

THIS IS TEAM WORK

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

OVERVIEW

- What is the ultimate foundation of genuine biblical Christianity?
- What three ways did the people from Thessalonica show this genuine biblical Christianity?
- **Read John 14:1 and John 14:15-18.**
- How do we see teamwork in these verses?
- What is Paul telling the Thessalonians in **1 Thess. 2:17** about being “torn away from you?”
- **Read 1 Thess. 2:18.**
- What was the spiritual battle that was going on?
- What can we learn from this for our own lives today?

Paul works together WITH TIMOTHY

1 Thess. 3:1-9

- Paul starts this part of the letter by using the word, “THEREFORE.”
He is referring back to **1 Thess. 2:17-20**. What do we learn about the problem Paul, (with Silas and Timothy) had and his heart for the Thessalonians?
- How did Paul solve this problem?
- How did Paul describe Timothy in **v. 2** that shows faith in him?
- Pastor shared the Greek word SUNERGUS which is where we get our word SYNERGY.
How would you define the word synergy.

- How did Paul put this word into action?
What do we learn about teamwork and what Paul is saying when we read **1Thess. 3:2**?
- Many think that God did not need Timothy, He could do it alone. What are the two important spiritual truths Pastor mentioned that we need to understand to help us?
- Even though Paul was not with Timothy, how did they work as a team?
- What do we learn from **verse 5** about Paul's concerns?
- We also face afflictions, trials and persecution. What do we need to do as we face these trials?
- What good news did Timothy bring Paul about his visit to Thessalonica?
- What is Paul telling us about teamwork as we read the report on Timothy's visit in **1 Thess. 3:6-9**?

Paul works together WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER

1 Thess. 3:9-13.

- On the last verses of Chapter 3, Paul teaches us how to work together with God through prayer.

What are the three requests he has for the believers in Thessalonica?

- Pray for a _____ (vs. 9-10)
- Pray for God's _____ (v.11)
- Pray for God's _____ (v.12)
- Explain the horizontal and vertical teamwork we see in Chapter 3 between Paul, Timothy and God.

APPLICATION

- Has there been anyone in your life who has strengthened you and encouraged you in your faith?
- Have you had the opportunity to strengthen and encourage another person to grow spiritually?
- Do you understand that suffering and trials are part of the Christian life?
- How can we work with God in teamwork through these trials?
- Like Paul, do you pray "night and day" for opportunities to help others mature in Christ. If not, what is the first step you can take to increase your sense of zeal and urgency to help others grow in Christ?