

Weekend of July 16 & 19 | The Good News in Suffering: LEADER GUIDE

Hey Small Group Leaders! Welcome to week one of “Some Good News” as we dig into studying the book of 1 Thessalonians. This is the last series of our Summer 2020 Term before we take a break until Fall Term at the end of September. **The last week of lessons will be August 2-8.**

And we want to celebrate churchwide all the good things your Small Groups have been doing! Please send your Small Groups Pastor any photos or video clips of your Small Group showing ways you’ve been reaching out in your communities and being a BLESSing throughout the first half of this year. The Creative Arts and Worship team will be highlighting these stories in a special element planned for the weekend of Aug 2.

Ice Breaker:

Start your group off with some laughter! What’s something funny that’s happened to you?

Weekly Check-In:

- Have your group share what God has been teaching them through the Bible.
- Follow-up from last week’s challenge to bake some cookies. How did that go?

Group Interactive:

Read together as a Small Group Acts 17 to hear the background story of the Thessalonians. Unpack with your group what you read and how the people responded to the Good News of Jesus.

Scripture and Discussion Questions:

The flow of this week lesson is:

- The Thessalonians experienced suffering.
- They choose to believe in the Good News of Jesus in the midst of that suffering.
- The Good News or Gospel leads to unshakable joy, inspired hope, and freedom from idols (things we think will give us peace/comfort/strength).
- We have the same choice today to put our trust in Jesus’ Good News.

Our world has been full of plenty of bad news. Being focused on the good news doesn’t mean you deny the bad news, but it does mean you don’t live your life defined by it.

How is the Bible still relevant today in our culture? How does believing the Good News of Jesus make a difference in how we feel about the world and news around us?

When our joy is based on our situations, when our situations change, our joy will be shaken.

Building our lives on the foundation of Jesus leads to unshakable joy and enduring faith. We learn to get rid of the things that don’t really give us peace or security and instead cling to what Jesus says is true. Biblical hope leads to endurance because it is based on God’s faithfulness.

Next Steps:

We all have next steps to take in putting the gospel into action in our hearts, minds, and lives. Have your group take a look at The Nine, our 2|42 Discipleship Strategy.

Look at the breakdown of each square on the 3rd page of the lesson and talk about examples of next steps for each square. Encourage everyone in your group to identify a possible next step for their lives. Write these down so that you can be praying for your Small Group and also helping them as they take this next step.

For those in your group praying about stepping into a leadership role at 2|42, have them sign up for the next round of the online **LeadOut class August 26 & 27.**



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Ice Breaker Question:

- **We all need some good news! Share a funny story of something that's happened to you this past year.**

Weekly Check In

- **What has God been teaching you in your Daily Encounter this past week?**
- **How have you been able to be a BLESSing to those in your life?**

This Week's Big Idea: Choosing to believe the Good News of Jesus brings freedom, unshakable joy, & inspired hope.

What do you remember most, or what stuck with you from the weekend's teaching?

Group Interactive (10-15 minutes):

Read aloud together Acts 17|1-15 and discuss the following questions:

- What was the Good News message that Paul brought to the Thessalonians?
- How did people respond positively? How did people respond negatively?
- Why do you think these believers held onto their new faith in the midst of suffering?

Scripture and Discussion Questions:

