

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. We were not looking for praise from

people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom

and strengthen that you will and holy in the presence of our God when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. It is God's will that you should avoid sexual immorality. And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and your hands, you. Brothers do not want

ry. May he who hears so be blameless the presence of our Father and Lord Jesus hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will

be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ. Do not quench the Spirit. For God did not appoint us

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Objectives: We want to learn more about living in Christian community. Specifically we want to learn how to relate to our leaders, others in the community and to God.

Launch:

What are essential elements to a great Christian community? OR What are things that tend to kill Christian community?

Explore: 1 Thess. 5:12-5:28

Paul is wrapping up his letter with some specific instructions to the community of believers in Thessalonica. Remember that this is a very young church in the Lord. All the believers were new, including the leaders! We are going to break this passage down into a few parts...

Read 5:12-13

- What commands does Paul give the Thessalonians in regard to their church leaders? (*Respect them, esteem them very highly in love, be at peace among yourselves*)
- Why are they to “esteem them very highly in love”?
- Does that mean that they are to esteem or respect those who they don't think are great leaders? Why or why not?
- Who are spiritual leaders in your life?
- What would it look like to respect them and “esteem them very highly in love”?
- In what ways are you already doing this? In what ways are you not doing this?
- What can you do this week to show your love and respect to your spiritual leaders?
- What does living at peace with each other have to do with what Paul asks us to do?

Read 5:14-15

These verses talk about life with others in our community.

- What do you learn about relating to others in your community?
- How can you specifically apply these verses at MSU?
- What is hard to live out about these verses?

Read 5:16-22

These verses talk about how we are to relate with God in worship.

- How does a person pray continually?
- Paul urges the Thessalonians to “give thanks in all circumstances.” What is the significance of Paul using the word “in” as opposed to “for?”
- What are some circumstances you know about these believers that could make it hard to give thanks in?
- Complaining about our circumstances is a cultural norm. What can we do to live counter culturally? How can we help one another do this?
- As you look at Paul’s instructions in these verses, which one is the biggest challenge for you?
- What steps can you take this summer to grow in that?

Read 5:23-24

- How does this prayer fit in with this section?
- How does this prayer fit in with the whole section of 4:1-5:22?
- What is the goal for us in this prayer?
- What is God’s role in this prayer?
- What encourages you from this prayer?

Apply: (at least 15 minutes)

- What is one application you are taking from this passage?
- Is there anything concrete you can do about it this week?