



*For the Glory of God*

BIBLICAL GUIDANCE FOR GIVING



**READY FOR  
HIS RETURN**

A Study in 1st Thessalonians



*Ruth*



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# HOW TO USE THIS SERIES GUIDE:

Each week of the series contains three parts:

1. Scripture covered in that week's sermon

2. A place to journal or take notes

3. A discussion guide with questions



View Service  
Recordings



View Spotify  
Playlist



For additional teaching on biblical generosity, you can view our *Generous God, Generous People* series from the fall of 2024 by using this QR code.



*For the Glory of God*

BIBLICAL GUIDANCE FOR GIVING

WE MAKE DISCIPLES OF  
ALL PEOPLES AND ALL NATIONS  
**FOR THE GLORY OF GOD**

—NB Mission Statement





# D-GROUP

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read **1st Chronicles 28:1-3** and **29:1-9** before discussing the following.

1. Why was David not allowed to build the temple for the Lord? What did he decide to do instead?
2. What can we learn about the temple from these passages? Consider both what can be found in and inferred from the text.
3. What kind of invitation did David give the people? How did they respond?

Read **1st Chronicles 29:10-19** and discuss the following.

4. Summarize David's prayer. What most sticks out to you, and why?
5. How did David view himself and his possessions? How do you think he saw God? Explain.

Read **1st Chronicles 29:20-22** and discuss the following.

6. How does the passage conclude?
7. List some guidance for giving that we can take away from the above verses.





# PRACTICAL & SPIRITUAL

## Nehemiah 3

I have been thinking about the story of Nehemiah's rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem. It's a story of perseverance, faith, and teamwork. Nehemiah, a Jewish official in the Persian court, learned that the wall of Jerusalem had been destroyed and decided to lead the people back to their city and rebuild the wall.

The story is divided into two main parts: the first part (verses 1-32) describes the planning and the start of the rebuilding, and the second part (verses 33-62) describes the completion of the wall and the dedication ceremony.

One of the most interesting aspects of the story is the way in which the wall was rebuilt. Nehemiah organized the people into teams, each responsible for a specific section of the wall. This was a practical approach that allowed the work to be done efficiently and effectively.

The story also teaches us about the importance of prayer and faith. Nehemiah prayed for wisdom and strength from God, and he trusted in God's promise to help him and his people.

Finally, the story reminds us of the power of teamwork and perseverance. It took a long time to rebuild the wall, but the people worked together and never gave up, and in the end, they succeeded.



# D-GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Work together to summarize the events of Nehemiah 3. What was happening? Who was involved?

The chapter details several interesting facts about those who built the wall. Skim through the chapter and note which of the following types of people helped build: *goldsmiths, priests, homeowners, local residents, out-of-towners, merchants, Levites, temple servants, perfumers, rulers, sons, daughters, etc.* What can we learn about God from their inclusion on this list? Why do you think the Spirit prompted Nehemiah to include these details?

Not everyone in the area was eager to help with building. Who refrained from joining the project (3:5)? What was their reason for not participating?

What kind of a builder are you? Do you build your life to make a name for yourself or to make much of the name of God?

How should the way believers handle money, relationships, time, and energy reflect their desire to build God's kingdom rather than their own? Explain.

**Nehemiah 3** displays a diverse group of devoted people working for the good of the city and the glory of God. How can you personally help produce unity and diversity within our local church body?

**Nehemiah 8-10** records what happened after the wall was built. The law was read, the Feast of Booths was celebrated, prayers, confessions, and covenant commitments were made. Spiritual renewal was initiated. How does this connect with the rebuilding and repair of the wall?

Share a personal takeaway from the above passages and discussion.



# GENEROUS PARTNERSHIP

**Philippians 4:14-20**



# FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

“For God’s Glory”

In this 3 week mini series, we will learn about being a “cheerful giver.”

**Memory Verse:**

**“...God loves a cheerful giver.”**

2ND CORINTHIANS 9:7B NIRV

Read and talk about this verse often for the next 3 weeks. For younger children, explain what it means to be cheerful. After a few times of reading and discussing the verse, ask your child to recite the verse and then, in their own words, tell you what the verse means.

