



**TERM 2, 2026**  
**1 THESSALONIANS**

A LIFE  
WELL-LIVED

*People of hope, love and  
perseverance*



**DNA BOOKLET**

# TERM OVERVIEW

The world we live in is not an easy place to be. It is fractured and so are we. In this world what does a well-lived life look like? And how do we live it? There's countless answers to this question - everything from have as much fun as you can, to settle down and start a family, or to live a simple off-grid life.

Across this term we'll be getting to meet the Christian believers in Thessalonica and believe it or not they're living well! The good news of Jesus is transforming them into people of hope, love and perseverance. As we see what God did in them it will remind us that God doesn't call us to escape the fractured world but rather, he empowers us to live well in it as we wait with hope for Jesus' return.

I hope that our time in God's word this term will grow your joy-filled gospel hope, your heartfelt gospel love and your steadfast gospel perseverance.

**James Ritchie**  
Preaching & Mission Pastor



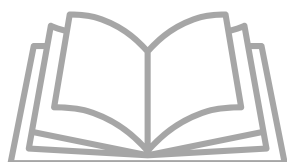
# HOW TO BE GROWING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS AS YOU STUDY GOD'S WORD...

## IN COMMUNITY



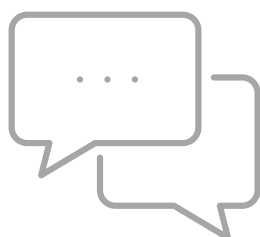
It's good to study the Bible by yourself but it's even better to do it with friends. Bible study is best when it happens in the context of community. Bible study shouldn't be just an unrelated add-on to the rest of your busy life, it should be an essential part of an integrated whole—Christian friends doing what Christian friends do. There are two key ways we should be making use of God's word in community: "word to life" and "life to word".

## WORD TO LIFE



When we study the Bible together we're letting God set the agenda. That's very important! We listen to God speak in the Bible, we work hard to help each other understand exactly what he's saying, and then together we apply what God is saying to our lives in the confidence that our loving Creator and Redeemer knows what's best for us. The important thing to remember is that we actually need each other throughout this whole process. It's great to study the Bible together!

## LIFE TO WORD



The second crucial way that we should be making use of the Bible in community is in day-to-day conversation, starting with the everyday happenings of our lives and applying the gospel to those situations. The great thing is that the better we get at moving from "word to life", the better we'll get at moving from "life to word" and the more our communities will be shaped by the gospel of Jesus! So enjoy—make the most of it—and let's watch as God shapes us to be more and more like his glorious Son!



2. For two minutes quietly write down the big idea or main message of the passage. Then each share your thoughts.

*Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...*

3. Have you seen much opposition to the gospel? What effect did it have? How did God continue to work through it?

4. As we'll see in our 1 Thessalonians series, the gospel message preached in Thessalonica had a huge impact on the believers (in spite of the opposition). It grew them into people of hope, love and perseverance. Which of these three characteristics would you most like to grow in and why?

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In what ways has the gospel impacted you (e.g. perhaps in who you are as a person or in the direction of your life)?

*Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...*



## **READ 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10**

1. In v3 Paul thanks God for their “work produced by faith”, “labour prompted by love” and “endurance inspired by hope in Christ”. Why does Paul thank God for these qualities rather than simply saying ‘well done’?

2. What things do you think the ‘work’, ‘labour’ and ‘endurance’ could refer to (also check for possible clues later in the passage)? What would it look like practically for us to exhibit the qualities of vv3-4 in our own context?

3. Why is Paul so confident that God has chosen them?

4. Should we expect evidence in our lives that we have been chosen by God? Or, is it different for us today?

5. Why did the message ring out about them? How is this a wonderful witness to the power and love of God in Jesus?

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6. This passage highlights the power of the gospel message about Jesus to transform lives. On a scale of 1 to 10 how confident are you in the gospel to save and transform?

7. What would help refresh and strengthen your confidence in God and his gospel?

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Have you ever faced opposition for sharing Christ? If so, what was it like?

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## **READ 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12**

1. What strong opposition did Paul face in Philippi and Thessalonica (see Acts 16:16-24 and 17:5-15)? Put yourself in his shoes, what would it have been like to experience that?

2. Why do you think he still 'dared to share' the gospel (v2)?

3. Why did he also dare to share his life with them? (In v8 the ESV translates life as 'our own selves')

4. Why would accusations of flattery and greed be especially damaging to the gospel? What proof does he offer against those accusations?

5. Why use the imagery of both 'father' and 'mother'?

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6. If you are involved in gospel ministry either formal or informal, what would it look like for you to share your very life as well as the gospel? What is most likely to get in the way of that for you?

7. Who is someone you'd like to dare to share the gospel with? Chat and pray for one another about those people, especially in view of Food for Thought (May 24) and Hope Explored (starting June 2).

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What are some different responses you have seen to the word of God?

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## **1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-16**

1. What two ways of receiving the message are contrasted in v13?
2. What was at the heart of the message that Paul and his companions shared (see 1:5-6, 1:9-10, 2:2, 2:8)?
3. Who are the Thessalonians said to be imitators of in vv14-16? (also 1:6)

4. What is the value of imitation in the Christian life and why do we often overlook this?

5. What might Paul mean in v16 when he says, "wrath has come upon them at last"?

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6. In what way do you normally receive God's word - as the words of the Holy God, or as information, or as human words or as something else?

