



1 THESSALONIANS

CONTENTS

LETTER FROM ERIN	5
WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?	6
BACKSTORY OF 1 THESSALONIANS	7
HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS STUDY	9
WEEK 1: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1	10
WEEK 2: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10	14
WEEK 3: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12	18
WEEK 4: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-20	22
WEEK 5: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-13	26
WEEK 6: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12	30
WEEK 7: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-5:11	34
WEEK 8: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-28	38
WEEK 9: 1 THESSALONIANS REVIEW	42
EPILOGUE	45
RESOURCES	46

HI!

I am excited for your opportunity to dive into 1 Thessalonians! But really I am encouraged that, even with your crazy schedule, you want to get together with your friends (or soon to be friends) and be in community, read God's Word, pray and learn from one another. I think it is going to be great!

One of the best decisions I made in college was to read the Bible on my own and in a sorority Bible study. I took up a challenge to read the Bible everyday for a month. That was a big deal! For I had never consistently spent time with God in this way, and I barely knew where to start! The Bible study also became a consistent and non-negotiable part of my week. I looked forward to it! I soon was mentored and discipled by the woman who lead the group and who was also on staff with a Christian ministry. At that time I didn't know my life would never be the same. Those few decisions changed the trajectory of college and my life!

How about you? What would you like to be true of you? In your relationship with God? And with others? The desire is that this Bible study would be more than a time to just occasionally come and read some of the Bible together (Yes, we want this time centered around something much bigger than ourselves- God and His Word!), but a time that is characterized by authentic community and faith. And this comes through consistency and commitment to the group time and to one another. The hope is we would become people that are more like Jesus and point others to Jesus.

There is much more that I could say. But most of all, I hope this time helps you to unfold God's great love and mercy so then in turn you cannot help but show it to others.

With Gratitude,



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WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

I am glad you asked! I think what is planned will be good! There will be some variation, but a few things you can probably expect from week to week:

- Connect with one another in smaller groups
- Pray for one another
- Read, discuss, and apply the Bible passage
- Walk away with some thoughts on how you can grow and overflow Jesus to others.
- 1 1/2 hours of time well spent!

OTHER THINGS THAT ARE ENCOURAGED

- Make this time a regular part of your schedule each week. Consistency and faithfulness produce community and growth. Come each week!
- Connect with someone from the Bible study outside of the Bible study each week. This is how we will go deeper with one another!
- Bring a friend!
- Read the passage and reflect on the lesson before the Bible study time. Crazy idea!
- Pray for your leader, the women in the group, and your chapter.
- Ask God for what He wants to do in you and through you!

DO YOU KNOW THE BACKSTORY TO 1 THESSALONIANS?

With any person you meet it makes such a difference if you know their “story.” If you know their story, you are less likely to make assumptions or draw inaccurate conclusions. You understand them better and in light of their story.

It is similar with any book of the Bible. It is helpful to have the backstory on the book and author before studying it. For a more detailed historical background, and a good resource, I would encourage you to visit netbible.org and locate the tab for Dr Constable’s notes on 1 Thessalonians.

The background of 1 Thessalonians is full of twists and turns- and is pretty amazing! Understanding this background will give you a greater appreciation for the book. 1 Thessalonians will make much more sense and you will get more out of it! The following is a brief overview, but I would encourage you to read Acts 16 and 17 for a fuller picture.

The author, Paul, was on his second missionary journey with his mission team in what is now modern day Turkey and Greece. Along the way God literally intervened and told him to go in a different direction than what he had planned. (That is one way to have your path changed!) They were being called to Macedonia. And of course this was where he met the Thessalonians!

They entered the city of Philippi and preached the gospel. Soon they were persecuted, thrown in jail and then forced to leave town. In spite of all of this, they kept going, sharing about Jesus Christ. They ended up in Thessalonica. Pretty amazing!

