

Week #5 - Compassion for Outsiders

I Thessalonians 4:9-12 and Compassion

Weekly Study Guide:

Day 1	Read and Listen	Read or listen to I Thessalonians 4:9-12.
Day 2	Read and Copy	Read and copy I Thessalonians 4:9-12 onto a plain piece of paper leaving a large margin for notes later this week.
Day 3	Observe and Ponder	<p>Read I Thessalonians 4:9-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make at least three observations of the text and write in your margin. ● Using your observations, write out one question you might have in response to it. If you cannot answer it, bring it to the group to share. ● Continue to mark the familial terms in this passage (brothers, etc.). ● Draw a small heart above the word love. Using an interlinear bible (you can find one on blue letter bible under tools), write the definition of the word love in the margins. Hint: There are two different words for love used in this passage. How are the two related and different? ● Along with urging the Thessalonians to grow in their love for each other, Paul also urges them to do what? Mark the different elements of how they are to live with numbers 1, 2, 3. ● Draw an arrow to the two reasons why they are to live out numbers 1, 2, 3 from the previous verse.
Day 4	Memorize and Meditate	<p>Take time today to read through I Thessalonians 4:9-12 again, maybe even in a different translation, and make note of what you learn about your God from the text.</p> <p>Memorize: Pick a verse from this passage to hide in your heart this week.</p>
Day 5	Practice and Pray	<p>Re-read I Thessalonians 4:9-12 once more and write a one sentence summary of the passage at the bottom of your handwritten page.</p> <p>Take some time today to complete the Learning chapter in the UFC Discipleship Handbook if you have not already done so.</p> <p>In your prayer time, consider starting with one thing to praise our God for that learned about Him in this chapter.</p>

For Discussion:

2. Look up the definition of love and compassion in the dictionary. If you were talking to a small child, how would you describe love and compassion to them?

3. Paul praises the Thessalonians for their love for each other and encourages them to continue to grow in the area of loving others. How did the Thessalonians learn to love others?

4. Out of love for others, Paul urges the Thessalonians in ways to walk properly before outsiders. What are the three things that he urges them to do? How does that show love and compassion towards outsiders?
5. *Read John 8:1-11. What do you observe about the way Jesus showed compassion? How might that apply to how we view our neighbors?

Put into Practice

1. *Share how you've practiced loving your neighbors in the past. When did it go well and when did it not go well? What tensions arise when you think about showing the compassion of Christ to those around you?
2. *Pick three words that describe your city or neighborhood. How do those values compare with Christ?
3. *Consider your literal, next-door neighbors. What type of relationship do you have with them? What would it look like for you to immerse yourself in their lives and show the love of Christ?

Prayer:

One of the gifts that we have that we can give one another is to hold each other up in prayer. Record ways that you can be praying for your sisters this week and then pray for them this week.
