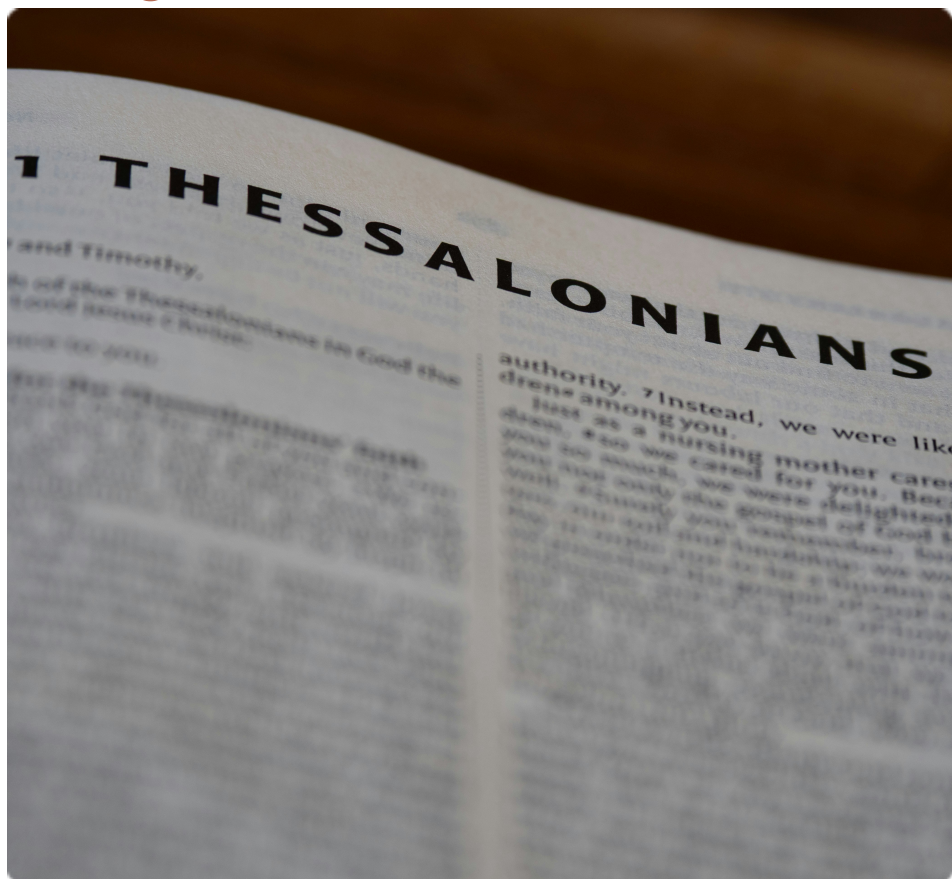


Living Word Galena



The Return of the King

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The contents of this study have been assembled to provide you the tools to dig into the text of Romans. All bible quotes are used by permission from the English Standard Version. This study was assembled by the staff of Living Word Galena, 2024.

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Week 1 Bible Study

Series: The Return of the King

Text: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1. Opening / Icebreaker

- Who is someone whose faith “echoed” into your life and left a lasting impact?

2. Read the Passage Together

- Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 slowly, maybe twice (different readers often help us hear things differently).

3. Exploration Questions *(These questions are designed to help you better understand the original intent of the text. Use as many of them as you desire to dig into the study.)*

- What basic truths about God do you find in this passage?
- What does this passage tell you about the character of God?
- How does God help people to be the people He wants them to be here?
- What evidence of God's love do you see in this passage?
- What about God in this passage surprises you?

4. Observation (*Text-Focused*)

- What three things are highlighted by Paul? What do we know about these three things and where else do they show up?
- How did the Thessalonians become “imitators” and then “examples”?
- What imagery does Paul use to describe their faith “ringing out”?

5. Interpretation (*Meaning*)

- Why do you think Paul connects gospel proclamation to imitation and example?
- What does this tell us about the contagious nature of genuine faith?
- How does this passage connect to the theme of hope in Jesus’ return?

6. Application Questions (*These questions can be used of most any passage in the Bible. They are designed to help you connect the teachings of God to your daily life.*)

- How does this passage help you see God’s love more clearly in your own life?

- What lesson is there for you in this passage?
- How is God calling you to change now?
- Do you live more like your faith is private or like it “rings out”?
- How does this passage help you become more like Jesus?

7. Personal Reflection

- Is your life echoing Jesus into your neighborhood? Into your family?
- What would it look like for our group/church to be known for faith that rings out?

8. Prayer Focus

- Thank God for the ways His Word has “rung out” in your life.
- Pray for boldness that your faith, love, and hope would echo into your neighborhood.
- Pray that our church would become a visible testimony of Christ’s power.

