

WEEK 5- WHY WE NEED OTHER PEOPLE: 2

1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

1. LIVING FOR OTHERS GIVES US STRENGTH BEYOND OUR CIRCUMSTANCES
2. LIVING FOR OTHERS DEEPENS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
3. LIVING FOR OTHERS GIVES US AN ABIDING SENSE OF PURPOSE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What part of the teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. This week's message was all about how living for others will always do more for us than it will for them. Can you describe a time when you served someone and you felt like it helped you more than it helped the person you were serving?
3. When we face hard circumstances, we can sometimes think we need an easier life when really we need a more purposeful one. What are some pros and cons of choosing to pursue an "easy" life? What are some pros and cons of choosing a purposeful life of living for others? Which one do you find yourself choosing more often?
4. The second main idea this week was that "Living for Others Deepens our Relationship with God." How would you define a deep relationship with God? What is your default way of trying to deepen your relationship with God? What is it about "living for others" that brings us closer to God?
5. Living for others gives us an abiding sense of purpose. But it can be hard. For example, Moses asked God to kill him because of the people in his life that he was leading and serving. However, if you take those people out of Moses' life, you also remove the purpose from his life. Why do you think that people and purpose are so directly connected? How do people fit in to how you define the purpose of your life?
6. Do you feel "qualified" to help someone else grow closer to God? Why or why not?
7. Paul deeply cared for the Thessalonians and he invested his personal time, energy and effort in bringing them to Jesus and then helping them continue to grow. Who in your life are you actively investing in? Who could you be investing in that you currently aren't?
8. There is always a danger of becoming bitter when we try to live for other people but things don't go how we plan or when the people we are serving treat us poorly. This bitterness can be a sign that our motives are still tinged with selfishness. How can looking at what Jesus has done for us free us to live for others without expectations of repayment or personal gain?