In Thessalonica, even though persecuted in the last city, they still preached the gospel and people came to faith in Jesus Christ (they are the “Thessalonians” who Paul writes). In the book of Acts it says they preached for three weeks and then some became angry saying, “These people have been turning the whole world upside down...” What a reputation they had! They ended up escaping in the night and moved on to the next place. One thing of interest is that they may have only been with the Thessalonians for less than a month- not a very long time! Keep that in mind when you read 1 Thessalonians.

Even though Paul and his mission team moved on to another town to share about Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, some of the angry Thessalonians showed up there to persecute them. Once again they were on the move!

A FEW HELPFUL BACKGROUND TAKEAWAYS FOR THE BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS:

- Paul still came to Thessalonica after being persecuted in Philippi.
- Paul was not in Thessalonica for very long.
- In the short time he was there people came to faith.
- There were people in Thessalonica very opposed to this new faith and willing to persecute followers.

HOW GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS STUDY!

This Bible study is for you! Maybe you have done many Bible studies before or possibly you have barely even opened a Bible- whatever the case I am glad you are here! I remember a time when I didn't even know how to look up a verse in the Bible and I had no idea where anything was located. No matter our experience, it is not so much about what we know, but it is more about our willingness to learn from God and from others. This is how we see growth!

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PREPARE?

The way to get the most out of the Bible study is to spend time in the book and passage regularly. If you don't have time to prepare or read it one week, don't worry, still come!

FOR THE LESSON EACH WEEK:

- Read through or listen to the whole book (1 Thessalonians) each week. You can do it! It is short!
- Read through the passage a few times during the week.
- Write down your observations, answer the questions from the lesson and think about how you want to apply it.
- There are three main parts to this Bible Study
 - Observation*
 - Discussion Questions*
 - Application and Life Change*
- The following page has observations questions for you to use with each passage that is covered.

OBSERVATION

Observation is key to understanding a passage of scripture. The following are some observation questions we will ask each week to help us to understand the passage.

- What do you observe about God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)?
- What do you learn about the author, Paul?
- What do you notice about the recipients, the Thessalonians?
- What do you observe about Paul and the Thessalonians' relationship?

Each week you will observe these things. There is much more that can be observed. If you would like to dig deeper there is an observation, interpretation and application resource in the back of this booklet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In each lesson there are also some questions to answer that will help you reflect and understand the passage.

APPLICATION AND LIFE CHANGE

- How will the passage and your time with the community in the group touch and change your life?
- What do you want to apply?
- Who can you share these thoughts and truths with this week?

Now it is time to dive into the book!

WEEK NO.

1

INTRODUCTION

Take time as a group to introduce yourselves with some type of get to know you question or activity.

Break into small groups of 2-3 and discuss one of these questions:

- Why did you choose to come to this time?
- What are you hoping to get out of it?
- What is an area you would like to grow in personally?
- Hear from the leaders what the time will look like.
- Introduction to the book of 1 Thessalonians
- Prayer

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests for myself:

Prayer requests of others:

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1

INTRODUCTION

Who are the authors? What do you know about them?

How are Paul, Silas and Timothy connected? Where are Silas and Timothy first introduced in the book of Acts? (Refer to Acts 15:30-41 and Acts 16:1-5)

What can you learn about their connection to the Thessalonians from the book of Acts? (Read the “Backstory” a few pages back and refer to Acts 16-17.)

1 THESSALONIANS

Read the entire book of 1 Thessalonians aloud as a group.

What are some themes you noticed?

WEEK NO.

2

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS *(DISCUSS OBSERVATIONS)*

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 as a group.

What do I observe about God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)?

What do I learn about Paul?

What do I notice about the Thessalonians?

What do I observe about Paul's relationship with the Thessalonians?

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

(See the back of this book for ideas.)

DISCUSS

Why does Paul give thanks to God for the Thessalonians?

How did the gospel come to them?

What is the gospel? How would you explain it to someone who does not have a church background? (Romans 3:23, 1Corinthians 15:3-8 and Ephesians 2:4-9)

What is being reported about the Thessalonians?

If Paul, Silas, and Timothy were only with the Thessalonians for a short time, what do you find notable about the Thessalonians' faith?

APPLY

How will the passage and my time with this community touch and change my life? What do I want to apply?

