



FOR GOD IS  
**WITH US**  
GROUPS CONTENT  
MAY 14, 2023

**ICE BREAKER QUESTION**  
WHAT THREE QUALITIES MAKE A GOOD MOM?

# GROUPS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

## **READ 1 THESSALONIANS 2:3-16**

3 For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you.4 On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. 5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness.....**CONTINUE READING 1 THESSALONIANS 2:3-16**

- What slanderous attack does Paul refute in verses 3 and 5? How are flattery and greed often motives for false prophets? In your estimation, how many people did Christianity start with?
- How is Paul a faithful steward of the gospel according to verse 4? How does seeing yourself as a steward of God's words and God's people help free us from concern about human opinion?
- What is the difference between flattery and encouragement? Why is flattery such a poisonous tool for evangelists and pastors to use?
- Why does Paul stress so vigorously how little he sought praise from men? How would being overly concerned about human praise cause someone to change his message?

## **READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-18**

12 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you.13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

## **<sup>1</sup>QUESTIONS THIS WEEK TAKEN FROM**

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# DIGGING DEEPER:

## WHAT IS IDLENESS?

### READ 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-15

6 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it...**CONTINUE READING 2 THESS. 3:6-15**

- What issue does Paul address in verses 6-15? Why is idleness such a problem in the life of the church? (6-15)
- Paul addresses the problem of idleness in six steps. What does he first tell the Thessalonians generally about themselves in verses 4-5? How could that relate to the idleness issue of verses 6-15? (4-5)
- What does Paul command the non-idle Thessalonian Christians to do in reference to those who are idle? How is this a powerful form of church discipline? (6)
- How does Paul present his own example as a role model for them to follow? See also 1 Thessalonians 2:9. How is the power of example vital when it comes to an issue like this? (7-9)
- How does Paul refer to the principle he laid down for them? What is that rule? How is obedience to Paul's teaching a strong remedy to idleness? (10)
- How does Paul directly command the idlers among them? What does he command them to do? (11-13)
- What does Paul command in reference to those who may stubbornly disobey his instructions here? What is Paul's goal in this command? (14-15)