



Purley Baptist Church

Discipleship Guide 24th May 2020

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

This Week's BIG IDEA: How ready are you for Jesus' return? In this passage, Paul underlines teaching that he has already brought to the Thessalonians. Jesus' second coming can't be diarised. When he comes, Jesus will not only welcome his people but will execute judgement on those who have ignored his generous provision throughout life.

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

- Which of the following restrictions could you best tolerate: leaving the country permanently, or never leaving your home country.
- What made you decide to attend Purley Baptist?

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

Starter... Be Honest- how do you feel about the second coming: scared? overjoyed? apathetic?

Read the passage 1Thessalonians 5:1-11

- 1) What are the two metaphors that Paul uses for the timing of Christ's coming (5:3-4)? What does each metaphor communicate about the timing of his return?
- 2) What dangers are associated with living in darkness (5:5- 7)? What instructions does Paul give for living in the light (5:8)?
- 3) What should we do to get ready for the Lord's return? (5:6-8)
- 4) For what reason can we be assured of our salvation? (5:9-10)

CONNECT OUT as a group to serve the world around you

- Praise God for the certainty of Christ's return, the resurrection of the dead, and final salvation.
- Pray for comfort for the bereaved, and strength for individuals you know, and for Christians around the world who are suffering or struggling in various ways.
- Pray that how we live our everyday lives now as those who 'belong to the day' (5:8) will point others to Jesus.

Heartbeat

John 1:4 'In Him was **life**, and that **life** was the **light** of all people'

'Thy Kingdom Come'

This week many Churches up and down the country and across the globe are uniting in prayer from Ascension day on May 21st- to Pentecost day on May 31st under the 'Thy Kingdom Come' movement.

We are once again encouraging everyone to pray for 5 friends who don't know the love of Christ . A simple way of remembering to do this is to look at your hand, and for every digit name someone and pray for them, expectant that the Holy Spirit would draw them more and more to encounter God's love in Christ.

The Revd Canon Chris Russell, Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor on Evangelism and Witness, says:

'In the past few years, the focus of our prayers in these days between Ascension and Pentecost has been for the coming of the God's Kingdom in the lives of family and friends, neighbours and colleagues that they might come to faith.

....when we pray 'Come Holy Spirit' during Thy Kingdom Come 2020 we pray in this specific context of the COVID crisis, with all that we face, all that is unknown and all we are helpless before.

Haven't we sensed more than ever the longing for the Kingdom of God – where there is no pain or crying, no injustice or loneliness? Haven't we longed for God's ways to be seen in the world? Haven't we been most moved by those who give their lives to serve all that the Kingdom of God stands for? We long for signs of the Kingdom. And as a church do all we can to serve that Kingdom.'

See TKC website for more information and resources :

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Our Church will come together to pray on **Wednesday, 27 May 8-9pm**. This is our regular monthly 'TKC' prayer meeting.

Details to be sent out- together with prayer resources that can be used at home if you are unable to join us on zoom.

Again, it would be great if you could **light a candle**, wherever you are, at 8pm on Wednesday, symbolising our hope is in Jesus-the life and light of all people .

We hope you can join us on this exciting week of prayer!