SOME QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION

How can I learn from Paul and the Thessalonians?

How would I like my faith to be known, or like the Thessalonians?

Specifically, if I disciple others, how will this passage impact how I do that?

Who can you share these thoughts and truths with this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS

For myself:

For others:

WEEK NO.

3

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (*DISCUSS OBSERVATIONS*)

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 as a group.

What do I observe about God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)?

What do I learn about Paul?

What do I notice about the Thessalonians?

What do I observe about Paul's relationship with the Thessalonians?

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

(See the back of this book for ideas.)

DISCUSS

Why is it significant that Paul went onto Thessalonica after what he endured in Philippi?

What difference would it have made if Paul sought praise or acceptance from people? (vv. 4,5)

Why do you think Paul and his mission team's conduct is so critical?

How are Paul and his mission team like a mother and a father to the Thessalonians?

What was Paul's hope for them?

APPLY

How will the passage and my time with this community touch and change my life? What do I want to apply?

SOME QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION

How can I learn from Paul and the Thessalonians?

How would my life and witness (in sharing about Christ) be different if I cared less what people thought about me?

Specifically, in helping others follow Christ, how will this passage impact how I do that?

Who can you share these thoughts and truths with this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS:

For myself:

For others:

WEEK NO.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-20

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 as a group.

What do I observe about God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)?

What do I learn about Paul?

What do I notice about the Thessalonians?

What do I observe about Paul's relationship with the Thessalonians?

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

If the Thessalonians did not view it as God's Word, what difference would that make? What were the results of believing it as God's Word?

How are the Thessalonians like the church in Judea?

What does Paul want for the Gentiles? What would the Gentiles be "saved" from? (Romans 3:23, 6:23, John 3:16)

The phrase, "having been taken away from you," is the same idea as being bereft or orphaned. (v. 17) What does this reveal about Paul's relationship with them?

APPLY

How will the passage and my time with this community touch and change my life? What do I want to apply?

SOME QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION

How can I learn from Paul and the Thessalonians?

What is my plan for spending time in God's Word? What difference will it make in my life if I accept the Word of God as actually the Word of God?

Specifically, if I were to disciple another person, how will this passage impact how I do that?

Who can you share these thoughts and truths with this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS:

For myself

For others

WEEK NO.

5

1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-13

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 as a group.

What do I observe about God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)?

What do I learn about Paul?

What do I notice about the Thessalonians?

What do I observe about Paul's relationship with the Thessalonians?

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

DISCUSS

What do you know about Timothy? Why would he have sent him? (2 Timothy 1:1-13, 2 Timothy 2:1,2)

Timothy went to “strengthen and encourage” the believers in Thessalonica. What do you think he would have said and done? What kind of things would they have needed?

Paul feared that their labor could have been in vain. (v. 5) What does this say about discipleship and what we should expect as we are involved in helping others follow Jesus? What impact does sufferings have on a disciple?

What gives Paul life? (v. 8)

What is Paul’s response to the report from Timothy?

APPLY

How will the passage and my time with this community touch and change my life? What do I want to apply?

SOME QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

How can I learn from Paul and the Thessalonians?

As a follower of Christ I am called to be a "Timothy." 2 Timothy 2:2 says, "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others also." Who is a person in my life who I have observed to be faithful and whom I could help to follow Jesus?

The prayer Paul prays challenges me in this way:

Who can you share these thoughts and truths with this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS

For myself:

For others:

WEEK NO.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 as a group.

What do I observe about God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)?

What do I learn about Paul?

What do I notice about the Thessalonians?

What do I observe about Paul's relationship with the Thessalonians?

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

DISCUSS

It is funny how we always want to know what God's will is and here it is written out! The text clearly states what God's will is: your sanctification (to be set apart)- that you abstain from sexual immorality (which includes sex outside the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman, and seeking sexual fulfillment through masturbation, pornography, sexual touching or oral sex).

What are the reasons from this passage to abstain from sexual immorality?

How is sexual immorality harmful? And how is self-control an act of love?

Look up the word "defraud" (v. 6). How does this illuminate the passage?

