



Purley Baptist Church

Discipleship Guide 10th May 2020

1Thessalonians 4:1-12

This Week's BIG IDEA: Is your purpose in life 'to please God'? By nature, we want to please ourselves and our society reinforces this. Paul has been teaching a young church in Thessalonica about how we are able to live a life that pleases God. Paul deals with what it means to be 'set apart' and why holiness is something we should strive for. He especially looks at this in relation to living in a sexually saturated world.

CONNECT IN:

Here's some ice breaker questions you might want to use this week:

- Cleaning, cooking or laundry? Which would you most like to have done for you?
- Sport, drama, documentary or comedy - if you could only ever watch one category of programme which would it be?
- What made you decide to live where you do?

CONNECT UP: Fix your eyes on God and give him an opportunity to speak to you through his Word

Starter... Is there an area of your life where you are aware that being a Christian has made a profound difference?

Read the passage 1Thessalonians 4:1-12

1. How does Paul's prayer (3:12-13) prepare us for the challenges of this passage?
2. What are the motivations for avoiding sexual sin, according to what Paul says throughout 4:3-8?
3. In sexual matters, what are some of the ways we might 'wrong a brother or sister' (4:6)?
4. How does the call to love one another (4:9-10) relate to what comes before (4:3-8) and what comes after (4:11-12)?
5. Do you have someone that you can be truly honest with and whom you are accountable to? Is this important? Why/why not?

CONNECT OUT as a group to serve the world around you

What might loving your brothers and sisters in Christ (4:9-10) look like in practice?

Perhaps in 2 or 3s: confess any failings to God in areas addressed today, and ask for grace for ongoing struggles.

Give thanks for the amazing privilege of knowing how to please God (4:1), and for his gift of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live holy lives (4:8).

Heartbeat

On May 14th is Leah Sharibu's 17th birthday. She remains a captive for her faith. CSW are calling the global Church to pray particularly for her this week. Please see attached notes for more information and prayer points.

Please take time to pray for her, and for the persecuted church. May our heartbeat of prayer as a church family beat for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.

For further information , or to join with the online prayer meeting for Leah on May 14th, see <https://www.csw.org.uk/prayforleah>

Wednesday-Zoom prayer meeting UNITE714 continues to be held between 7-7:30pm. Link and notes will be sent out.