
Application Guide: 1 Thessalonians 2

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever encountered someone who had just had an accident or was hurt in some way? Did you do anything to help them? What did you do?

- b. How do you think you would respond if someone came and knocked on the door of your house, and they were covered with blood from an accident? Do you think you would be cool under pressure and be able to help them or would you freak out?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: Paul starts this chapter by reminding the people how badly he and Silas had been treated at Philippi (see if you can recite from memory the details of his experience there). Why do you think Paul brings this up when he is writing to the Thessalonians? Do you think it is possible that the Thessalonian believers had helped to care for Paul's and Silas' wounds that may not have been completely healed from their beating in Philippi?

What would you think if an evangelist showed up at your church to preach, and he was covered with sores from a recent beating? Would you easily believe that he was innocent and trustworthy, or would you be skeptical? What do you think made the Thessalonians listen to someone who had just been run out of another town?

Why do you think Paul reminds the people that he and Silas had come to preach to them even though they had suffered so much so recently? Do you think Paul is getting arrogant here, trying to brag about how tough he is? Do you think he had been feeling tempted to quit preaching and go home? Would you have kept going, preaching for free to crowds in which half of the people hated you? How would you deal with the rejection?

Why do you think Paul tells the Thessalonians that God gave Silas and him the courage to keep going? Do think that people being willing to endure such suffering is a sign that there really is a God? Why else would people do this?

 **3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)**

- a. Think about it: What motivates your behavior? Do you do things for rewards of some kind (money, popularity, fun, etc.) or do Biblical principals guide your behavior?
- b. Write a one-page essay in your journal about how you can implement Biblical principals in your decision-making processes rather than just going with what seems good at the time.

 **4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

- a. Pray for God to give you more compassion for those who are suffering. Pray for God to impress you with what you can do for unfortunate people around the world.

 **5. Outreach Idea**

- a. Choose a developing nation that has many suffering people and pray for their situation every day.
- b. Find a local homeless shelter or women's shelter and look into volunteering there. Try to learn as much as you can about people who deal with suffering on a daily basis.