of time. Paul concludes his second letter to the Thessalonians by instructing them to pray for the church and the church leadership. Paul understood that prayer precedes all our work for Christ because Christ is the energizer of all our work. (Acts 17:1-9; Is. 40:8; 1 Th. 5:12, 17, 25).
 - A. Read Acts 17:1-9. What does it take for a good church to start? And what does it take to last? _____

 - B. Why should prayer come before all else? _____

 - C. Do you pray for our pastors/elders regularly? Why is it important to prayer for them? What should we be praying for? _____

Lasting influence is built on the preaching of the Word (v. 1b)

- The gospel spread rapidly in Thessalonica which means it ran ahead of the leaders by the power of God. The lasting influence of a church is dependent upon the power of God through prayer and His Word. God is glorified by prayer and proclamation of the gospel. (Acts 17:104; Rom. 1:16; Matt 28:8; Ps. 147:15; 1 Th. 1:8; 1 Th. 2:13)
 - D. How is prayer inextricably linked to the power (or spread) of the gospel? _____

 - E. Is the Word speeding ahead in your personal life? If so, in what ways? If not, what is the hinderance? _____

Lasting influence is built on the convictions of the leadership (v. 2)

- There are many examples of church leaders being afflicted by people opposed to the gospel. However, they demonstrated courageous conviction by not giving up. They held fast to their convictions of the power of the Word, and they were carried by the Holy Spirit's presence. Paul didn't ask that he would defeat



The Grove

BIBLE CHAPEL

• TAMPA •

the opposition; rather, he asked for prayer that they would have strength to press on. Paul's request for prayer as he faced wicked men wasn't out of fear for his safety but so that the spread of the gospel wouldn't be hindered by his inability to stand firm. (Acts 17:5-9; 1 Th. 1:5; 1 Th. 2:1-2; Acts 16; John 17:15; 1 Th. 1:17-18)

F. How should a spiritual leader respond to criticism and adversity?

G. What are the characteristics of someone with courageous convictions?

H. How do you respond to adversity or opposition to your faith?

Lasting influence is built on the consistency of followership (v. 3-4)

- God's faithfulness is evident in the way he strengthens and protects us. He is faithful to fortify the foundation and to protect us against the Evil One and his workings. Our growth and obedience is only possible because of the faithfulness of God. Because Christ was faithful to fulfill the law's demands, we can be faithful to obey the law's commands. (John 17:12; Luke 22:31-32; 1 Th. 4:1, 10; 1 Th. 1:6, 7)
 - I. Is your life marked by measurable spiritual progress and obedience to God? _____
 - J. What principles of Christian living have shaped your life? How are you discipling others so that their lives are also being shaped by these things?

Lasting influence is built on the love of God in Jesus Christ (v. 5)

- Ministry work must begin in prayer (dependence on God) and end in benediction (the Lord's blessing). Unless the Lord builds house, its workers labor in vain (Ps. 127:1).
 - K. What does it mean for the gospel to make progress in you? _____

 - L. How have you experienced gospel process recently? _____

 - M. How do we, as a church or life group, ensure that our work is not in vain?