This verse is a good reminder to parents as well, and can open up great discussions of the many ways we can give cheerfully.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does it mean to be a cheerful giver?
2. Why should we enjoy giving?
3. What are some ways you can think of to give cheerfully?

*\*\* Your child has an opportunity to join in on the Raise the Roof Campaign. Pledge cards will be shared with them and you as a family can spend time together talking about ways they can cheerfully give to the campaign. \*\**



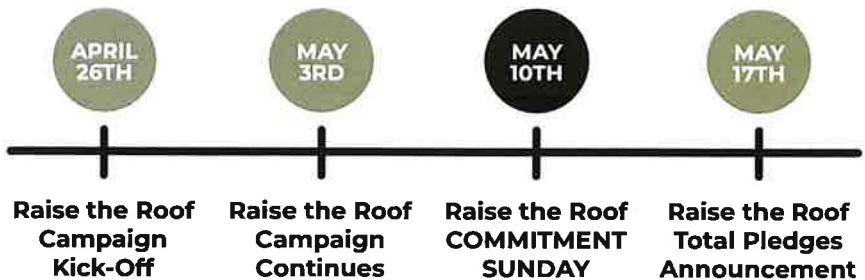
# RAISE THE ROOF Campaign

Our church's roof has had significant issues for many years. Efforts to address those issues have been ongoing; however, after consulting with multiple roofing contractors in 2025 and 2026, a new roofing system has become a priority for this year. The Raise the Roof campaign is our effort to raise funds to meet this need.

- Goal: \$350,000
- Pledge Cards Returned by Commitment Sunday  
May 10th
- One Year Pledge (May 2026-May 2027)
- Pledges Can Be Given at Any Time & Increments

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## TIMELINE



## ACTS 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup>And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

## WAYS TO GIVE:



### Church Center App

Download App  
From HOME screen  
select Raise the Roof



### Check

Write a personal  
check with "Raise the  
Roof" written in the  
memo



### QR Code

Scan with your phone  
camera.



### Mail to NB Church

4101 E. 151<sup>st</sup> Street S.  
Bixby, OK 74008

# Strategically Located

*“Poised for Future Growth”*

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- On State Hwy 67 used by 33,000+ Vehicles Per Day
- Easy Access to State Hwy 75
- New Bixby West School
- Property Value Appreciation Close to 50% Since 2020
- New Firestation and EMS
- Substantial New Commercial Development Along Hwy 67 and Downtown Bixby


## A Glimpse at the Past:

In 1994, God blessed NB Church and provided the opportunity to purchase 17 acres in our current location.

2003 Phase I was completed and New Beginnings Church moved into the facility on Easter Sunday

2008 Phase II project involved a significant re-configuration of existing space

2010 Phase III doubled building space and parking to the current footprint



## What Can We Do Moving Forward?

1. Continue to pray and care for one another.
2. Commit to faithfully give and prayerfully consider increasing your generosity.
3. Help us build strong NB Serve Teams as we strive to support our community.

# Effectiveness in Lifestyle Generosity

## **Practice Priority Budgeting:**

Many families will choose to rearrange their priorities and give up something in their current budget in order to give more to a generosity initiative.

## **Increased Giving with Increased Income:**

Some people receive periodic increases in salary or bonuses from their employers. The temptation for many of us is to increase our lifestyle to fit the higher income. Consider committing the increase to a generosity initiative.

## **Give From Your Excess:**

Some families save money over a period of years for a special project or trip. You may decide the needs of the church are greater than your own.

## **Sacrifice Your Extra Time:**

Some family members have extra time they would be willing to volunteer in a part-time job to be able to give more to the church. This is particularly true for families whose children are grown and away from home and for semi-retired or retired couples.



God has uniquely gifted each of us to bring Him glory and serve the body of Christ. We'd love to help you find your place at NB Church!

