



## Week 43: 1 & 2 Thessalonians

### Study Guide for the week of Oct. 19-25

#### Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, meditate on 1 Thess 1:4

Did you feel special as a child? Why or why not? Do you feel special as a child of God? How do you feel about being chosen by God simply because of his great love for you?

Because God has chosen you, are you to ignore or obey him? Be filled with gratitude or complacency? Do you struggle with either ignoring God or being complacent in your relationship with him? Ask God to help you overcome any stumbling blocks in your relationship with him.

How does being a beloved and chosen child of God affect your attitude? Your actions?

#### Discussion starters

1. Reread 1 Thess 1:8. Did you realize you are a preacher? St Francis once said, "Preach the gospel and if necessary use words." What sermon are you preaching with your life?
2. Is it possible to live quietly, mind your own business, and work with your hands (1 Thess 4:11) in an era of publicity seekers, tell-all media, and the denigration of manual labor? What principles is Paul trying to teach? Is it possible to apply those principles to your life? How?
3. Do you tend to plan or procrastinate? Do you like to do things in advance or to wait until the last minute pressures you into action? Is procrastination in the area of your relationship with God a good idea (1 Thess 5:1-3)? How would you live tomorrow if you knew Jesus was returning the following day? How do you know Jesus isn't returning in two days??!!
4. Reread 1 Thess 5:11-23 and list all the ways Paul calls us to encourage each other. Now brainstorm how you could apply these examples in your own life. Finally commit to doing at least one of those things this week and report back to your small group.

#### Bible verse to memorize: 1 Thess 1:4