

THE GIFT OF PRESENCE

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

November 5, 2023



INSTRUCTIONS:

Use these questions for your own personal study, and/or with your Small Group:

- Begin your discussion with the opening question. Encourage everyone to share, briefly.
- The format for this series will focus on the following three components:
 - **KNOW: What do we need to KNOW about God?** We are to know Jesus, Scripture, and the voice of the Holy Spirit.
 - **BE: Who are we called to BE?** We are to become more like Jesus (character, heart, and motivations)
 - **DO: What should we DO?** Knowing Jesus and becoming more like Him will change our actions. ecoming more like Him will change our actions.
- **PRAYER FOCUS:** Use the prayer prompt to guide your prayer time at the end. Pray as an individual, group, or consider sub-grouping into smaller men/women groups.

BEFORE YOUR GROUP MEETS:

- Encourage members to review the questions BEFORE group, so that they are prepared to share.
- Select a few key questions. You don't need to ask every question! Choose the ones that will bring out the most discussion in your group.

OPENING QUESTION: Share a time when someone showed up for you and was present, or when they didn't. How did that situation affect you?

1. KNOW

- In this week's passage, what do you learn about God's character?
- What does the Scripture say? Is there an encouragement / warning? Is there a conviction or guidance?
- How does the passage of 1 Thessalonians encourage us when we are sharing with others? Does anything surprise you about these verses from the letter that Paul wrote?

2. BE

- Examine your life: how are you doing in relation to experiencing God's presence in your life, and freely giving your presence to others, as God has done to you?
- How does this passage challenge you to change?
- **Read Matthew 10:5-8.** What was significant about what Jesus was asking the disciples to do? What else sticks out to you from this passage in Matthew?

3. DO

- Who is someone that God is calling you to freely give your presence to?
- What is one action step you can take in obedience this week?

PRAYER FOCUS: In prayer, thank God for what He has freely given to you. Then, pray for the people that He is calling you to freely give your presence to. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be obedient and bold in responding this week.