Here are some of the areas of service to consider:

- NB Little Kids: Birth-Kindergarten
- NB Kids: Grades 1st-5th
- Media Production: AVL Booth
- Hospitality: Greeters, Ushers
- Hospitality: Kitchen, Coffee Bar
- Prayer Team
- Creative Arts: Website, Social Media, Print
- Worship Arts: Vocals, Band
- Safety Team
- Facilities: Maintenance, Landscaping
- Facilities: Tear Down/Set Up
- Admin Support: Phone, Light Office
- John 3:16 Breakfast Team



# LEVELS OF GENEROSITY

*“Which Step of Faith Are You On?”*

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## Initial Giver:

Someone who has not yet given to NB Church but is willing to step out and make their first financial gift.

## Consistent Giver:

Someone who has chosen to make giving a consistent part of their worship. They pre-determine their giving amount, often based on a percentage of income, rather than giving out of leftover funds.

## Intentional Giver:

This person comprehensively evaluates their finances. They understand that their budget reflects their priorities.

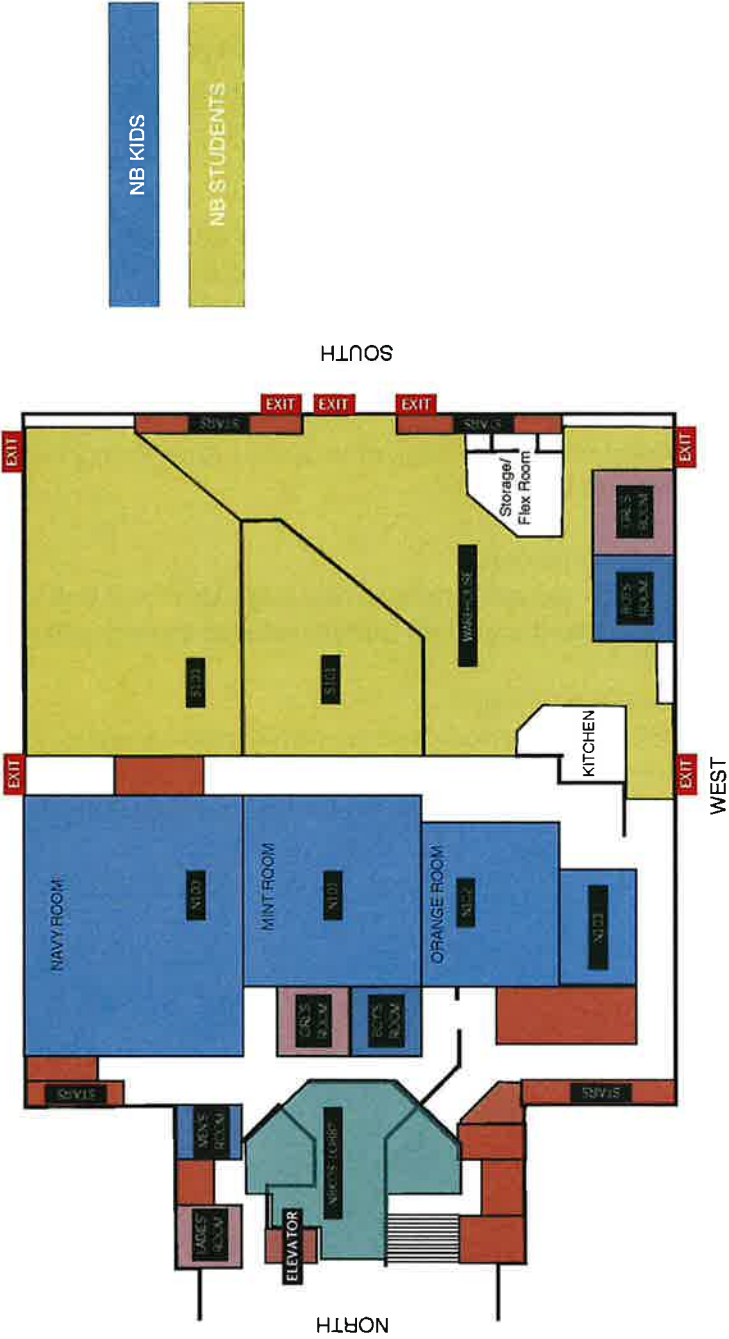
## Sacrificial Giver:

Driven by gratitude and joy rather than obligation, they prioritize others' needs over their own comfort, often described as having an "open-handed" approach to possessions.

