

# GOING DEEPER

Discipleship Resources for Community Church



Week of  
Feb 17-23  
2019

## **THE GOSPEL COMES IN MORE THAN JUST WORDS, IT COMES IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO CHANGE LIVES.**

In 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10, Paul acknowledges the great work which God has been accomplishing through the people of the church in Thessalonica. He knows that even through persecution, their hope in Christ had been sustained as evidenced through the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. He knows that their hearts have been transformed and that they are actually living out the life God has called them to. By the power of the Holy Spirit they are wondrously joyful, even in the midst of suffering, because they have full assurance that the Gospel of Jesus' self-giving love for them is true.

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. *1 Thessalonians 1:4-10*

## **THIS WEEK:**

**Reflection:** Reflect on your own conviction for the truth of the Gospel; spend some quiet time praying through the following questions. If it's helpful, use them as a starting point to journal through your thoughts. How did God use words to reveal Himself to you? How did he provide examples of people actually living out the Gospel? But most importantly, how have you seen the power of the Holy Spirit at work in your life? How has He changed you? How has He given you joy despite your present circumstances? How has He given you full assurance that the Gospel of Jesus' self-giving love for you is true?

**Application:** As people who have been utterly transformed by Jesus' self-giving love and the power of the Holy Spirit, we truly have an incredible Gospel to share with a broken and hurting world. What relationships has God given you in which you feel burdened to share this Gospel? What practical steps can you take to trust that the same Holy Spirit who was speaking to you will be speaking to them as well? Share your thoughts and practical steps with a close friend.

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