

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 2 Thessalonians

These questions are for the **January 10, 2016** sermon, "It was necessary." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 17:1-9) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline:

As we seek to impact our city with the gospel, we must . . .

1. **Work together** (Acts 16:1-5, 17:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1)
  - A. Paul added Timothy to the team, inviting him to join Paul and Silas.
  - B. Paul handed off ministry to younger teammates who had different gifts than he had.
  - C. Paul's team had different ages, different ethnicities and different gifts.
  - D. Paul emphasized team even though he had been disappointed by previous teammates.
2. **Find a relational starting point** (Acts 17:1-2a)
  - A. Paul found a synagogue of Jewish people, so he reasoned with them from the Scriptures.
  - B. We will find all sorts of different starting points as we minister to Sheboygan. Financial need, loneliness, addictions, neighbors, workmates, hobbies and family (to name a few).
  - C. Make sure that your starting point (relational similarity) is not your ending point.
3. **Make our mission and our message about Jesus Christ** (Acts 17:2b-3)
  - A. Paul explained that the OT Scriptures predicted a Messiah who would suffer and be raised to life.
  - B. Consider 1 Peter 3:15 (be ready to explain why you trust Jesus), Acts 22 (the OT clearly said that the Messiah would suffer) and Psalm 16:10 (Messiah would be raised from the dead).
  - C. All of our starting points must lead to speaking of the person and work of Jesus Christ.
4. **Expect God's grace to draw all kinds of people** (Acts 17:4)
  - A. The gospel will draw people of all ethnicities and each sex. Pray for this. Plan for this.
  - B. Our identity in Christ is far greater and higher than our identity in ethnicity or nationalism.
5. **Expect and embrace persecution** (Acts 17:5-9)
  - A. Paul's opponents warped laws in order to bring charges against he and his team. And it worked.
  - B. God often uses persecution to scatter believers and allow the gospel to spread with power.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Do you purposefully share ministry with younger people in order to develop their gifts and skills? In what way are you good at this? In what way can you improve?
2. Based on #2, above: Give an example of a "relational starting point" and how God is using it right now to give you an opportunity to share Christ.
3. Based on #3, above: We get complacent with good relational starting points and often struggle with bringing the conversation around to the person and work of Jesus. How can we pray for you?
4. Based on #4, above: We can't all be best friends with everyone at church. But are there certain types of people you are closed off from? How can we make the church a place that is warmer for people of other ethnicities, age groups and economic backgrounds? What is your role in this task?
5. Based on #5, above: Do you spend more time complaining about persecution? Or ministering to others while you are scattered through persecution? Are we ready to stand when it gets hard? Why/why not?