

Dig Deeper @Home – “Alive and Ascended”

Complement to lesson on 4/6/2025 – “United we Stand”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Fill in the blank: _____ is my pride and joy.
2. If you could get rid of one thing from Spring, what would it be?

MEMORIZE – 1 Thessalonians 5: 9-11

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

READ – 1 Thessalonians 2

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What in these verses is interesting? What is confusing?
 - d. What are the verses revealing about God? What are the verses saying about people?
 - e. In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. According to these verses, what is the source of true joy?
 - a. How does this compare to what our culture says?
 - b. How does this compare to what you thought before reading these verses?
 - c. What keeps you from seeing others as your “glory and joy”(v20)?
3. Look back and see how many times Paul uses the word glory in chapter 2. How are these connected? What is the point Paul is making? How does this differ from the world’s understanding of glory?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Like a father

For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. These are Paul's words to the Thessalonians. Exhort. Encourage. Charge. Pick a different person each day this week to exhort, encourage and charge. Be sure to do all 3 to the same person. You could do this in person, through a text, an email, a handwritten letter. Start with family or a close friend. As the week goes on, ask the Holy Spirit to show you who in your circles would benefit from being exhorted, encouraged and charged and then do it.

SING (or listen to)

O Praise the Name - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqBpifDpNKc>

Holy Forever - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkHgxCemCRk>

Echo Holy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjDkHUj7o0A>

Can't Steal my Joy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8Bu6DRZh6U>

Because He Lives (hymn) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukg2YRIsHWA>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us, for this week.

Sending prayer based on the message:

Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit, thank you for your love. Help me to see those around me as you do Father, to love them sacrificially as you do Jesus, and to exhort, encourage and charge them as you do Holy Spirit.