

WEEK 4- WHY WE NEED OTHER PEOPLE

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

1. GOD USES PEOPLE TO STRENGTHEN US WHERE WE ARE
2. GOD USES PEOPLE TO PREPARE US FOR WHERE WE'RE GOING
3. GOD USES PEOPLE TO HELP US FINISH WELL

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What part of the teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. The “thesis” of this week’s message was, “Other people are one of the greatest tools God uses to make sure we don’t leave life unfinished”. This idea goes directly against the individualistic culture that we live in. What are some ways that individualism has shaped your life? What are some ways that other people have shaped your life?
3. The first main idea this week was that “God Uses People to Strengthen Us Where We Are”. One of the primary ways we can strengthen one another is by encouraging one another. Describe a time when someone was particularly encouraging to you. Why was that interaction so encouraging? Who could you encourage this week and how do you plan to do it?
4. Life is hard. And since this is all of our first time through life we frequently find ourselves in uncharted territory. This means we need people in our life who love us, are a few steps ahead of us and can help prepare us for where we’re going. Do you have any people like this in your life? Are you this type of person for anyone else? What are some simple, practical steps you can take to make these types of relationship a priority?
5. This passage in 1 Thess. talks about “persecution”. Persecution can sometimes feel like a foreign idea to us in America. However, the word used for persecution in 1 Thess. 3:2-3 means a “constant pressure” and can either be **internal pressure** (discouragement, fear, anxiety, etc.) or **external pressure** (being ostracized, ridiculed or rejected for your faith). Which of these two forms of pressure is more present in your life? How does that pressure impact you?
6. We can often be the last one to see the destructive paths we are headed down. That is why we need other people who love us enough to speak the truth to us even if it’s hard. What does it look like to actually give someone permission to speak into our lives like this? How do we give people the space to say what needs to be said? How can we prepare ourselves to receive hard truth so we don’t react poorly when someone actually does speak into our lives?
7. Are you naturally better at encouraging people or speaking hard truth to people? How can these two ways of loving someone go hand-in-hand?