1 Peter 1|3-9 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled

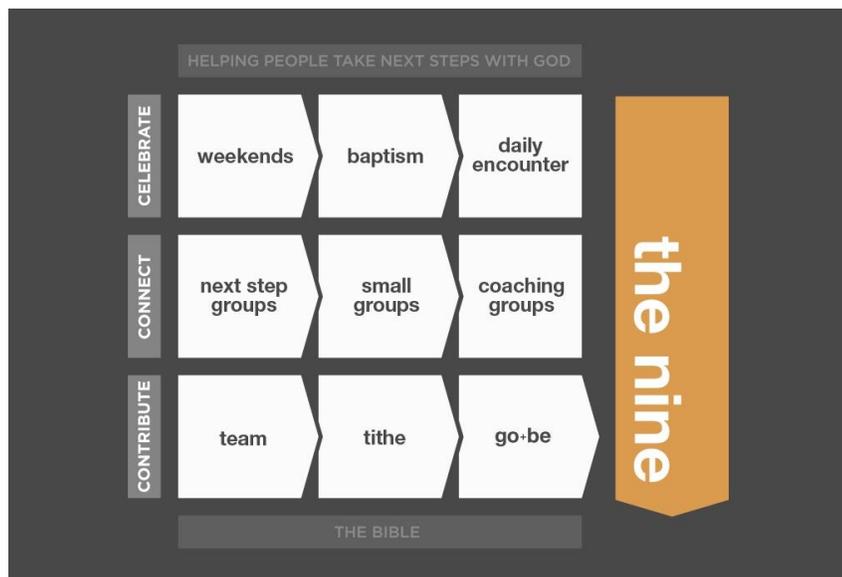
with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

1. What has been the hardest part of the last four months?
2. According to this passage, how is it that we are able to have joy in the midst of our trials and suffering?
3. Being focused on the good news doesn't mean you deny the bad news, but it does mean you don't live your life defined by it. How can trusting in the hope of the Gospel be relevant in a time like today?

Matthew 7|24-27 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

4. What things do you base your happiness on? What happens when those things fail?
5. What was the main point Jesus was trying to make by telling this story?

Next Steps:



We all have Next Steps we need to take in making the Good News of Jesus the center and priority of our lives. At 2|42 we use “The Nine” as our Discipleship Strategy to help identify possible next steps that we can take.

Take a look at The Nine (and the explanations on the next page) and talk together as a Small Group about each of the squares. What is a next step God is calling you to take?

Share your next step with your Small Group so they can be praying for you.

weekends	<p><i>attend weekend services consistently</i></p> <p>come expectantly; invite someone else to attend church</p> <p><i>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. —HEBREWS 10 24-25</i></p>
baptism	<p><i>public profession of your belief in and commitment to Jesus Christ</i></p> <p>be baptized and make some waves; help someone else take the next step of baptism</p> <p><i>Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. —ACTS 2 38</i></p>
daily encounter	<p><i>setting aside time each day to spend with God</i></p> <p>begin a Bible reading plan; have someone keep you accountable to having a daily encounter time</p> <p><i>Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. —MARK 1 35b</i></p>
next step groups	<p><i>topical groups that focus on faith, family, and finances</i></p> <p>connect with a larger group; join a rooted group</p> <p><i>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. —COLOSSIANS 2 6-8</i></p>
small groups	<p><i>the best way to get connected in real community</i></p> <p>Prioritize community in your schedule; help meet the needs of someone in your small group; invite someone else to your small group</p> <p><i>Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. —ECCLESIASTES 2 9-10</i></p>
coaching groups	<p><i>a group of 2 to 5 people meeting to identify and encourage specific next steps</i></p> <p>find a coach (someone a few steps ahead of you); commit to being coached for a specific amount of time; determine a regular meeting schedule</p> <p><i>Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. —1 CORINTHIANS 11 1</i></p>
team	<p><i>using your gifts to serve the Church</i></p> <p>identify how God has created you to serve; find a team to serve on; fill out a connect card and turn it in; reach out to the teams pastor at your campus for help</p> <p><i>...he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them —HEBREWS 6 10b</i></p>
tithe	<p><i>giving generously, because God asked us to</i></p> <p>download the Gyve app; commit to tithe; choose a way to increase your generosity beyond the tithe</p> <p><i>Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. —2 CORINTHIANS 9 6-7</i></p>
go+be	<p><i>being the Church where we live, work, and play</i></p> <p>take LeadOut; share your faith story with someone; meet a need of someone outside the church</p> <p><i>Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? —ROMANS 10 13-15</i></p>