7. How can you stay faithful when facing subtle (not extreme) opposition?

**No DNA study this week!**

**However, please still meet and PRAY.**

Write some PRAISE, CONFESS and ASK prayer points following Food for Thought, then pray them together.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Keep praying and use the following as a guide:

- Ask that the Holy Spirit would move in the hearts of the people of our city - freeing them to turn from idols and to serve the true and living God.
- Ask that those who choose to serve the Lord Jesus would experience a deep sense of purpose, fulfillment and completion.
- Ask that our hearts would long for the return of Jesus.
- Ask that resurrection hope would grant us great confidence about our future, as well as our friends and family who turn to Jesus - our Judge, our King, our Saviour.
- Ask that people will turn to Jesus our great deliverer, so they won't experience the terrible event of the wrath of God.

Now, chat about particular PEOPLE you'd like to see worshipping our King Jesus then spend some time in prayer for them.



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*There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships.  
The only choice we get is what to worship.*

David Foster Wallace

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Is there much heartfelt love in our society? Why/why not?

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## **READ 1 THESSALONIANS 2:17-3:13**

1. (Quick question) Outline the situation. What is the concern in 2:17-3:5? How is it resolved in 3:6-13?
2. Look through the passage. What are all the words or phrases that highlight Paul, Silas and Timothy's intense love and care for the Thessalonians?
3. How would you summarise their heart towards the Thessalonians?
4. Why do they feel this way? (There may be some clues in the passage and also earlier in the book e.g. 1:3, 2:8)

5. What does Paul pray for and encourage them towards in 3:11-13?

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6. Why might we avoid, or not exhibit, the type of love displayed in this passage?

7. What would it look like for your love to 'increase and overflow'?

8. Write a specific prayer asking God to make your love and the love of others in your group increase and overflow. Also thank God for his love to us. Share your prayers with each other.

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Can we do whatever we like in our private lives? What are some different responses people might give to this question?

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## **READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12**

1. What does it mean to please God? Why does Paul give them instructions on how to do this?

2. How do vv3-8 stand in contrast to the way of the world?

3. According to these verses how big of a deal is holiness and sexual purity? How does the emphasis here compare to your personal attitude in this area?

4. What alternative to sexual immorality is described in vv9-10? How do these verses help flesh out the nature of true holiness?

5. Paul puts 'ambition' and 'a quiet life' in the same sentence. Is this an odd combination? What does he mean by a quiet life (see vv11-12)?

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6. The passage is full of instructions for pleasing our saving God. Which thing in this passage would you most like God to change you in and why?

7. In our community life, what will it look like for us to both warn each other of the need to be holy and also meaningfully extend the good news of free grace in Jesus to each other?

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Does our culture lean towards avoiding death or obsessing over it?

Whichever way you answer, what do you think motivates that attitude in people?

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## **READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**

1. Why does Paul write this section (see especially v13)?
2. What does he say will happen in each of vv14-17? Look through the verses one at a time, discuss any questions you might have, but also seek to highlight what is clear from each of them.
  - 14
  - 15
  - 16
  - 17

3. The passage is written as a straightforward statement of facts (e.g. 'this will happen, then that will happen' etc). Why is this significant and what does it communicate?

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4. Paul says "encourage one another with these words" (v18). What will it practically look like for us to do that? How can we grow in speaking the good news to one another?

5. How assured does God want you to be about the future? How can that be a comfort in your specific life circumstances at the moment?

6. If eternity is secure for those in Christ, what in your life becomes less important? What becomes more important?

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Are there particular situations where you are likely to panic and lose your head, or are you usually a level headed person?

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## **READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11**

1. Why are the illustrations of a thief in night (v2) and labour pains used (v3)?
2. How do the illustrations add to the point being made? Are there ways the illustrations could be pushed beyond their intended meaning?
3. In v6 and v8 believers are called to be sober. What does that mean in this context (see v8 especially)? How is that different from what is normally meant by sober?

4. What gospel reasons does Paul give for soberness in vv9-10?

5. In which situations are you most likely to become disoriented or turn to worry rather than living with gospel awareness? What (good news) is God saying to you from this passage?

6. Why does Paul repeat his instruction to 'encourage each other' (see 4:18 and 5:11)?

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7. Are you much of an encourager? How could you grow in encouraging other believers towards gospel joy, love and soberness? (And would you be willing to commit to sending an encouraging letter or message this week?)

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What makes someone easy to live with compared to hard to live with?

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## **READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-28**

1. Why do you think Paul tells the Thessalonians to hold their leaders in 'the highest regard in love'? What does he mean? What doesn't he mean?
2. There are four groups of people in v14 - the idle/disruptive, disheartened, weak and everyone. How should each group be approached differently? Which group do you find hardest to respond faithfully to?
3. At the end of v13 there is a command to 'live in peace with one another'. Does this command better fit as flow on from the first part of v13, or as a lead in to the message of vv14-15?

4. In vv16-22 Paul lists 6 commands. In which of the commands can you already see the Spirit's work in your life? Which would most like to ask God for growth in?

5. What is the good news of vv23-24? How is this especially good news for us in the midst of a chapter full of commands?

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6. What sort of church culture is Paul calling each believer to contribute to across these verses?

7. Have a scan over 1 Thessalonians. What is the one thing from across the series that has been most impactful or memorable for you?



**SOUTHERN CROSS**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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