

## Small Group Discussion Guide (11.20.22) – Read 1 Thess 1:1-5

---

- How and when did you come to know and understand the doctrine of sovereign election? What struggles have you had, or do you still have with this doctrine? How have you witnessed this doctrine handled among Christians?
- Joshua gave six things the Bible teaches us about the doctrine of election. Do you remember what those six things were, and did any of them stand out to you, and why?
- According to vs. 4, what was the basis or the reason for God's sovereign choice of us? How should the love of God give us great assurance when we consider why God would have chosen us in eternity past?
- According to vs. 5, what was the evidence of God's sovereign choice of these Thessalonian believers? Why is this a necessary evidence for all Christians in order to confirm that our election is true?
- How would you describe the difference between the "general call" (described in vs. 5a) and the "effectual call" (described in vs. 5b)? Why is it important to distinguish between these two "calls"? How are both of them necessary and important?
- Would anyone like to share how this happened in your life at your conversion?
- What are some practical purposes for the doctrine of election in our lives now? Why does Paul remind the Thessalonians of this doctrine here? What effect is it intended to have on them, and on us?
- How might we as a small group turn vs. 4-5 into a prayer to God?