



# TLC Study Guide for November 17

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** Living in community takes a lot of work! And if we are honest with ourselves, it is too much for us to handle. Thankfully, it is the Lord who provides us with the gifts we need to live in community. He works in us what He commands we do. Our ability to live in community does not come from ourselves – and all glory goes to God!

## **Getting Started:**

1. What is something you have rejoiced over recently?
2. What is something you have prayed about lately?

## **In the Word: Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14-24**

3. This is quite the list of instructions that Paul gives the Thessalonians so they can live together in Christian community. How many “commands” or specific instructions can you count in these verses?
4. Is it really our duty to “warn those who are idle and disruptive”? What does that look like?
5. Do you have any examples of people “encouraging the disheartened” or “helping the weak”?
6. How are “rejoice always” “pray continually” and “give thanks in all circumstances” related to each other in the Christian life? (vs. 15-18)
7. What things “quench the Spirit” of God? (vs. 19)
8. The instructions in verses 14-22 are imperatives, that is, commands that we are supposed to do. They are things Paul “urges” us to do. But in verses 23-24, the verbs (action words) change, and the doer of the action words changes, too. What is the shift that happens in verses 23-24?

9. Compare what Paul said earlier in the first part of 1 Thessalonians 4:3 with what he says in 1 Thessalonians 5:23. How do you relate these two verses?
  
10. It all comes down to verse 24 of chapter 5, where Paul reveals how we are going to accomplish the commands he has laid down. Who is it ultimately that is working in us?

### **Putting it All Together**

11. Of the instructions given in 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22, which ones are the most challenging for you?
  
12. How does it help us to live the Christian life knowing the comfort of verse 24, and God's action and work in our life?
  
13. What have you seen God doing and accomplishing in your life lately?

**Prayer:** Thank God for doing His good work in us and through us. Thank Him for His amazing grace that forgives us of our sins and helps us to lead a life pleasing to Him. Ask Him to help you rejoice, pray, and give thanks, and to rest in His power and presence. Pray for those who need to know that power and presence in their lives, too.

**Next Week: Christ the King Sunday – the Last Sunday of the Church Year, is about recognizing Jesus' place in our lives, our hearts, God's redemption story, and all of creation. It is also our New Member Sunday, where we welcome families to our church family at the 10:45 service, including 5 baptisms!**

**Family Service Sunday: Join us at 9:30 on November 24 during Education Hour to help pack Thanksgiving baskets, make cards for shut-ins, tie blankets for shelters, and more! This is a great inter-generational event for all ages, members and visitors alike that you won't want to miss.**