

**Dig Deeper @Home – “Raised and Returning”
Complement to lesson on 4/26/26 – “Blameless Hearts”**

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

1. What encourages you? What doesn't?
2. If you had a magic wand and could change one thing about your faith, what would it be?

MEMORIZE – 1st 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 – Read 1 Thessalonians 3

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. What is Paul saying afflictions can do to a person?
 - a. What things did Paul do to help the Thessalonians to work through their afflictions? (hint: at least 2 things are listed)
 - b. How does knowing this help you to endure your afflictions and assist someone else in enduring theirs?
3. Why does Paul ask God to make the Thessalonians increase and abound in love?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – “Real and Encouraging”

We sent Timothy to strengthen and encourage you about your faith. Timothy was sent for a purpose. Like Timothy, you are sent for a purpose. You are sent to the places you live, work, study, worship and play. Ask the LORD to show you who from one of these spaces you can strengthen and encourage this week. And then do it. Don't stop with just one. Become a person who regularly strengthens and encourages others.

SING (or listen to)

Sing to the King - <https://youtu.be/biLCWOXgl2Q>

And Can it Be - <https://youtu.be/th7PfDoRmaM?list=TLPQMTAwNDIwMjYGrIHtGzb3vA>

In Christ alone - https://youtu.be/m_063OI38RQ

Yet Not I, But Thru Christ in Me - <https://youtu.be/zundjUFazfg?list=TLPQMTAwNDIwMjYGrIHtGzb3vA>

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:

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.