

1 Thessalonians 1:1-7

¹ Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you.

² We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. ⁶ You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. ⁷ And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

BIG IDEA

A believer in Jesus is known for their faith, hope, and love.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Let's share fun facts! Go around the circle and let anyone who wants to share a random "fun fact" they have up their sleeve! This could be any random, interesting fact that most people don't know.**

Fun Fact: Tonight, we're beginning our study in the book of Thessalonians. Thessalonians was written to the church in the town of Thessalonica. Did you know that Thessalonica was originally an ancient town named, "Thermai," which actually translates to the name of a city in Arkansas? Guess which one it is! (Hot Springs!)

- 2. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3. Take a moment to figure out the setting and POV as a group.**
 - **Who is writing this? What do we know about him?**
 - **Who is he writing to? What do we know about them?**
 - **What does the writer's intention seem to be? How is that significant?**

Leader Tip: This is a great opportunity to help your kids practice some "Discovery Bible Study" skills. If they have a study bible, have them read some of the notes regarding this section and discuss those notes! Or have them read the summary page for the book! Or take note of certain words and discuss them. Go to this link for a wonderfully helpful video of one of our Mosaic missionary families, The Cole's, doing a "Discovery Bible Study" as a family:

<https://vimeo.com/442835982> .

3. **Read verse 3 again. What are the 3 phrases in verse 3 that Paul uses to define the character of the people in the Thessalonian church?**
4. **What three words are the main ideas of these 3 phrases? (Faith, Hope, Love)
Spend some time as a group breaking down these phrases and especially the significance of Faith, Hope, and Love in the Christian life.**

Theological Thought: This concise statement about the Thessalonian church is known as a brief definition of true Christianity. These three Christian virtues—faith, love, and hope—occupy a large place in Christian responsibility. Early in the life of the church, the expectation was that in every life faith would work (Gal 5:6; James 2:18), love would labor (Rev 2:2, 4), and hope would endure (Rom 5:2-4; 8:24, 25).

5. **Read verses 4-5. What do these verses tell us comes with the Holy Spirit?
Have you ever felt deep conviction before? Tell us about it.**
6. **Read verses 6-7. What do these verses tell us a true model of Christ to other believers looks like? Have you ever experienced joy from the Holy Spirit amid suffering?**
7. **Would your parents or leaders describe you as a good example to other believers?
How do you feel God calling you to step out either in Faith, Hope, or Love?**