

Small Group Discussion Guide — Read 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

- Joshua said that our passage really function as a “turning point” in this letter. How do vs. 6-10 summarize what has been on Paul’s heart since 1:2 and his past experience with the Thessalonians? How does Paul’s prayer in vs. 11-13 prepare us for the upcoming themes in the remainder of the letter: holiness (4:1-8), love (4:9-12), and the second coming of Christ (4:13-5:11)?
- In what ways have you found it difficult to pray? Where do you struggle the most in your prayer life? Where have you seen the greatest successes or growth in your prayer life?
- In what ways does this passage show Paul’s passion for the local church? Where should the local church rank in our life, prayers, and our pursuits? In what ways have you been freshly convicted by this passage to give yourself more fully to our church and to one another?
- According to this passage, what is Paul’s source of joy? What is yours? How is our source of joy likely related to what we pray for?
- What are some ways we can personally apply Paul’s practice here of thanking God for His grace at work in one another’s lives, and then encouraging one another by telling each other that we are doing so, and how we see Him at work? Is that a normal habit in your life? If not, how can you make it so?
- **Small Group Exercise** — lets take a few moments and express to one another ways in which we have prayed for one another, and the evidences of God’s grace we see at work in each other’s lives.
- What is the aim of Paul’s prayer? How would fixing our gaze on the return of Christ change the way we pray? Based on this prayer, what are the specific things that we should be praying for one another?