In the context, how can the Thessalonians "excel still more?" (vv. 1, 10) Is Paul telling them they are not doing enough?

Why is it important to keep busy? (vv. 10-12) What is the connection between a healthy busy and abstaining from sexual immorality?

APPLY

How will the passage and my time with this community touch and change my life? What do I want to apply?

SOME QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

How can I learn from Paul and the Thessalonians?

I know God's will is good. How will this impact my view of sexuality?

When do I find myself giving in to sexual temptation?

Who can you share these thoughts and truths with this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS

For myself:

For others:

WEEK NO.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-5:11

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 as a group.

What do I observe about God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)?

What do I learn about Paul?

What do I notice about the Thessalonians?

What do I observe about Paul's relationship with the Thessalonians?

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

DISCUSS

What are some reasons Paul informs the Thessalonians about those who have already died in Christ (believers) when Jesus Christ returns?

What is the order of events Paul describes in “the coming of the Lord?” (starting in v. 4:15)

What does it mean that the day of the Lord is coming like a “thief in the night?”

To be a “son” of something (v. 5:5) is to be characterized by that thing. What should be and is true of them as “sons of light”?

How would these things encourage the Thessalonians?

APPLY

How will the passage and my time with this community touch and change my life? What do I want to apply?

SOME QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

What would it look like in my life to live “alert” and “sober”?

The coming of Jesus Christ gives the believer a sense of urgency. What is one thing I would like to be true of my life in light of His coming?

How am I encouraged by what Paul writes in regards to the day of the Lord?

Who can you share these thoughts and truths with this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS

For myself:

For others

WEEK NO.

8

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-28

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 as a group.

What do I observe about God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)?

What do I learn about Paul?

What do I notice about the Thessalonians?

What do I observe about Paul's relationship with the Thessalonians?

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

DISCUSS

What does this passage say about how we should interact with our spiritual leaders?

What is significant about the instruction in vv. 14,15 on relating to different types of people?

What are the 5 positive exhortations in vv. 16-22?

In chapter 4, Paul urges them to “excel still more”- in other words, to keep growing and maturing in Christ. How do these instructions encourage the Thessalonians in this and set them apart from the world around them?

APPLY

How will the passage and my time with this community touch and change my life? What do I want to apply?

SOME QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION

How can I learn from Paul and the Thessalonians?

What is my attitude towards those in spiritual authority?

How am I challenged by Paul's instruction? What is one thing that I would like to apply from this instruction?

Who can you share these thoughts and truths with this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS

For myself:

For others:

1 THESSALONIANS REVIEW

Reread the entire book of 1 Thessalonians as a group.

Look back over each section we covered. Come up with a title or summary sentence for each section.

What is the context and purpose of the book?

What are some key themes and key words you noticed throughout the book?

What are some issues that are addressed?

What are some of your favorite verses?

What do you learn about God and your relationship with Christ?

Paul challenges the Thessalonians to “excel still more.” He loves them and desires for them to continue to grow and mature in Christ. In what ways are you being challenged to “excel still more?”

How are you impacted in helping others follow Jesus and in living out discipleship?

What are one or two things you want to take away and apply?



EPILOGUE

Just as each story has a backstory, there is also usually an epilogue (a comment on what has happened).

Why this graphic? This graphic is a symbol of 1 Thessalonians and of the Thessalonians.

This plant is a reminder of the growth Paul witnessed in his disciples, the Thessalonians. **Discipleship** is lived out in the pages of their lives. Paul loved them dearly and poured his life out for them so that they would know Jesus and follow Him. I want a life like that.

Healthy plants are fruitful. In spite of persecution, Paul and His mission team faithfully kept going and saw God produce much **fruit**.

Healthy plants also produce other plants. The Thessalonians did not let the gospel stop at their doorstep but their life rang out throughout that part of the world (and to us through the Scriptures!). The gospel was not meant to stop with them, but it **multiplied** through them in the power of the Holy Spirit-bearing much fruit.

