
Application Guide: 1 Thessalonians 4

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. What do you think it means to “live a quiet life, minding your own business” (vs. 11)?

- b. Has there ever been a time that someone got involved in your “business” unnecessarily? How did that make you feel?

- c. Do you think there is ever an appropriate time to get involved in someone else’s business?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: In the book of Acts, Paul regularly turned the Pharisees and Sadducees against each other by bringing up the topic of resurrection from the dead. The Pharisees, of whom Paul himself used to be, believed in the resurrection of the dead, but the Sadducees did not. Here in chapter 4, Paul makes a strong statement about this belief. Paul says that he wanted to discuss this topic with the new believers in Thessalonica because he didn’t want them to grieve like people that “have no hope” (vs. 13).

How important is hope in a person’s life here on earth?

What are some things that you hope for?

How do you think you would feel about the death of a loved one if you were an atheist? Why?

How do you feel about the death of a loved one as a believer in Jesus and the resurrection?

Picture it: Imagine you were born into a home that didn't know about God—all you thought about were the things you could hold onto. You spend your life trying to make lots of money, aspiring to have as much fun as you can by buying things and engaging in “fun” activities. Then imagine that you find out that you have cancer and have six months to live. How would you feel? What would you do? What would you say to your family and friends when they find out and are deeply saddened?

How does it feel to know that your loved ones who have died will not go to heaven before you, but that they are waiting to go together with you?

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

- a. Think about someone you love that has died and you know will be in heaven one day. Do you think they would be sad if you weren't there? Why?
- b. Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Do you believe you will go to heaven when Jesus comes back if you were to die right now?
- c. What do you think you need to do to be ready for Jesus to come? Is this something you are willing to take chances on or do you want to be absolutely sure.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Spend time in prayer, searching your heart for what you really believe about Jesus and your commitment to Him.
- b. Think about whether or not your actions are consistent with your beliefs. Does the way you act and treat others prove you are a Christian?
- c. Ask Jesus to show you how to be more committed to Him, keeping in mind that we all make mistakes and are forgiven whenever we ask.
- d. Spend time thanking Jesus for loving you, forgiving you and doing everything He can to help you love and accept Him.