

THE BOOK OF

2 Thessalonians

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

A Big Deal, or Not a Big Deal?

OPENING QUESTION

Name one healthy food and one unhealthy food you like. Is this a big deal?

READ 2 Thessalonians 1:1–12.

1. Why is this letter from three authors rather than just Paul (vs. 1)?

- A. It's not a big deal.
- B. It is a big deal.
- C. Paul was just trying to include his co-laborers.
- D. Paul spoke his letters, but someone else wrote them (*Gal. 6:11*).
- E. Silas/Silvanus was often Paul's ghostwriter.
- F. Timothy knew the Thessalonians better than Paul (*1 Thess. 3:5-6*).
- G. Silas/Silvanus and Timothy helped Paul start this church (*Acts 17*).
- H. Having more authors gives greater authority to what was written.
- I. Other.

2. How do God the Father and Jesus give you grace and peace (vs. 2)?

- A. Through the Holy Spirit.
- B. You have to ask for it.
- C. You need someone like Paul to request it for you.
- D. This is what persecuted people need the most.
- E. Both come by faith—trusting God.
- F. This is just the way Paul started his letters.
- G. By removing persecution.
- H. These come through personal devotions and worship experiences.
- I. Other.

3. Why was the faith of the Thessalonians growing so much (vs. 3)?

- A. Paul gave them a firm foundation when he planted this church.
- B. Key leaders in the church made this happen.
- C. They loved each other.
- D. Financial blessings.
- E. Timothy's visit spurred them spiritually.
- F. Persecution grows faith.
- G. They had a strong community service program.
- H. God's spirit was active in them and among them.
- I. Other.

4. When do believers get relief from persecution?

- A. Never.
- B. Not until Jesus returns (or they die).
- C. As soon as they have a political majority.
- D. Increased financial resources ends persecution.
- E. It's not a big deal to true believers.
- F. When justice is served.
- G. An effective PR (Public Relations) person makes a big difference.
- H. Other.

5. When will God bring justice?

- A. The Second Coming of Christ.
- B. The Third Coming of Christ (after the millennium).
- C. It seems like never.
- D. It's already happening in some places.
- E. It's called "natural consequences."
- F. It requires divine intervention.
- G. Not until probation closes.
- H. Other.

6. Prioritize from 1-8 the reasons you want Jesus to return:

- A. _____ I want to go to heaven.
 - B. _____ Reunion with those who have died.
 - C. _____ See Jesus.
 - D. _____ No more persecution.
 - E. _____ Justice—"How long, O Lord?"
 - F. _____ The end of sorrow and pain.
 - G. _____ I can't take this much longer.
 - H. _____ Other. _____
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7. How much persecution do you experience? Why that amount?

8. Paul prayed for the Thessalonians (vs. 11). For whom and what are you praying this week?

Now or Later?

OPENING QUESTION

When is the best time to eat dessert?

READ 2 Thessalonians 2:1–17.

1. What needs to be clarified about the coming of Jesus?

- A. He already came the first time.
- B. The second coming has not yet occurred.
- C. When Jesus comes into your heart, heaven begins.
- D. Christ's return will happen during my lifetime.
- E. A lot of stuff needs to happen before Jesus returns.
- F. We're on the verge of Christ's return.
- G. Things on this planet have to get much worse first.
- H. Things can't get much worse than they already are.
- I. Other.

2. Who is the “man of sin/lawlessness” (vs. 3)?

- A. A religious leader.
- B. A political leader.
- C. A military leader.
- D. The worst sinner in the world.
- E. Me.
- F. We don't know because it hasn't been revealed (yet).
- G. It's been revealed now, but it wasn't when Paul wrote this.
- H. A highly charismatic person who sweeps the masses off their feet.
- I. Other.

3. Who is holding back this “man of sin”?

- A. He's holding himself back until the perfect time.
- B. Satan.
- C. Jesus.
- D. God's angels (*Revelation 7:1*).
- E. Christians.
- F. The time has to be right.
- G. Prophecy has to be fulfilled.
- H. The Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- I. Other.

4. Pick the top two things you think are Satan's most effective tools.

- A. Power.
- B. Deception.
- C. Signs and wonders.
- D. Materialism.
- E. Ego/Selfishness.
- F. False spirituality/religion.
- G. Busyness.
- H. Sin seems so appealing.
- I. Other.

5. Why was Paul thankful for the Thessalonians?

- A. They had accepted Jesus as their Savior.
- B. No "man of sin" was going to fool them.
- C. They continued to worship God faithfully.
- D. The many things the Holy Spirit was doing through them.
- E. Their valiant fight against the "man of sin."
- F. A focus on Christ's return.
- G. Their openness to Paul's sermons, teachings, and letters.
- H. Other.

6. What message to the Thessalonians is a message you need right now?

- A. God chose you.
- B. Watch out for deception.
- C. Know what is true.
- D. Live what is true.
- E. Let Jesus hold you close to him.
- F. Hang in there.
- G. Bask in Christ's grace.
- H. Receive a fresh infusion of hope from Jesus Christ.
- I. Other.

7. What would make you susceptible to fall for the "man of sin"? What would keep you from falling for the "man of sin"?

8. What would encourage, comfort, or strengthen you in your Christian walk and talk?

Work It Out

OPENING QUESTION

Who is someone you consider to be a hard worker?

READ 2 Thessalonians 3:1–18.

1. What's at the top of your prayer request list?

- A. A good life for me.
- B. My family and/or friends.
- C. World peace.
- D. My salvation.
- E. The salvation of others.
- F. Safety and security.
- G. Courage.
- H. It's not so much "What's at the top?" but "Who's at the top?"
- I. Other.

2. How does the Lord make you strong and protect you *(vs. 3)*?

- A. No trials or temptations.
- B. Trials and temptations.
- C. Angels are all around me.
- D. An active prayer life.
- E. Opportunities to step out in faith.
- F. Relying on the promises of God.
- G. I don't feel strong.
- H. I don't feel protected.
- I. Other.

3. Why are some Christians idle/lazy—not hard-working?

- A. That's just the way some people are.
- B. Works don't save us, so why bother?
- C. Such people never learned how to work.
- D. Some people never had to work.
- E. Christian kindness attracts free-loaders.
- F. It's just a matter of temperament.
- G. Too busy doing the Lord's work to bother with other kinds of work.
- H. The question is: Why are some Christians workaholics?
- I. Other.

4. How can a person work hard (vs. 12) and also do good works (vs. 13)?

- A. Balance it half-and-half.
- B. Be responsible—work first and then add good works if you can.
- C. Be faithful—start with good works and then add work if you can.
- D. Do good work and it will also count as good works.
- E. It's impossible.
- F. Just do the best you can and leave it at that.
- G. Pray for God to guide you in prioritizing.
- H. Other.

5. How do you relate to fellow believers who aren't as committed as you?

- A. Encourage them.
- B. Challenge them.
- C. Stay away from them.
- D. Pray for them.
- E. Ask others to pray for them.
- F. Shame them.
- G. Model better commitment for them.
- H. Other.

6. What is your signature—proof that something came from you?

- A. Write or sign my name so it's easy to read.
- B. A unique signature—no one else can do it like I can.
- C. I usually include a small gift.
- D. The tone of it has my fingerprints all over it.
- E. It includes a bit of humor.
- F. People feel like they've been corrected.
- G. There will be a Bible verse with it.
- H. My emoji combinations.
- I. Other.

7. Do you agree with vs. 10—*whoever doesn't work doesn't eat*? What exceptions, if any, would you make?

8. When has God given you peace when things were not peaceful?

