



## Topeka Bible Church

### *Waiting for Something to Happen: The Thessalonian Letters* *#3: While Waiting ... Let God Use You to Change Someone's Life*

#### Community Group Study Questions

#### *1 Thessalonians 2:1-16 and selected passages*

1. How did the authors earn credibility with the Thessalonians (*1 Thessalonians 2:1-2; Acts 16:12, 22; 17:5*)? Should we learn anything from their example of suffering (*1 Peter 4:16*)? Who gave them strength and boldness (*2 Corinthians 4:7; 12:9*)?
2. Whom did the authors seek to please when proclaiming the gospel (*1 Thessalonians 2:4-6; Galatians 1:10-12*)? Do you seek to please others or God (cf. *Luke 16:13*)? What difference will pleasing God make in your life?
3. What "family" reference do you see in *1 Thessalonians 2:7-8*? What does this imagery communicate about the authors' attitude towards the Thessalonians (*Galatians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 12:15*)? With whom do you share your life?
4. How did the authors' lives add to the credibility of their purpose (*1 Thessalonians 2:9-10*)? Are you a "burden" to others (parents, friends, co-workers, etc.)? How can being a burden hurt your effectiveness in sharing the gospel (*2 Corinthians 11:9*)?

5. What additional "family" language do the authors use and what does this language communicate (*1 Thessalonians 2:11*)? What was the authors' goal in giving the Thessalonians this sort of encouragement (*1 Thessalonians 2:12*; *Ephesians 4:1*)?
  
6. Are churches suffering today (either in America or worldwide) just as the churches of the first century suffered (*1 Thessalonians 2:14*; *2 Thessalonians 1:4*; *1 Peter 4:12-16*)? Why did the Jews kill Jesus and the prophets (*1 Thessalonians 2:15*; *Matthew 23:29-32*; *Luke 24:19-20*; *Acts 7:51-52*)?
  
7. Who are the opponents to the gospel in our day (*1 Thessalonians 2:16*; *Acts 13:50*; *14:1-2*)? What motivates their efforts to keep others from being saved? How does their future differ from our future when we are in Christ (*Revelation 20:14-15*; cf. *1 Thessalonians 1:10*)?

**Memory Verse:**

**"Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us."**

**(1 Thessalonians 2:8, NASB)**