
Application Guide: 2 Thessalonians 3

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever prayed for someone? What did you pray for? Why did you do it? What effect do you think your prayer had?

- b. Do you think prayer is more about getting God to do something for you, or about sharing your life with Him? Why?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

In both of Paul's letters to the Thessalonians, he tells them that he is praying for them. Why do you think he is now asking *them* to pray for *him*? How many people praying for someone is enough? Is more always better?

What do you think Paul means when he says, "may the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God" (vs. 5)? How does the Lord "lead your heart"?

Do you think this means that your heart is more important than your head in spiritual matters?

How are "understanding" and "expression" related?

How does Jesus give you "patient endurance"? Is patient endurance different than patience in general? How?

Why does Paul talk to the Thessalonians about not being lazy? What does that have to do with preaching the Gospel? Do you think an unmotivated person can still love Jesus and be saved? Why or why not?

Why do you think Paul worked so hard, even when he had every right to receive food and shelter from the people to whom he was witnessing? Do you think pastors today should have another full-time job besides being a pastor, like Paul did? How do you think Paul had the ability to do so much? Do you think it makes a difference that he was not married? Why or why not?

Why do you think Paul had to tell the Thessalonians to “never get tired of doing good” (vs. 13)?

Do you think they were already getting worn out? How hard do you think God expects us to work? Do you ever get tired of “doing good”?

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

- a. Think about the impact these study guides have had on your life. Do you feel like you better understand Acts and the Thessalonian epistles? Why or why not? Following the example you have seen here, do you think you can now use this method of study and application on other books of the Bible? Why or why not? With which other book of the Bible would you like to try this?
- b. Do you think these study guides have helped you to be a better person, or have they just increased your knowledge? Why/why not? What do you think it would take to make the Bible come alive in your life?

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Pray for God to give you a greater love of Scripture. Pray for God to impress you with which book of the Bible he would like you to study next.
- b. Pray for God to bring someone into your life with whom you can share the things you’ve learned.
- c. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be in your life and guide you as never before!

5. Project Idea

Form a small group and go back through these application guides. You’ll learn more and live better every time you try—with God’s help!