

## Celebrate

### Faith

February 4, 2018



Strengthen your faith by  
putting it to work

## Connect

Spend some time and get to know each other. How was this week?

## Bible Study

Over the next 4 weeks we will be going through the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians. Our key verse is 1st Thessalonians 1:3 “We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor promoted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” NIV. We desire to be a church like this that outflows in generosity.

The book of 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians is written to the church of Thessalonica by the Apostle Paul accompanied by Silas, and Timothy. They had previously spend a month in Thessalonica preaching, and started a church. Acts 17 tells the story of them successfully starting a church, but they were eventually forced to leave because of persecution from the people. They claimed Jesus as their King. This was seen as rebellion against the Government and the Culture. They are writing to people that they see as family, and that the desperately did not want to leave.

1. Read 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1:1-3
  - What did Faith, Love and Hope produce in these Christians?
2. Read 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1: 4-10
  - What did these Christians do that set an example for other Christians worthy of being praised?
  - In verse 9-10 it talks about the importance from turning away from Idols, turning towards God, and being Heaven focused. How do these connect together?
3. Read 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:1-16
  - What about their Faith and the Apostles Faith do you find motivating, and worth being an example to us?
  - In what ways do these verses talk about other Christians as family?
  - How does the use of Family language affect the power of this passage?

## **Sharing**

1. Was there anything in this that stuck out to you?
2. How does this motivate you to step out in faith this week?
3. How can we better celebrate and encourage the Faith of people around us?
4. Paul and Silas suffered persecution like the Church of Thessalonica. Their shared suffering gave them mutual encouragement and care for each other. Have you been struggling in any aspect of your life lately? Sharing your struggles with other Christians can help.

## **Challenge**

The BigIdea from the message this week is to “Strengthen Your Faith By Putting It to Work”. What do you need to put to work this week in order to strengthen your faith?

## **PRAYER**