Week 2 Bible Study

Series: The Return of the King

Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

1. Opening / Icebreaker

- Share about someone whose ministry, lifestyle, or leadership you admire and would want to imitate. What stood out about them?

2. Read the Passage

- Have someone read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16 aloud or read it together.

3. Exploration Questions *(These questions are designed to help you better understand the original intent of the text. Use as many of them as you desire to dig into the study.)*

- What does this passage tell you about the character of God?
- What does this passage teach you about what is important to Jesus?
- How does God help His people live out faithful ministry here?
- What evidence of God's love do you see in the way Paul ministered?
- How does this passage change the way you think about God's expectations for ministry?

4. Observation *(Text-Focused)*

- What qualities does Paul say did *not* define his ministry (vv. 3-6)?

- What images does Paul use to describe his ministry (gentle like a mother, encouraging like a father)?
- How did the Thessalonians receive the word of God?

5. Interpretation *(Meaning)*

- Why does Paul highlight both endurance and gentleness in his ministry?
- What does it mean that the gospel is not about ego but about faithful love?
- How does Paul's example contrast with self-serving leadership in our culture?

6. Application Questions *These questions can be used of most any passage in the Bible. They are designed to help you connect the teachings of God to your daily life.)*

- How does this passage help you see God's love more clearly in your own life?
- How is God challenging you to be both truthful and gentle in your witness?
- What kind of "gospel message" does your life communicate right now?
- How can our group or church imitate the balance of endurance and gentleness in ministry?
- What does this passage teach you about what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus?

7. Personal Reflection

- Who in your life right now needs to see the gospel through your words *and* your gentleness?
- Where might pride or ego get in the way of a faithful witness?

8. Prayer Focus

- Thank God for those who modeled faithful ministry in your life.
- Ask God to shape your witness so it reflects both truth and love.
- Pray that our church's ministry would be "worth imitating" in our community.

Week 3 Bible Study

Series: The Return of the King

Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

1. Opening / Icebreaker

- Who has encouraged you most during a difficult time, and how did they do it?

2. Read the Passage Together

- Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13 aloud as a group.
- Option: Have one person read 2:17-20, another 3:1-5, and another 3:6-13.

3. Exploration Questions *(These questions are designed to help you better understand the original intent of the text. Use as many of them as you desire to dig into the study.)*

- What does this passage tell you about the character of God?
- How does God help His people remain faithful under trial here?
- What evidence of God's love do you see in the way Paul longs for and prays for the Thessalonians?
- How does this passage show God's care through community?

4. Observation *(Text-Focused)*

- What emotions does Paul express about being separated from the Thessalonians (2:17-20)?
- Why did Paul send Timothy to them (3:1-5)?

- What news does Timothy bring back (3:6-10)?
- How does Paul pray for the Thessalonians at the end (3:11-13)?

5. Interpretation *(Meaning)*

- Why does Paul connect encouragement so closely to Christian community?
- How does this passage show that trials are not unusual for believers but expected?
- Why does Paul consider their perseverance in faith a source of joy and strength for him?

6. Application Questions *(These questions can be used of most any passage in the Bible. They are designed to help you connect the teachings of God to your daily life.)*

- How did God sustain Paul and the Thessalonians through hardship, and how has He sustained you?
- Who do you strengthen in your storm, and who strengthens you?
- What lesson is there for you personally in this passage?
- How does this passage help you see God's love more clearly in your own life?

7. Personal Reflection

- Who in your life right now needs encouragement in their faith?
- How can you be more intentional about strengthening others during times of trial?

8. Prayer Focus

- Thank God for the people He has used to encourage you in faith.
- Pray for strength and endurance for those facing hardship in your group and church.
- Ask God to deepen our love for one another so we can build faith that lasts through trials.

Week 4 Bible Study

Series: The Return of the King

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

1. Opening / Icebreaker

- When have you felt pressure to “blend in” with those around you, even when you knew it wasn’t right?

2. Read the Passage Together

- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 aloud as a group.
- Option: Divide the reading into two parts (vv. 1-8, then vv. 9-12).

3. Exploration Questions *(These questions are designed to help you better understand the original intent of the text. Use as many of them as you desire to dig into the study.)*

- What basic truths about God do you find in this passage?
- What does this passage tell you about what is important to Jesus?
- How does God help His people live holy lives?
- What surprises you about God’s expectations here?
- What evidence of God’s love and care do you see in this passage?

4. Observation *(Text-Focused)*

- What instructions does Paul give about holiness in verses 1-8?

- How does Paul describe God's will for believers?
- What does Paul say about love for one another in verses 9-10?
- How does Paul connect work, daily living, and witness in verses 11-12?