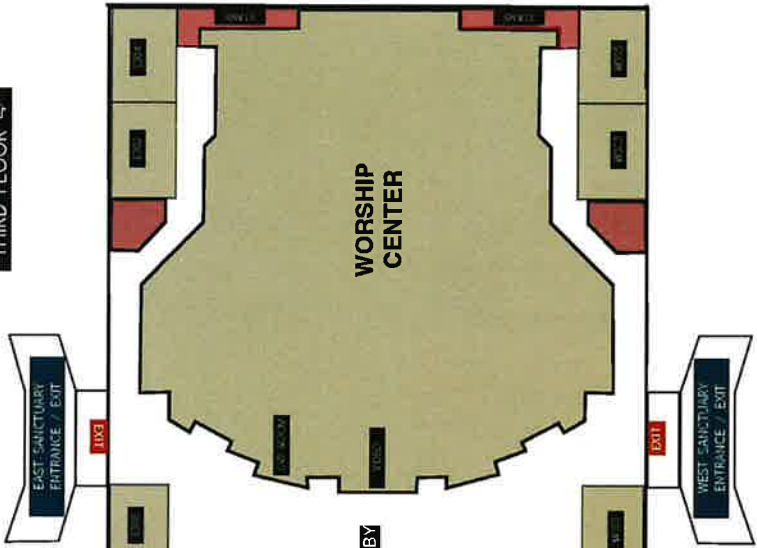
# NB FLOOR PLAN: 4 LEVELS

EAST

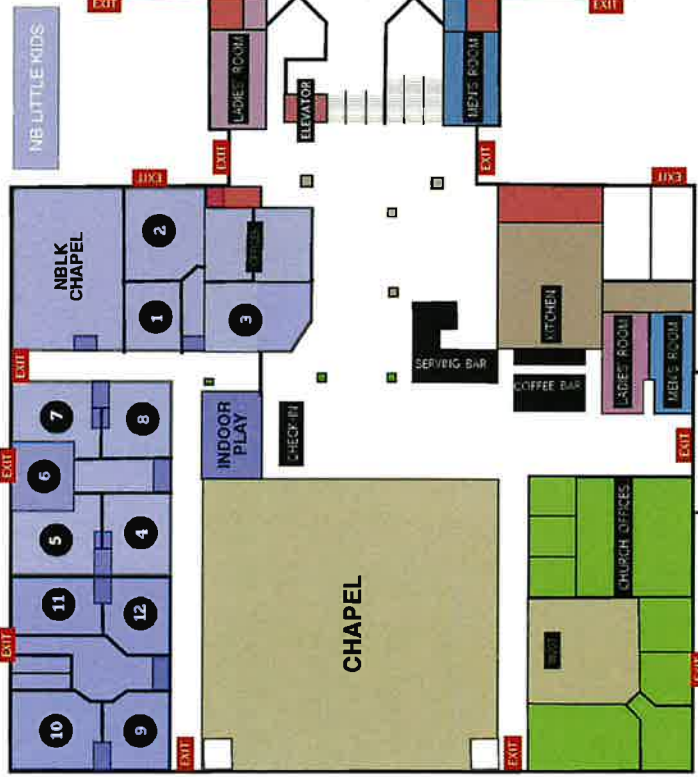
FIRST FLOOR  
LOWEST LEVEL



THIRD FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



NB LITTLE KIDS

NBLK CHAPEL

LADIES' ROOM

ELEVATOR

WOMEN'S ROOM

KITCHEN

SERV/BIG BAR

COFFEE BAR

LADIES' ROOM

MEN'S ROOM

INDOOR PLAY

CHECK-IN

CHAPEL

CHURCH OFFICES

COVERED CIRCLE DRIVE

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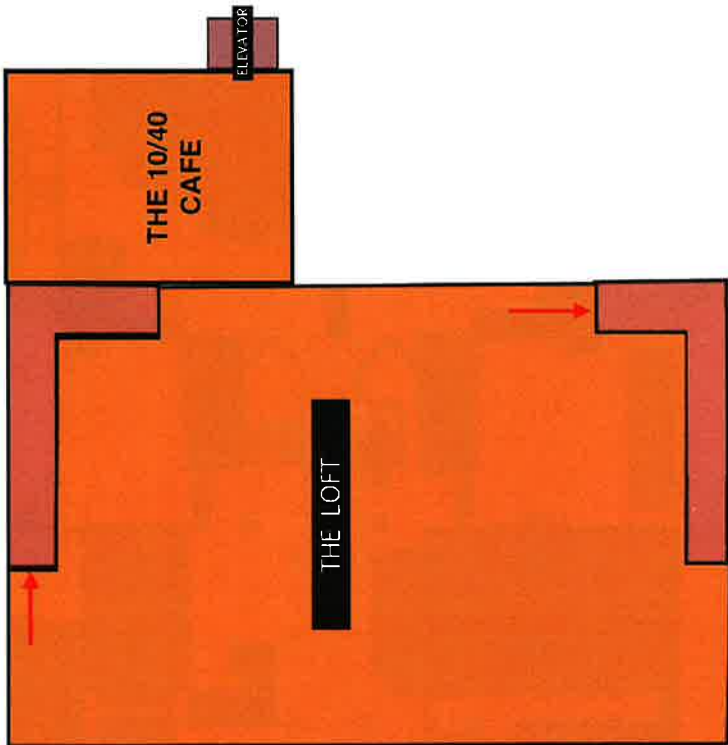
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FOURTH FLOOR





# READY FOR HIS RETURN

A Study in 1st Thessalonians

# READY FOR HIS RETURN

## A Study in 1st Thessalonians

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One of the Apostle Paul's earliest letters was written to the church in Thessalonica (**A.D. 50-51**). He had visited them during his second missionary journey, but was forced to flee on account of Jewish opposition (**Acts 17:1-9**). Though many had received the good news of Jesus and responded in faith, these young believers had questions regarding the Lord's return. Grateful for their devotion, Paul wrote them to offer encouragement and clarity.

Exemplary in their faith, Paul reminded the Thessalonians of the power of the gospel and the aim of Christian discipleship. Additionally, he addressed their confusion concerning the second coming before exhorting them in brotherly love and practical holiness.

May we find encouragement in our study of this epistle and follow the example of the Thessalonians, so that we too might be *ready for His return*.



Week One

# Faith, Hope, & Love

# Faith, Hope, & Love

## 1st Thessalonians 1:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and  
the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. <sup>9</sup>For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.



# Week 1 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **1st Thessalonians 1:1-10** and discuss the following.

Paul opens by sharing how grateful to God he is for the church of the Thessalonians. List some things for which he is particularly thankful.

Faith, hope, and love—where else have we heard these three mentioned together in Scripture?

How are the believers in Thessalonica considered exemplary? Share some implications this has for genuine faith.

