

**SERMON:** Love Where You Live is a Group Project

June 24, 2018

**SERIES:** Love Where You Live

**SPEAKER:** Pastor Mark

**CONNECT** (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

**REVIEW** (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

**SCRIPTURE:**

*1 Thessalonians 1:5-2:12*

*<sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. <sup>9</sup> For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

*<sup>2:1</sup> For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. <sup>2</sup> But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. <sup>3</sup> For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, <sup>4</sup> but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup> For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. <sup>6</sup> Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. <sup>8</sup> So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.*

*<sup>9</sup> For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. <sup>11</sup> For you know how, like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup> we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.*

**SERMON OUTLINE:**

- I. Who shares?
- II. What we share.
- III. How we share.

**GROW** (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Do you believe that it is your calling to share the love of God with others? What are some ways that you are being equipped to share your faith with others?
2. Read 1:9-10. What is the gospel? What elements of the gospel do we see in these two verses? Can you explain the gospel to someone?
3. Look at 2:1-12 again. We said that people need the evidence for the gospel but they also need an experience of the community that the gospel creates. Where in these verses do you see Paul describing how he, Timothy, and Silas shared more than just evidence with the Thessalonians?
4. Why is community so important? We gave these reasons in the sermon:
  - a. Community is the witness of God (1 John 4:12).
  - b. Community is the goal of the gospel (Eph. 2:22).
  - c. Community is the best apologetic (John 13:35).
  - d. Community empowers our love (Mark 10:29-30).

Which of these stands out to you? Why?

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5 again. Paul said they came in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. How does knowing that you have Christ's spirit in you allow you to live in the loving and serving community that Paul describes in 1 Thessalonians? How does it empower us to love where we live?

Pray: Honor God for being a community (Trinity) that shares love with others. Ask God to allow you to live in the church community in such a way as to be a powerful witness for him.