
Application Guide: 1 Thessalonians 3

☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. How does it make you feel to know that there will always be trouble in life, and that you will almost never have a perfect day? Is that discouraging? Why/why not?

- b. How does it make you feel to know that there will never be another problem or difficulty when we get to heaven? Does that sound boring? Why/why not?

☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Paul tells the Thessalonians that he and Silas knew they (the Thessalonians) were destined for “troubles” (vs. 3) when they became Christians. Do you think Paul should have just left those people alone so they could have had more peaceful lives?

Would you rather try to have fun doing whatever you want or follow Jesus and open up the possibility for trouble? Why?

What is the benefit of having Jesus in your life?

How long does “worldly” fun really last?

Do you think it’s possible to follow Jesus and still have fun?

What do you think of Paul’s statement, “That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong” (vs. 1-2). According to Acts, Paul was only in Thessalonica for close to three weeks. Why do you think he felt so close to the people after such a short time?

What does this tell you about Paul’s style of evangelism? Do you think people became Christians because of Paul’s teachings about Jesus or because he cared so much about them—or both? Why?

How do people evangelize at your church? Do they just hire an evangelist to come preach for a few weeks while the church members watch and do nothing, or do church members get involved, go out and make friends with people and show them that they care about them? Which way do you think is more biblical?

What would you say to a church member who thinks he or she is too busy to get involved in evangelism?

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

- a. Have you ever gotten involved in formal evangelism? Why or why not?
- b. Have you ever been involved in informal evangelism? Why or why not?
- c. Do you think being involved in evangelism is an option for Christians, or is it required?
- d. Make a plan for how you think you could most effectively witness to people in a way that is natural for you.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Pray for God to help you recognize opportunities to witness to others.
- b. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the words to say when the opportunity arises.
- c. Pray for Jesus to bring to your mind a person to whom He wants you to be a witness.

5. Outreach Idea

When you have a personal relationship with Jesus and a devotional time every day, you are automatically prepared to be a witness. All you have to do is share with people what you experienced in your devotion that morning and what Jesus means to you. Your testimony is the most powerful and effective witness you have!