



Group Discussion and Application

1. In these days of cell phones, e-mail, text & instant messaging we do far less letter writing than in previous times. What are the results of this change?
2. Why is knowledge of the context and background of a Biblical text important to a correct understanding of the content?
3. What background information did you learn about the letter to the Thessalonians that you think will be important to understanding it properly?
4. Locate Thessalonica on your Bible map. Then trace Paul's moves (Berea, Athens, Corinth) following his time in Thessalonica.
5. Why is "*Grace and peace*" such a fitting salutation for Paul's letters?
6. 1 Thessalonians is a very old letter. How can we insure that our applications are appropriate (not over-spiritualized, forced, etc.)?
7. What questions do you have about Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians?



Personal Reflection and Response

1. As preparation for our studies, read 1 Thessalonians and Acts 15:36-18:5.
2. Read about the city of Thessalonica in a Bible dictionary/encyclopedia.



Family Homework

1. How do you like to communicate with friends when you cannot be with them personally? Why is this your preferred mode of communication?
2. Read Acts 15:36-18:5.
3. Trace Paul's second missionary journey on your Bible map and note the location of Thessalonica.



Overview of an Old Letter

1 Thessalonians 1:1

1

Author: Who wrote the letter?

2

Recipients: Who received the letter?

3

Date & Setting: When was the letter written & under what circumstances?

4

Content & Purpose: What was written and why?