

READING PLAN + STUDY QUESTIONS

1+2 Thessalonians

READING PLAN OVERVIEW

- **SESSION 1:** 1 THESSALONIANS 1-5
 - WALKING IN FAITH
- **SESSION 2:** 2 THESSALONIANS 1-3
 - STAND FIRM UNTIL THE RETURN OF JESUS

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

- 1. READ THE GENRE + BOOK OVERVIEW ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE**
- 2. READ THE CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE FOR EACH SESSION**
- 3. READ THE CHAPTER SUMMARIES ON [EVERYDAYSCRIPTURE.ORG](https://everydayscripture.org)**
- 4. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS + REFLECT ON THE READING**

This study encourages going at your own pace, allowing each session to be a day, a week, or however long you need. Each session contains questions to be used for individual reflection or small group discussion.

This study was made to be used alongside Bible reading. Although we have created chapter summaries, there is no substitute for reading God's Word.

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- What type of literature is this book of the Bible? Does that affect the interpretation?
- Who is the intended audience of this book? What purpose does it serve?
- What does this passage of Scripture reveal about God's character?
- What can I learn from this Scripture passage? How does it apply today?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Everyday Scripture: 1 + 2 Thessalonians](#)
- [Everyday Scripture: New Testament Letters](#)
- [The Bible Project: 1 Thessalonians Overview Video](#)
- [The Bible Project: 2 Thessalonians Overview Video](#)

GENRE OVERVIEW: NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

The news of Jesus was spreading rapidly! Paul, Peter, and some of the other apostles used letters to communicate with believers in churches all over the world. After seeing the resurrected Jesus, the apostles were on a mission to share the gospel with all people. Because Paul and the other writers experienced God's power dramatically, they were able to boldly declare their faith in Christ.

The apostle Paul traveled throughout the Roman Empire and Asia Minor to preach the gospel and plant churches. Many of the New Testament letters are addressed to groups of people or individuals that Paul met along the way. Other disciples of Jesus, including Peter, John, James, and Jude, also wrote letters to churches. These letters provide a glimpse into life in the first century and serve as a reminder of Jesus' teaching.

Although many of these letters include encouragement and praise, others offer warning or concern. Because Christians were facing great persecution, these letters served as a source of hope and renewal of faith along with caution against false teachers. Because the ability to read was uncommon and writing supplies were expensive, these letters were considered very valuable and were typically read aloud for the community of believers to hear.

BOOK OVERVIEW: 1 + 2 THESSALONIANS

After visiting the city of Thessalonica to share the message of Jesus (Acts 17), Paul, Silas, and Timothy followed up with the Jewish and Greek people who believed in Jesus and became the church in Thessalonica. Because the news of Jesus's death and resurrection was seen as controversial, the Christians in Thessalonica faced persecution and rejection.

Paul wrote two letters to the believers in Thessalonians, encouraging them to remain steadfast in faith despite persecution and trials. Paul also provided clarity around his message, specifically around the unknown timing of Jesus' eventual return. While they anticipated Christ's return, Paul urged them to be sanctified (made more like Jesus) by the work of the Holy Spirit. Paul deeply loved the people in Thessalonica and desired to see them again.

SESSION ONE: 1 THESSALONIANS 1–5

WALKING IN FAITH

- What three qualities of the Thessalonians did Paul remember and praise (1 Thessalonians 1:3)?
- What does it mean to imitate Christ? How can one practically do this (1 Thessalonians 1:6)?
- By sharing the gospel, who were the apostles aiming to please? How would this impact their delivery of the news of Jesus (1 Thessalonians 2:4)?
- How did the apostles remove barriers for the Thessalonians when sharing the gospel with them (1 Thessalonians 2:9)?
- In 1 Thessalonians 3, what news did Timothy report back to Paul?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1–12. What are some effects of walking in the faith?
- Based on 1 Thessalonians 4:13, how is grief surrounding death different for believers in Jesus? What does it mean to grieve without hope?
- When preparing believers for the return of Jesus, Paul told them to remain awake. What does it look like to be “spiritually awake”?

SESSION TWO: 2 THESSALONIANS 1–3

STAND FIRM UNTIL THE RETURN OF JESUS

- What does 2 Thessalonians 1:5–9 reveal about God’s judgment?
- Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12. What does it mean to be “worthy of the calling”?
 - In these verses, what did Paul pray for the believers in Thessalonica?
- Based on 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12, how will believers know that the return of Christ is near? What has to happen first?
- In your own words, summarize Paul’s important statement in 2 Thessalonians 2:13–15.
- According to 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17, what does God provide?
- In 2 Thessalonians 3, how did Paul warn against idleness and laziness?
- How did Paul encourage the believers in 2 Thessalonians 3:13? What does it mean to grow weary in doing good? How have you experienced this?