

1st & 2nd

THESSALONIANS

Stand Strong in the Lord!

THIS MONTH'S THEME:

STAND STRONG IN THE LORD.

JANUARY MEMORY VERSE

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

• 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 NIV

JANUARY 12 - LIFE APPLICATION

A faithful leader is loving, bold, and courageous.

NOTE TO PARENTS

During January to Easter, we will be studying **1st and 2nd Thessalonians**, Paul's letters to the church in Thessalonica. Please see last week's Family Conversation Guide for the background information on Thessalonica. After Paul was driven out of Thessalonica and was preaching in Berea and Corinth, he sent Timothy back to check on the churches, and he came back to report to Paul on how they were doing. Paul was happy with Timothy's report that the church in Thessalonica was standing strong in the faith, no matter what. He wrote the letters to the church that we see in **1st and 2nd Thessalonians** to encourage them.

Discuss 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12, The Faithful Spiritual Leader

1. Read **1 Thessalonians 2:1, 2**. **What does a faithful spiritual leader need to do?** (*Preach the gospel boldly and courageously, even when they face opposition.*) Say: Paul and his followers experienced much persecution. Paul, Silas, and Timothy were even beaten and thrown in jail, and miraculously delivered by an angel from God! Through it all, Paul never stopped telling people about Jesus and preaching the gospel.
2. Read **verses 3-6**. **What else must a faithful pastor do?** (*A faithful pastor teaches the pure word of God, without tricks, greed or flattery. They do not preach to please people or to receive praise for themselves, or to gain authority over people.*) Paul was accused of these things, but all he wanted to do was to live a life that showed the word of God to be true. He could have used the authority given to him by Jesus, but he chose not to. He only wanted to please God, and be faithful to His Word.
3. Read **verses 7-12**. **What must a faithful pastor do for his people?** List together:
 - Love and care for them as a mother does her children
 - Share the gospel and their lives with them
 - Work night and day in order not to be a burden on anyone while presenting the gospel
 - Be holy, righteous, and blameless
 - Deal with his people like a loving father, who wants his children to be righteous, blameless, and pure before God. More than anything, he wants his children to be in the kingdom of God. That's what Paul wanted for the Thessalonians. Notice the importance in having mother and father qualities for a faithful spiritual leader in the church.

A word from our pastor, David Chadwick:

These verses show what a faithful church looks like with a faithful pastor overseeing them. I pray that I am this for MOHC. I have lived my life trying to be a shepherd who loves his sheep, and not use his sheep for his own glory. As we move toward baptisms, may all of Moments of Hope Church people move toward being holy, blameless, and righteous. That is Jesus's will. Baptism expresses this conviction. Under the water, dying to self. Out of the water, being raised to new life in Jesus.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

1. After discussing what a faithful spiritual leader should look like, ask the family if they have leaders, in the church or elsewhere, who have these characteristics. **How do they think faithful pastors should lead their people? Ask what they respect about pastors they know, including David Chadwick?**
2. **How about parents? How should faithful parents lead their families?**
3. Ask your kids what kind of leaders are in their lives right now (teachers, principal, parents, coaches, etc.) **How can they themselves show faithful leadership?** Ask what kind of people they would like to be as they grow up. Ask them to sit alone for a few minutes and write three words that they would like to describe them when they grow up, then share together.

PRAYER

Lord, please help us to love and support our leaders. Bless our pastor, David Chadwick, as he loves our church and leads faithfully. Help us to all lead others in faithfulness and to always give glory to You, not to ourselves. In Jesus' name, Amen.