

SMALL GROUP GUIDE **NOV 8, 2026**

A New Calling

In this message, we explored Paul's description of discipleship and Christian community through his relationship with the church in Thessalonica. Paul reminds believers that healthy community does not happen accidentally; it must be intentionally nurtured through humility, sacrificial care, and spiritual encouragement. Using the images of a child, a nursing mother, and a loving father, Paul paints a picture of what Christ-centered relationships should look like. As followers of Jesus, we are called not only to share the gospel but also to share our lives with one another. When a church embraces this kind of community, its impact extends beyond individuals and influences families, neighborhoods, and future generations.

- Describe a person who had a significant influence on your spiritual growth. What qualities or actions made their impact meaningful?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. In verses 1-6, what stands out to you about Paul's motives and character as he ministered to the Thessalonians?
- Why do you think Paul uses the images of a nursing mother (vv. 7-9) and a loving father (vv. 10-12) to describe discipleship and spiritual leadership?
- What do these verses teach us about the relationship between sharing the gospel and sharing our lives with others?
- Paul describes ministry marked by humility and authenticity rather than masks, flattery, or self-promotion. What "masks" are believers often tempted to wear, and how can Christian community help remove them?
- Who are the people in your life that you intentionally care for and invest in spiritually? Who is currently providing that kind of care and encouragement to you?
- Verse 12 speaks of encouraging others to "live lives worthy of God." How can you lovingly encourage someone toward greater faithfulness while also demonstrating grace and compassion?

Prayer

Pray for humility, openness, and deeper relationships within your church community. Ask God to show you where you need to remove masks, receive care from others, and intentionally invest in the spiritual growth of someone else.

Practice

This week, take one intentional step toward deeper Christian community. Invite someone to share a meal, schedule a conversation with a fellow believer, join a small group gathering, or encourage someone who may be struggling. As you do, seek to embody Paul's example by sharing not only truth but also your life.