



HATFIELD  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH

## LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 4 WEEK 7

30 November 2017

### Faith to flourish: Firmly devoted

'Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.'

1 Thessalonians 4:1b (NIV)

#### Icebreaker

What is the most unusual, funny, or helpful advice you have ever received?

#### Introduction

For us as believers to flourish in our faith, Paul gives the advice that we are to grow in a number of things. These are things we need to remind ourselves constantly to practice "more and more" (1 Thessalonians 4:1-2). They are: sexual purity, brotherly love, and a quiet and focused life.

#### Discussion

- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8. The Lord desires for us to be pure when it comes to sexual matters. Here Paul suggests things for us to do:
  - Firstly, there are things we have to **avoid** (adultery, fornication, etc.)
  - Secondly, we have to **control** ourselves (what we think, what we look at, etc.)
  - Thirdly, we have to **respect** others and ourselves as God's temples (to dress and act in a God-honouring manner, not to objectify others, etc.)
  - Remember, that in all of this, the Holy Spirit aids us because we cannot do it 'more and more' on our own.
- Why is it important to God for us to live holy lives?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10. Here, Paul specifically talks about love between Christians, and that we should grow in this. If we are to flourish and survive in our faith, we need to be embedded in a rich network of brotherly love (phileo love) where we care for, look after, support, and cherish all our Christian brothers and sisters.

- What is the special bond that binds Christians to the point where we can call one another 'brother' and 'sister'? Why is it important and necessary for Christians to love one another? How can we practically do this 'more and more'?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12. We are to live in such a way so as to win the respect of outsiders (non-believers).
- How can we work, live, and socialise with non-believers in a way that will earn their respect? People will, for example, respect us if they see that we are hard-working, buoyant, truthful, and reliable - all of which come from the quiet confidence we have on the inside, rooted in our assured hope in Christ.

### **Prayer**

- Ask the Lord to fill you with His Spirit, for it is only through His Spirit that we can grow in purity and holiness.
- Pray that the Lord fills our hearts with His love, care, and concern for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Pray that the Lord will fill and strengthen us in our inner man. (Pray Ephesians 3:16-19 over one another.)
- Pray for the salvation of the people you work or study with.