



HATFIELD
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 4 WEEK 4

9 November 2017

People of faith, hope and love

‘And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.’

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)

Icebreaker

What was the first lifestyle adjustment you made when you became a Christian? How important was faith, hope and love in this process? Share your experience with the group.

Introduction

The faith of the church in Thessalonica¹ flourished despite the difficulties they had to endure. When people came to faith they turned from worshipping idols and changed their lifestyle. This often led to them being ostracised from the society they were once a part of. However, despite these hardships, the church thrived spiritually; growing in faith, hope and love. They demonstrated that holiness is not about withdrawing from life but about doing life in a new and better way: God’s way! The Thessalonians lived in a holy manner through their work of faith, their labour of love, and their enduring hope.

Discussion

- Watch the following seven-minute animated overview of 1 Thessalonians, produced by The Bible Project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=No7Nq6IX23c>.
- Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10. What stands out to you?
Notice how the gospel transforms us: inwardly, firstly showing us how we are ‘loved’ and ‘chosen’ (Verse 4), and then outwardly, in how we live this out (Verse 6-9).
- The work of faith requires us to exercise faith every day. How can we exercise faith to affect the world around us like the Thessalonians did?

¹ Thessalonica would be like a lot of cities and towns we know today – a place with a long history, built in a location with good sea and road transport links, with a thriving economy, and with everything on offer for those who could afford it. Thessalonica was the second largest city in Greece, named after Alexander the Great’s half-sister, Thessaloniki. To see where it is on a map, use this link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Via_Egnatia#/media/File:Via_Egnatia-en.jpg

- The labour of love requires strong, intentional actions of love. How can we move from experiencing God's love to also sharing His love?
- The Thessalonian church lived in the hope of Christ's return and rule. They also extended the same hope to others by living out the Kingdom that is to come. How can you share (words) and show (deeds) the hope that you have?

Prayer

- Pray that we would be intentional in exercising faith, hope and love.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would help us when we are lacking faith, hope, or love.
- Pray that we would become a community with a faith that flourishes regardless of the circumstances.