Plants are a gift. Imagine the world without plants! In 1 Corinthians 8:1-5 it speaks of the generosity of the church in Macedonia (this would include the Thessalonians). They gave according to and beyond their ability (read about it!). They were a **blessing** to others.

Their lives were changed and they were never the same. Now it is our turn to continue their story as a disciple who helps others to find and follow Jesus.

RESOURCES

FOR THE LEADER

Keeping a few things in mind will go a long way!

- Spend time with God daily. Your relationship with God needs to be fresh and growing! This is what you want your leadership to flow from- your relationship with God.
- Read over the book each week. Spend time in the passage throughout the week.
- Pray for your group and with your co-leader. Pray for each woman in the group and for your house together.
- Prepare for the time and discuss this with your co-leader. Have a plan and sketch for the time.
- Your job is not to be “everything” to them or to know “everything.” God just asks you to trust Him and be faithful with the opportunity you have.
- Lead and walk by faith. Often we grow the most when we step out in faith.

THOUGHTS TO HELP YOUR GROUP BE SUCCESSFUL

- Keep in mind the previous points!
- Start your group about 15 minutes after the start time. If your group is at 7pm, then allow for chitchat and for women to trickle in, but start at 7:15.
- Have a snack each week if possible, but switch it between healthy and “less healthy.” Maybe have popcorn one week and a bag of candy the next. Everyone always likes a snack. It helps create a welcoming environment!
- Set a regular place and time. Consistency helps avoid obstacles that will keep people from being there.
- Regularly break up into smaller groups of 2-3, starting from the very first meeting. Smaller groups help people to feel known. Keep the groups no bigger than 3. This will pay off in the long run.
- Have half of the time be in the Bible study passage, going over it and applying it. The other half should be like a “community group” (getting to know one another and for prayer). So if the Bible study starts at 7, then start the Bible study part at 7:45, ending at 8:30.
- Intentionality with flexibility helps create an environment in which people know what to expect; and therefore will more likely make the time for it.
- Try to reach out to different women each week- possibly grabbing lunch or coffee with one woman a week.

SKETCH FOR THE TIME EACH WEEK

- Let's say the group is starting at 7pm. Talk and snack until 7:15. Start the group about 15 minutes after the "start" time.
- 7:15-7:45: This segment should be used for community building. Many weeks this time will be used for the small group discussion and prayer. Sometimes 15 minutes of discipleship tips or thoughts could be given. More on this to come!
- At 7:15 start off with community building time by getting into groups of 2-3 (but no more than 3) with a question to discuss for getting to know one another and for prayer. Sometimes the question could be for fun and others times more serious. For example:
 - “What was a highlight and lowlight of your week?”
 - “How did you apply last week's lesson?”
- Pray in the small groups. (Prayer at the beginning is a good way to help make it an emphasis.) Suggest something for them to pray for as a group- something that is bigger than themselves and the group. Some ideas:
 - For the chapter and girls who do not know Jesus
 - Family members, friends, and classmates who they would like to point to Jesus
 - A missionary (There may be someone you know who just graduated and is a missionary overseas.)
 - A country/people group in need of the gospel
- 7:45: Gather back as one group and have one person pray for the time.
- 7:45-8:15:
 - Read and Hear aloud the passage together
 - Observe using the 4 observation questions
 - Discuss
 - Apply and Tell
- 8:15: Connect in small groups again. Discuss application and pray for one another.

OBSERVATION - INTERPRETATION - APPLICATION

These three things (observation, interpretation and application) are three main components of an inductive bible study. These three things help you to more clearly understand a passage.

The following pages explain these components. They are helpful if you would like to dig deeper into a passage. These components are a significant part for my own study of a book of the Bible. This study was designed to be more of a general survey of the book that facilitates discussion without a high level of preparation. There are many more resources out there that are beneficial for bible study. But the following resource is a great place to start!

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Start by looking for the basics:

Who | Who is performing or receiving the action?

What | What is occurring?

When | When is it occurring? Is there a sequence of events?

Where | Where is the action occurring? Does the location change within the paragraph?

Why | What is the goal or purpose for the action? Who benefits?

