

## HOW IS YOUR JOURNEY GOING?

### Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website [www.vcfj.org](http://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

Pastor asked us to take an exam on where we were 11 months ago on our journey with the Lord.

- How has your life changed during the past 11 months?

### The Journey to Greatness HAS ITS DEMANDS

#### *1 Thess. 5:12-13*

- Why did Paul write the letter to the Thessalonians?
- What two things is Paul requesting the Christians to do in their relationship with their spiritual leaders? (*vv. 12-13*)
- What did Pastor say was the most unpleasant thing for church leaders to do and why?
- What does Paul say about how to appoint elders in the church he planted? (*Acts 14:23*).
- What were the leaders primarily responsible for?
- Was Paul talking to just Pastors? If not who else was he talking to?
- How are we to trust "the people who labor, lead and invest in us?"
- What do we learn from *1 Timothy 5:17* about elders and their roles?

### The Journey to Greatness HAS ITS OBLIGATIONS.

#### *1 Thess. 5:14-15*

- What does Paul mean by the statement, "Be at peace among yourselves?" (*Romans 12:18 and Eph. 4:1-3*)
- In *verses 14-15* Paul gave us five obligations we have and how we are to do them.

- Discuss each one:
  - Admonish the idle (*v. 14*)
  - Encourage the fainthearted (*v. 14*)
  - Help the weak (*v 14*)
  - Be patient with them all (*v 14*)
  - Refuse to retaliate when mistreated (*v 15*)
  - What two things does Jesus tell us to do in *Matt 5:43-44*?

### The Journey to Greatness HAS ITS PROMISES.

#### *1 Thess. 5:16-28*

- What is the promise we read in *vv. 23-24*?
- Discuss the advice Paul is giving us in *verses 16-22*?
- Pray without ceasing
- Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Jesus Christ for you
  - Do not quench the Spirit
  - Do not despise prophecies, but test everything
  - Hold fast what is good
  - Abstain from every form of evil
- How can we use this advice in our own Journey to Greatness?

### APPLICATION

- How do you express your love and appreciation to our church leaders for all they do?
- When other people say critical things about our church leaders, how do you respond?
- How are you ministering to the different types of people at Victory Christian Fellowship?
- Is it hard for you to forgive those who sin against you? (*v.15*)
- How do you fulfill the commandments of contentment, prayer and gratitude, even if you don't feel like it? (*vv.16-18*)
- How can you learn to discern truth from errors when people share God's word? (*vv.19-23*)