

1st & 2nd

# THESSALONIANS

Knowing Jesus is coming back, live a life filled with purpose.

## CURRENT THEME:

**Knowing Jesus is coming back, live a life filled with purpose.**

## MARCH MEMORY VERSE

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

• 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV

## APRIL 6 - LIFE APPLICATION

**Don't be idle! Work hard and do good things for others.**

## NOTE TO PARENTS

### Today's Scripture: **2 Thessalonians 3:6-18**

Since January, we have been studying **1st and 2nd Thessalonians**, where we see Paul's letters to the church in Thessalonica. We learned that Paul wrote to the believers telling them how they could live a life that pleases God. Paul encouraged and prayed for the believers, that they would know they have been chosen to bear fruit and that they would stand firm in their faith. He also asked them to pray for him and the others who were spreading the gospel of Jesus, and being persecuted for doing so. This week, Paul commands the church in Thessalonica to work hard, and not to be idle, or lazy.

#### A word from our pastor, David Chadwick:

In these verses, Paul gives one clear command: avoid laziness! There were some people in the Thessalonian church who thought the second coming was going to be soon. Therefore, they did not need to work. They became lazy and expected other Christians to feed and take care of them. Paul says this is wrong.

#### Discuss 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

1. **What does it mean to be idle, or lazy?** (*Discuss.*) **Why is laziness wrong?** (See **Genesis 2:15**)
2. **In verse 6, Paul commands the believers to do what?** (*He tells them to keep away from believers who are idle and disruptive, and who do not follow the teaching they have received from Paul and other ministers.*)
3. **What does he tell them they SHOULD do?** (See **verse 7** - *follow the example of Paul and his friends, because they were not idle when they were in Thessalonica. They worked hard to earn a living and not be dependent on others.*)
4. See **verse 8. How were they a good example?** (*They didn't eat anyone's food without paying for it. They worked night and day so that they would not be a burden on anyone.*)
5. Read **verses 9 and 10 - Why did they do this?** (*To be an example to the believers on what they should do.*) In **verse 10**, Paul reminds them that he had a rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."
6. Read **verses 11 and 12. What does Paul say about people who are idle and disruptive?** (*They are not busy, they are busybodies!*) **What does a busybody**

**do?** *(In their idleness, they can fall into gossip and poke their noses into other people's business.)* That is why they are called disruptive! And, why they should be avoided.

7. Read **verses 14 and 15**. **What does Paul say these idle and disruptive people should do?** *(Settle down and work to earn the food they eat.)* **Is work good for us? What does Paul remind all of us, as believers, to do?** *(To never tire of doing what is good.)*
8. **How does Paul tell the believers who are not idle to treat those who are idle?** *(To avoid them - that they should not associate with them so that they would feel shame.)*
9. **Does Paul say that these idle people are enemies of the believers who work?** *(See **verse 15**. No, he said they should not regard them as enemies, but warn them for their own good because they are fellow believers.)*
10. Read **verse 16**. **What does Paul say to the believers?** *(He prays they will have peace at all times and in every way, and that the Lord will be with them.)*
11. **How does Paul close his letter to the church in Thessalonica?** *(**Verse 17** - he says that the letter is written by his own hand so that they will know it is from him - they will know that this letter is God's Word to them.)*
12. Finally, read **verse 18** out loud to your family. Paul also sends this message to all of us, believers in Jesus.

### **FAMILY CHALLENGE:**

1. **How does it make you feel when you have worked hard and you know you have done a good job?** *(Discuss, giving examples.)*
2. Together, think of a project that your family can do together. It can be work around the house, or helping an elderly neighbor with their yard work. Or, you could volunteer to do a clean-up project at the church or in the community.
3. After you have accomplished the task, talk about it:
  - How did it feel when we were able to do what we set out to so?
  - How does it feel to work hard together? Is it easier than working alone? Why?
4. Establish a "chore chart" and assign daily tasks (age appropriate) for members of the family, like:

- Set the table
- Wipe the countertops
- Load or unload the dishwasher
- Take out the garbage
- Fold clothes
- Wash windows
- Play with a younger sibling for 30 minutes
- Water the garden, pick up sticks, or rake leaves in the yard.
- Do one kind thing for another person

Weekly, re-assign the chores so that everyone is doing something different. For fun, let the kids put a sticker on the chore list as they finish their assignments!

#### **PRAYER:**

*Lord, we know that You created us to work and do good things. Help us not to be idle and lazy. Help us to see what needs to be done at home and for others, and to work together. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*