



Gospel | The Gospel Transforms Leadership | 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

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This week we continue working our way through Paul’s first letter to the church in Thessalonica. We are going to continue to practice the habit of reading large chunks of Scripture in order to better understand Paul’s entire message to this church and how it might transform our lives today.

**Read 1 Thessalonians chapters 1 & 2.**  
**In 1 Thessalonians, Paul doesn’t use the term “discipleship,” instead he talks about imitation. What do you notice from chapters 1 and 2 about the idea of imitation and how that relates to discipleship?**

*“A disciple is a learner, a student, an apprentice – a practitioner.” –Dallas Willard*

**Have you ever thought about “discipleship” outside of the context of Christianity? Have you ever considered that you could be discipled by something other than Jesus?** A good way to assess whether you are being discipled by Jesus or by something else, is to look at your life and ask the question “Who am I imitating?”

(For example, are you repeating the talking points you hear on a particular news broadcast in everyday conversation? Is there someone on social media who is influencing your schedule or life? These are both examples of discipleship.)

**Take 5-10 minutes of silent reflection to assess your daily life and ask the question, “Who do I imitate?”**

David Swanson provides a simple, but helpful definition of discipleship when he writes that discipleship is *“following Jesus, to become like Jesus, in order to do what Jesus does.”* This sounds a lot like Paul’s idea of imitation.

**Think through the stories of Jesus in the Gospel narratives. What is your favorite story about Jesus? As you share, think about the kinds of things Jesus DOES in these stories. What would it look like for you to intentionally pursue discipleship with Jesus by imitating Him this week?**

PRACTICING THE SPIRITUAL RHYTHMS THIS WEEK  
As you identify the things or people that you find yourself imitating, **consider practicing the spiritual rhythm of *FASTING* from whatever it is that is discipling you other than Jesus.** Remember that the emphasis isn’t only on abstaining from something. The point is to remove something from your daily habits in order to create space for your discipleship/apprenticeship to Jesus.

**Connect DAILY** [clarity2020.org](http://clarity2020.org)

**Sunday** 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

**Monday** 1 Corinthians 14:1-40;  
Psalm 119:113-120; Proverbs 26:16-18

**Tuesday** 1 Corinthians 15:1-34;  
Psalm 119:121-128; Proverbs 26:19-22

**Wednesday** 1 Corinthians 15:35-58;  
Psalm 119:129-136; Proverbs 26:23-26

**Thursday** 1 Corinthians 16:1-24;  
Psalm 119:137-144; Proverbs 26:27-28

**Friday** 2 Corinthians 1:1-2:4;  
Psalm 119:145-152; Proverbs 27:1-4

**Saturday** 2 Corinthians 2:5-3:18;  
Psalm 119:153-160; Proverbs 27:5-7