



Small Group Study Guide for October 18, 2020

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Heart issues are Hard issues! Yet Jesus brings healing for deep affliction. There is a Christian model for working through heart issues together, with the Holy Spirit guiding our hearts and minds.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. Who are some of your role models? These are people that you look up to, or at least you admire certain aspects of their life that you would like to emulate.
2. Is there anyone that you are serving as a model for? In other words, are there people that you are trying to intentionally encourage and guide? Maybe younger people or family members? Parents, you are an obvious model for your kids!

In the Word: Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (a closer look at the text)

3. Verse three contains three important aspects of the Christian life – three things that God works in our hearts and lives by the Spirit. Identify them and circle them in your Bibles.
4. This passage also demonstrates the work of our Triune God for our salvation. Underline the references to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
5. Verse 4 clearly states how we are saved. Is it because we choose God, or make a decision to follow Him? What is the cause of our salvation in verse 4?
6. The Thessalonians received the message of Christ with great joy. Does this mean that their life was going pretty well at the time? What does it say about that in verse 6?
7. There are three key verbs in the description of their amazing faith in verse 9 and 10. Read those verses again and underline these key words: turned..., serve..., wait... And talk about how those three words or phrases reflect our Christian faith.

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

8. How have you seen people demonstrating faith, hope, and love during this pandemic? We would all agree we need more of those!

9. Notice that the Thessalonians first imitated the apostle Paul, Silas, and Timothy, and then they served as a model. We are always imitating and modeling. How does this process of imitating others and modeling for others relate to the process of making disciples in the church? Give both general examples and examples of where you see this happening in our church family.

10. The Thessalonians turned from idols to serve the true and living God. There are people around us of other faiths and religions who currently serve idols and false gods. We pray they turn from them and receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ – the One True God. There are also people around us who serve more “worldly” idols rather than the true God. What are some of the idols that people serve instead of the Lord?

11. How have the past five weeks of messages given you insights or new ways to think about the social struggles we have in our country, our racial strife, or the hard issues we wrestle with?

12. Waiting for Jesus’ return means having faith in His promises, hope that it will all come to fulfillment, and patience as we bear our crosses in the meantime. Waiting for Jesus’ return means we acknowledge that the way things are is not how things should be. It is also not how things will stay. While there are many good things in God’s creation that we enjoy, what are some of the things that we are “waiting for Jesus’ return” so that they will be no more?

13. To close, read the glimpse of Jesus’ return that the Lord gives in **Revelation 21:1-7**. Jesus saves us from the coming wrath and brings us newness of life! And in time, He will bring us to the new heavens and new earth when He makes all things new.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to fill our hearts, our homes, and our church with faith, hope, and love, and more and more as we go through these crazy time. Pray for our neighbors and our nation, and that people would turn from the idols that consume us, and turn to the true and living God.

Next Week: We conclude our preaching series “Heart Issues are Hard Issues” with a final message from Pastor Yang, called “Healing for Deep Affliction.” Be sure to invite people to worship either in person or online as we share the Good News with all people!