

JESUS AT THE CENTER OF THE CHURCH

The Model Church
Message 8

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October 1, 2023

► Outline

For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true.
1 Thessalonians 1:5 (NLT)

A. Introduction (1 Thessalonians 1:2-9)

B. The Model Church with Jesus at the center is built upon...

1. _____.
(John 8:32; Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 2:3-4)

2. And _____.
(1 Corinthians 1:23-24; 2:4; 4:20; Ephesians 3:20-21)

C. Challenge:

- Word
_____ versus _____.

- Power
_____ versus _____.

D. Invitation: (Isaiah 55:9)

- Word
_____ and _____.

- Power
_____ and _____.

Answers: B. 1. Word 2. Power C. **Word:** Knowledge, Union **Power:** Extraordinary, Ordinary
D. **Word:** Mystery, Belief **Power:** Discipline, Patience

Resource Information: Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit brookwoodchurch.org/adults.

Conversation Starter

Who was one of your first role models? What made that person exceptional?

Prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.

1. When Paul, Silas and Timothy thought of the Christians in Thessalonica, their hearts filled with gratitude. What came to mind when they prayed for them?
2. This passage names the three great Christian virtues: faith, love and hope. How have you seen or experienced these in your own life?
3. Paul emphasizes that true life change is the result of God's love and the work of the Holy Spirit. How can you tell God was at work among the Thessalonians?
4. God wants more for us than we usually want for ourselves. What keeps you from receiving God's love?
5. The Good News came not only with words but also with power (vs. 5). What passages in the Bible (or from the teaching of others) have most inspired you? How have you experienced God's power?
6. Do you tend to focus on *word* (doctrine and beliefs) or *power* (miracles and wonders)? What steps can you take to grow in each of these areas?
7. The Thessalonians remained faithful amidst great opposition (vs. 6, see also Acts 17:1-10). What opposition do you face when it comes to your walk with Christ? What are ways you can prepare for such attacks?

8. How would your life be different if you thought more often about Jesus' return (vs. 10)?
9. Who's modeled the Christian life for you, and what have you learned from them? Pause and thank God for the people He's used in your life.
10. How did the Thessalonians become models for all Macedonian and Achaian believers?
11. Do you feel like a good role model? What part of your faith and life would you want new Christians to imitate?
12. Based on this passage, how would you describe a model church?

Daily Devotional

Spend time with God each day this week reading the Daily Devotional. If you don't have a Daily Devotional book, you can pick one up at the Information Desk, the Reception Desk or view it on the Brookwood Church app.

Memory Verse

For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 (NLT)

Daily Reading

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Day 1: 1 Thessalonians 1:1 | Day 5: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 |
| Day 2: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 | Day 6: 2 Timothy 1:5-7 |
| Day 3: 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 | Day 7: Ephesians 3:20-21 |
| Day 4: 1 Thessalonians 1:6-9 | |

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, October 8, we'll celebrate 30 years of God's faithfulness through Brookwood Church!



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