

Study Guide



1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 – Turn, Serve, Wait

March 18, 2018

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

This week we take a break from our normal study and hear from the DNOW speaker coming off of DNOW weekend. Our students walked through the idea of Fast Forwarding their life Jesus' return. If he returned at any moment would they be ready? Would they be worshipping idols? Would they be making decisions displeasing to God? Would they be ready for the Lord's return? They looked at and discussed 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 and how the Thessalonians turned from their idols, served the living and true God, and are actively waiting for his coming.

For further study on this weeks study please check out the following pages...

Action Step

Discuss the fact of Jesus coming back and what it looks like turn to God from idols in your life, serve the living and true God, and wait for Jesus to come back. How does this motivate you and encourage you to share your faith?

Calendar

March 4th- April 15th— Connection Group
March 4th- April 15th— Kids Shine
March 16th- 18th— DNOW
April 1st— Easter
June 11th-16th— Youth Camp

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Even So Come](#)":

All of creation
All of the earth
Make straight a highway
A path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner
Wake up the saint
Let every nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Every heart longing for our King
We sing "even so come"
Lord Jesus, come
Even so come
Lord Jesus, come

There will be justice, all will be new
Your name forever, faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon

Oh, like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Every heart longing for our King
We sing "even so come"
Lord Jesus, come
Even so come
Lord Jesus, come

So we wait
We wait for You
God, we wait
You're coming soon

So we wait
We wait for You
God, we wait
You're coming soon

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be at Church, ready for You
Every heart longing for our King, we sing

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be at Church, we'll be ready for You
Every heart longing for our King, we sing "even
so come"
Lord Jesus, come

Even so come
Lord Jesus, come
Even so come
Lord Jesus, come
Even so come
Lord Jesus, come

Commentary: Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

In first Thessalonians, the Thessalonian believers are commended by Paul for their faith. Paul shares how their faith has become an “example to all believers” in the area (1:7) But in Acts 17 we see that was not always the case. Before Acts 17 they were living their lives worshiping idols.. They were worshiping greek gods like Zeus, Poseidon, and Apollos. Mt. Olympus, where the gods “lived”, was only 50 miles south from them in Thessalonica.

In Acts 17, Paul, Silas, and Timothy go to Thessalonica and preach, teach, and answers questions in the Jewish church and throughout town. Paul shares the gospel with people in Thessalonica. He says, this man the Old Testament is talking about, this Messiah, that is going to redeem and save God’s people, this Messiah that will rule over everyone, this Messiah that will usher in a new kingdom, this Messiah that will deliver His people, this Messiah if Jesus. Paul tells them that Jesus is the Christ. He is the one true God. And Paul, Timothy, and Silas continued to teach them the way of Jesus, they continued to teach them the gospel (1 Thess. 1:5). And from Paul’s teaching the power of the Holy Spirit convicted (1 These 1:5) many people and many believed.

We come to 1 Thessalonians and we get a great picture of this conversion and along with some exhortations on how to live in light of Christ’s return. He shares that the Thessalonian believers “turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come” (1 Thess. 1:9-10). Paul has shown us a model of conversion which is invariable. There will, of course, be different idols from which people need to turn, and different forms in which they will express their service of God, but always the break with the past will be decisive ('you turned from idols'), the experience of the present will be liberating ('to serve the living and true God') and the look to the future will be expectant ('to wait for his son from heaven'). And without this turning, serving and waiting one can scarcely claim to have been converted. He also exhorts the Thessalonian believers as you wait, as you serve the true and living God, you must strive to live a life pleasing to Him. Paul points them to the coming of Jesus (5:2) and urges them to be kept blameless (5:23) because one day Jesus will return and He will complete the work that he has started in you (5:24; Philippians 1:6).

Discussion - Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1. Discuss the fact of Jesus coming back and what it looks like turn to God from idols in your life, serve the living and true God, and wait for Jesus to come back. How does this motivate you and encourage you to share your faith?
2. Was there any other takeaways from the sermon? Convictions? Explain.
3. Paul talks about three steps in Christian conversion: “you turned, to serve, and to wait...” (1:9-10). Trace this pattern in your own Christian experience. Where are you in your life now? Do you find yourself turning from idols even now?
4. How should this understanding of conversion shape our witness and evangelism? How does this understanding shape our nurture of new Christians?
5. What guiding principle does Paul give us in Chapter 4:1-2? What are it’s implications?
6. Paul uses two similes to teach about the timing of the Lord’s return. Why do you think he uses similes rather than plain statements? What does each one tell us? (Chapter 5:1-3).
7. In what practical ways can NFCC, your Community Group, do more to demonstrate mutual love and encouragement? (5:11)
8. What does Paul’s concluding prayer teach us about God’s purpose for His people? (5:23-28)

Gospel Resources

1. **Sharing your faith (Article):** (<https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/>)
2. **Life Conversation Guide (Video):** (<https://www.namb.net/video/3-circles-life-conversation-guide>)
3. **Questions about Sharing your Faith (Article):** (<https://jdgrear.com/blog/ask-anything-friday-questions-about-sharing-christ/>)
4. Download the “Life On Mission” App for all iOS and Android devices. This app helps teach and walk you through the 3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide.

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Matthew to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Hub/purchased | Celebrate recovery |
| Young life | Samaritan counseling |
| Heart of hope | Last call ministries |
| First priority | Golden age ministries |
| Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center | Rescue mission |
| Community renewal | Luke's lighthouse |
| Grief counseling | FCA |

Here is a list of missionaries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Shannon & Carrie Lewis (South Sudan)
Matt & Angie Johnson (Panama)
Meggie Hickson (Tanzania)
Kyle & Suzy Jagers (New Orleans)

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Walk

Prayer & Missions

For further information visit
norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared
Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

March 29th- April 1st— NOLA
June— Serve Shreveport
July— Community Outreach