5. Interpretation *(Meaning)*

- Why is holiness central to pleasing God?
- How does Paul contrast holiness with cultural compromise?
- Why is sanctification (being set apart) both God's will and God's work in us?
- How does love for one another fit into living a holy life?

6. Application Questions *(These questions can be used of most any passage in the Bible. They are designed to help you connect the teachings of God to your daily life.)*

- Where are you tempted to blend in when God calls you to stand out?
- How is God calling you to change now?
- What lesson is there for you in this passage?
- How does this passage help you become more like Jesus?

- In what ways could you live more “quietly” and faithfully so that your life points to Christ?

7. Personal Reflection

- Which area of life feels hardest to “stand apart” for God right now - relationships, work, time, or habits?
- What would it look like for you to live more intentionally “to please God” this week?

8. Prayer Focus

- Thank God for calling us into holiness and for giving us the Spirit to empower us.
- Ask for strength to stand out for Christ in a culture of compromise.
- Pray that our church would be known for both holiness and deep love for one another.

Week 5 Bible Study

Series: The Return of the King

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

1. Opening / Icebreaker

- Share a time when you experienced hope in the middle of grief or loss.

2. Read the Passage Together

- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 aloud as a group.
- Option: Have one person read 4:13-18 and another 5:1-11.

3. Exploration Questions *(These questions are designed to help you better understand the original intent of the text. Use as many of them as you desire to dig into the study.)*

- What basic truths about God do you see in this passage?
- What does this passage tell you about God's love and mercy toward His people?
- How does this passage help us understand what is important to Jesus?
- How does this passage give hope for the future?

4. Observation *(Text-Focused)*

- How does Paul describe the death of believers (4:13-14)?
- What sequence of events does Paul outline for Jesus' return (4:15-17)?

- How does Paul encourage the Thessalonians to live in light of this (5:1-11)?
- What imagery does Paul use for being spiritually awake and alert?

5. Interpretation *(Meaning)*

- Why does Paul describe Christian grief as different from hopeless grief?
- How does the resurrection of Jesus guarantee the resurrection of believers?
- What does it mean to live as “children of the light” in a world marked by darkness?
- Why does hope in Christ’s return reshape both our grieving and our living?

6. Application Questions *(These questions can be used of most any passage in the Bible. They are designed to help you connect the teachings of God to your daily life.)*

- Do you live more like Jesus is returning or like He’s forgotten?
- How does this passage give you hope for the future?
- How is God calling you to live with greater alertness and readiness?
- How does this passage help you become more like Jesus?

- Who in your life needs the comfort of resurrection hope right now?

7. Personal Reflection

- What specific change would help you live more ready for Christ's return?
- How can you encourage someone this week with the hope of resurrection?

8. Prayer Focus

- Thank God for the comfort and hope of the resurrection.
- Pray for strength to live awake, alert, and ready for Christ's return.
- Ask God to make our church a place of hope for those who grieve.

Week 6 Bible Study

Series: The Return of the King

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:12–28

1. Opening / Icebreaker

- Which daily habit most shapes your outlook on life? (For good or for bad!)

2. Read the Passage Together

- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 aloud.
- Option: Have two readers split the section (vv. 12-22, vv. 23-28).

3. Exploration Questions *(These questions are designed to help you better understand the original intent of the text. Use as many of them as you desire to dig into the study.)*

- What does this passage tell you about the character of God?
- What is important to God in this passage?
- How does God help His people live differently from those in darkness?
- What surprises you about God in this passage?

4. Observation *(Text-Focused)*

- What instructions does Paul give about relationships within the church (vv. 12-15)?
- What three habits does Paul emphasize (vv. 16-18)?

- What does Paul say about testing everything and holding fast to what is good (vv. 19-22)?
- How does Paul close with blessing and prayer (vv. 23-28)?

5. Interpretation *(Meaning)*

- Why does Paul tie “daylight living” to habits like joy, prayer, and gratitude?
- How do these commands set believers apart from the world?
- What role does discernment play in protecting the church from spiritual danger?
- Why does Paul end the letter with a prayer for sanctification and peace?

6. Application Questions *(These questions can be used of most any passage in the Bible. They are designed to help you connect the teachings of God to your daily life.)*

- Which of these “daylight marks” (joy, prayer, gratitude, discernment) are you growing in most right now?
- Which one do you struggle with most, and why?
- How is God calling you to change through this passage?
- What lesson is there for you personally here?
- How does this passage help you become more like Jesus?

7. Personal Reflection

- What one “daylight habit” do you want to practice more intentionally this week?
- How might living this way make your faith shine more brightly in your community?

8. Prayer Focus

- Thank God for His call to live as children of the day.
- Ask Him to grow joy, prayerfulness, and gratitude in your daily walk.
- Pray for discernment to hold fast to what is good and resist the pull of darkness.