

## Faith Has An Example

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### 1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-12

#### This Week's Core

##### Competency:

**Humility-** I choose to esteem others above myself.

*Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4)*

#### Using This Study

##### 🕒 EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

##### 🕒 EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

##### 🕒 EXPAND His Word

How does this FIT? Studying cross references can help expand your understanding of a passage and discover the unity in God's word.

##### 🕒 EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

#### The Power of an Example

"Setting an example isn't the main means to influence another, it is the only means." ~ Albert Einstein

Corrie Ten Boom, a famous concentration camp survivor and devoted Christian woman, said this about her father.

*"When I was a little girl, my father used to tuck me into bed at night. He talked with me, prayed with me, and laid his big hands on my little face. I did not move because I wanted to keep the feeling of that big hand on my face. It was a comfort to me. Later, when I was in the concentration camp, I would sometimes pray, "My heavenly Father, will you lay your hand on my face?" That would bring me peace, and I would be able to sleep."*

Because her father demonstrated a fatherly type of love, Corrie was able to understand the heavenly Father's love. Being an example has a powerful way of illustrating the truths claims that we, as believers, embrace. At its best, a good example serves as a kind of "How To..." manual for concepts like unconditional love, forgiveness, compassion, and kindness.

How effective do you think it would have been if a disengaged father sat at the dinner table each night and told his children, "Kids, I want you to know that God is an ever-present source of comfort and peace"? I have no doubt that these children would soon begin to ignore what their father was saying. On the other hand, an example has a way of authenticating and clarifying a truth. It takes it out of the cognitive realm and weaves it into our experience. This, of course, has the added benefit of anchoring it to our memory.

#### This Week

In the scripture passage this week, Paul talks about being an example. The challenge for each of us is to be the kind of person that reflects God's character to those in our sphere of influence. How blessed it would be if, after being involved in your life, someone could say, "I have glimpsed God's heart, and I want nothing less for myself."

## ① EXAMINE His Word

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What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

7 Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nursing mother nurtures her own children.

8 We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

9 For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you.

10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you believers.

11 As you know, like a father with his own children,

12 we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

13 This is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the message about God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, the message of God, which also works effectively in you believers.

## EXPLORE His Word

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What does God MEAN?

1. Paul states that they "could have been a burden as Christ's apostles" (v. 7), what does he mean by that statement? What are some examples of what they could have done as apostles?
2. Paul compares the role of a mother (vv. 7-9) and a father (vv. 11, 12) with his ministry approach. Using the words from the text and your own words, describe what you think makes each role distinctive.
3. In verse 8, Paul shared the gospel and something more. What was it and why is that important? Or, said another way, why is just sharing the gospel not enough?
4. In verse 9, Paul describes toil and hardship. To what was he referring and why was it necessary?

## ③ EXPAND His Word

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How does this FIT?

5. Jesus makes a strong statement towards the Pharisees in Matthew 23: 1-7 that is relevant to our passage. Compare the Pharisee's actions with Paul's actions in Thessalonica. How were they different? Be specific.

6. Jesus set the ultimate example for believers. Read Philippians 2:1-11 and list the actions and attitudes of Christ's and compare them with Paul's. In what ways did Paul practice what he preached?

## **④ EMBRACE His Word**

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Why does this MATTER to me?

7. In what context or what type of relationship might God call you, as a believer, to be like a mother or a father in your approach to someone else? Explain what that might involve.
8. As stated in verse 8, what are some ways for a believer to truly share his or her life with others?
9. Being an authentic example to others is the natural result of a growing relationship with God. Think about what you do to strengthen your closest human relationships. Now, apply that to your relationship with the Lord. What could you do to nurture your relationship with God?

### **Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW...

Write about how God wants you to FEEL...

Write about what God wants you to DO...

# 30 CORE Competencies

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## 10 Core Beliefs

**Trinity** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Salvation by Grace** *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Authority of the Bible** *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

**Personal God** *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

**Identity in Christ** *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

**Church** *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

**Humanity** *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

**Compassion** *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

**Eternity** *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

**Stewardship** *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

## 10 Core Practices

**Worship** *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

**Prayer** *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

**Bible Study** *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

**Single-mindedness** *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

**Spiritual Gifts** *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

**Biblical Community** *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

**Giving Away My Time** *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Money** *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Faith** *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Life** *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

## 10 Core Virtues

**Joy** *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

**Peace** *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

**Faithfulness** *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

**Self-Control** *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

**Humility** *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

**Love** *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

**Patience** *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

**Kindness/Goodness** *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

**Gentleness** *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

**Hope** *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