What does this passage teach us about the gospel?

If the opening chapter serves as an introduction to the letter's purpose and content, what themes and topic might we anticipate reading as we move through the rest of this epistle?

What do you hope to personally gain from this series?





The background is a textured, hand-drawn style illustration. It features a central silhouette of a person standing on a path that leads towards a horizon. The sky is filled with radiating lines, suggesting a sun or moon. The overall color palette is a mix of various shades of green and brown, creating a natural, organic feel.

Week Two

# Approved & Entrusted

# Approved & Entrusted

## 1st Thessalonians 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. <sup>2</sup> But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. <sup>3</sup> For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, <sup>4</sup> but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup> For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. <sup>6</sup> Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. <sup>8</sup> So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

<sup>9</sup> For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. <sup>11</sup> For you know how, like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup> we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.







Week Three

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# Imitation & Intimidation

# Imitation & Intimidation

## 1st Thessalonians 2:13-20

<sup>13</sup> And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. <sup>14</sup> For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, <sup>15</sup> who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind <sup>16</sup> by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

<sup>17</sup> But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, <sup>18</sup> because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. <sup>19</sup> For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

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# Week 3 D-Group Discussion Guide

Can you think of a time you were physically or verbally threatened for any reason? Have you ever faced intimidation on account of your faith?