How | What is the means or manner for accomplishing the action?

KEY WORDS (ESPECIALLY THEOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT TERMS)

Important Connectives | Indicate relationships within and between paragraphs; such as... after, then, as, until, before, when, now, while, because, for, since, so, therefore, thus, in order that, but.

Grammatical Construction | How does each word function in the sentence?

- *Verbs* | What are the actions? Note the tense of the verb (when is the action performed) Is there a list of commands?
- *Noun* | name of a person, place, thing or quality
- *Adjective & Adverb* | modifies or describes something

Figures of speech | Non-literal language (e.g. “I am the bread of life”)

Comparison | points out the similarities between two or more related ideas, or simply joining like ideas. "...he will be like a tree firmly planted..." (Ps.1:2-3)

Contrast | points out dissimilarities between thoughts or ideas. This indicator is often easily identified by the use of the word "but." "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident... But the fruit of the Spirit is...." (Galatians 5:19-23)

Questions | structure is built around questions posed and answered by the author (or a hypothetical opponent created by the author). "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?" (Rom. 6:1)

Repetition | reiteration of the same word or phrase (when a similar but not exact word, phrase or idea is repeated it is known as continuity)

Progression of Ideas | the movement of ideas from general to particular (Matt. 6:1-18) or particular to general. (Jas 2).

Cause to Effect | the passage first states the cause and then directly correlates the effects. Romans 1:18-31 demonstrates the cause (rejection of God) and the effect (God gave them over). See also Romans 6:23.

Effect to Cause | opposite of cause to effect, the author states the effect and then substantiates it by stating the cause. In Romans 8:18-27 Paul describes the effect of longing, and in 8:28-30 he describes the cause, which is our certain future glorification.

Summarization| the author gathers the main ideas he has been trying to communicate and restates them in a summary. For examples see Hebrews 8:1-2 and Joshua 12.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Observation is answering 'what does it say?' In interpretation you are asking 'what does this mean?' Or better 'what does Paul mean here?' As you observe, ask lots of questions like:

What does this word mean? Why does he use this analogy?

What does Paul mean when he says we "were dead"?

Answering these questions is interpretation. Remember creativity in interpretation is not a virtue. Start your search for answers within the immediate context. Also, consider what others say now (your small group, pastor...) as well as in the past (commentaries). Your goal is to discern the author's intended meaning.

APPLICATION: HOW DOES THIS TOUCH MY LIFE?

Once you have discovered the universal principle(s) from the text, then you move to application. How does this truth connect to my life? By putting your application in words you begin to hold yourself accountable for becoming a doer of the Word. Some basic guidelines for application are: 1) focus on the main themes expressed by the author; 2) keep it short; 3) make it practical. An example of an application from Matthew 28:18-20 is “Wherever I am, I should proclaim the gospel to all men in hope of making some disciples.” Consider the following questions for application:

- Is there an example for me to follow or avoid? (Joshua 1:9)
- Is there a sin or error for me to avoid? (1 Cor. 5:1)
- Is there a promise for me to claim? (Heb. 13:5)
- Is there a prayer for me to repeat? (Eph. 3:14-21)
- Is there a command for me to obey? (2 Timothy 2:22)
- Is there a condition for me to meet? (John 15:5)
- Is there a verse for me to memorize? (Psalm 119:11)
- Is there conviction from the Spirit to which I must respond? (1 Thess. 5:19)

Relate the application to your various relationships. Ask yourself, how should this application affect my attitudes, thoughts or actions:

- In relationship to God
- In relationship to myself
- In relationship to my family
- In relationship to my Christian friends
- In relationship to my non-Christians friends and the world

CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION

So, what will I do today, or this week, or this month to implement this application? Who will I ask to hold me accountable? How and when will I evaluate my progress? A plan of action for our application from Matthew 28 might look something like this:

By the power of the Holy Spirit I commit myself to asking my neighbor to lunch this week. I commit to daily pray for his salvation and for the opportunity to present a verbal witness to him during lunch. I will ask my Bible study leader to hold me accountable to initiate this plan by asking me next week if I have followed through.