Read **1st Thessalonians 2:13-20** and discuss the following.

What does this passage teach us concerning the word of God?

How did these Gentile believers in Thessalonica become imitators of the churches in Judea? Explain some implications this has for us as followers of Jesus today.

*“For you are our glory and joy” (v.20).* What does this mean?

How would you describe Paul’s relationship with these believers, and why? Have you experienced a similar spiritual bond and affection?





The background is a textured, hand-drawn style illustration. It features a central silhouette of a person standing on a path that leads towards a horizon. The sky is filled with radiating lines, and the ground is composed of dense, vertical hatching. The color palette is primarily green and brown, with a white text overlay.

Week Four

# Investment & Affliction

# Investment & Affliction

## 1st Thessalonians 3:1-13

<sup>1</sup> Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, <sup>2</sup> and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, <sup>3</sup> that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. <sup>4</sup> For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. <sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

<sup>6</sup> But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— <sup>7</sup> for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. <sup>8</sup> For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, <sup>10</sup> as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, <sup>12</sup> and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup> so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.



# Week 4 D-Group Discussion Guide

Think of those who have invested in you spiritually? How have they displayed their care and concern for you and your walk?

Read **1st Thessalonians 3:1-13** and discuss the following.

Why did Paul send Timothy to the Thessalonians? What is Paul's primary concern?

What was Timothy tasked with doing? How would he do this?

Share some ways this passage informs our discipleship of one another? What must discipleship include? What is its ultimate aim?

Consider your discipleship efforts. What are you doing well? Which area is most lacking? What might you do differently as a result of this passage?





The background is a textured, hand-drawn style illustration. It features a central vertical path or road that leads upwards towards a silhouette of a person standing with arms slightly out. The path is flanked by what appears to be clouds or a forest floor. The entire scene is rendered in shades of green and brown, with fine, repetitive lines creating a sense of depth and texture. The overall mood is spiritual and contemplative.

Week Five

# Sanctification & Holiness

# Sanctification & Holiness

## 1st Thessalonians 4:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. <sup>2</sup> For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.



# Week 5 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **1st Thessalonians 4:1-8** and discuss the following.

According to this passage, what is “*the will of God*” for us?

What exactly is sanctification? Describe this process. Given our passage of study, as well as the first three chapters of this letter, what all is involved?

From what are we called to abstain? How was this an issue for the original audience? What makes this particularly challenging in our age?

What are we called to pursue? Share some ways you are personally hindered or distracted from these pursuits. How are you most helped? How can we best help one another?

Conclude by praying together for one another to walk in a manner pleasing to God.



the following:  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a vector space over  $\mathbb{R}$  with the usual addition and scalar multiplication.

Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  be the standard basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Then  $\mathcal{B}$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Let  $\mathcal{B}' = \{e_1, \dots, e_{n-1}, e_n + e_{n-1}\}$  be another basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Let  $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be the linear transformation defined by  $T(e_i) = e_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n-1$  and  $T(e_n) = e_n + e_{n-1}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathcal{B}'$  be the bases for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\mathbb{R}^n$  respectively. Then the matrix of  $T$  with respect to  $\mathcal{B}$  is

$$[T]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and the matrix of  $T$  with respect to  $\mathcal{B}'$  is

$$[T]_{\mathcal{B}'} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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and the matrix of  $T$  with respect to  $\mathcal{B}'$  is

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and the matrix of  $T$  with respect to  $\mathcal{B}'$  is

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Let  $P$  be the change of basis matrix from  $\mathcal{B}$  to  $\mathcal{B}'$ . Then

$$[T]_{\mathcal{B}'} = P^{-1} [T]_{\mathcal{B}} P$$

The background is a textured green and brown pattern. A central silhouette of a person stands on a path that leads upwards, surrounded by radiating lines that create a sense of light or energy. The overall style is reminiscent of a woodcut or a hand-drawn illustration.

Week Six

# Brotherly Love

# Brotherly Love

## 1st Thessalonians 4:9-12

<sup>9</sup> Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, <sup>10</sup> for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, <sup>11</sup> and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, <sup>12</sup> so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.





The background is a textured, hand-drawn style illustration. It features a central vertical path that leads from the bottom towards a bright, glowing light source at the top. The path is flanked by stylized, sketchy clouds. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green and brown, with the light source at the top creating a bright, almost white glow. The texture consists of many fine, overlapping lines and strokes, giving it a sense of depth and movement.

Week Seven

# Hope & Comfort





# Week 7 D-Group Discussion Guide

As you think about the Lord's return, what kinds of questions come to mind?

Read **1st Thessalonians 4:13-18** and discuss the following.

The believers in Thessalonica had some questions and confusion about their brothers and sisters who had recently passed away. What seems to be their primary concern? How did Paul respond?

What does Paul mean when he says that we are not hopeless in our grief? How is this different from the world?

Discuss what this passage tells us concerning the Lord's return. List as many details as you can find from the text.

On what authority does Paul tell us such things? What are we to do with these words?

When you think of the Lord's return, are you more fearful or comforted? According to our passage, how should this encourage believers?







Week Eight

# Light & Darkness

# Light & Darkness

## 1st Thessalonians 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.





The background is a textured, hand-drawn style illustration. It features a central silhouette of a person with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The entire scene is rendered in shades of green and brown, with fine, radiating lines creating a sense of light or energy emanating from the center. The overall effect is one of spiritual or emotional intensity.

Week Nine

# Peace & Patience





# Week 9 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **1st Thessalonians 5:12-15** and discuss the following.

In your own words, summarize the overall message of this passage. What do each of these exhortations have in common?

Paul gives specific instructions for three different groups of people: *the idle*, *the fainthearted*, and *the weak*. With which of these groups can you most easily identify? How have you been *admonished*, *encouraged*, and *helped* by other brothers and sisters?

In seeking to be at peace with one another, we are encouraged to practice patience. Who or what most greatly tests your patience? What does this reveal about your heart?

If these exhortations were to be obeyed, what type of community would they help produce? How might this be attractive to those outside the faith? Explain.

How does an awareness of Christ's return help motivate your obedience to a passage like this?





The background is a textured, hand-drawn style illustration. It features a central vertical path or road that leads towards a horizon. On the horizon, there is a silhouette of a person standing. The sky above the horizon is filled with radiating lines, suggesting a bright light source. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green and brown, with a fine, cross-hatched texture throughout.

Week Ten

# Always & Everything





# Week 10 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **1st Thessalonians 5:18-22** and discuss the following.

What do you make of Paul's all or nothing language? Which of these exhortations most stands out to you, and why?

According to this passage, what is God's will for us? How is this even possible? What does it tangibly look like to be *always* rejoicing and ever in prayer?

What does it mean to "*quench the Spirit*"? List some common ways we do this.

Summarize what Paul is saying in **v.20-21**.

How do these exhortations relate to the ones that precede them (**v.12-15**)?

How does an awareness of Christ's return help motivate your obedience to a passage like this?

Share how this passage most comforts and/or convicts you.





The background is a textured composition of green and brown tones. It features a central, dark green silhouette of a figure, possibly a person or a religious icon, standing on a path that leads towards the viewer. The entire scene is overlaid with a dense pattern of fine, radiating lines that create a sense of depth and movement, reminiscent of a woodcut or a fine-line print. The overall effect is one of a sacred or significant journey.

Week Eleven

# Wholly Holy





# Week 11 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **1st Thessalonians 5:23-28** and discuss the following.

How would you summarize this closing blessing?

Why can those who are in Christ be confident they will indeed be sanctified?

Having thrice mentioned his prayers for the Thessalonians (**1:2; 3:12-13; 5:23-24**), Paul makes a request for prayer. How often do you pray for others? Do you struggle to ask for prayer? Why or why not?

Paul makes it a point that everyone hears the content of his letter. What conclusions can we draw from this strong encouragement?

List some tangible takeaways from this passage. What most stands out to you from this series?



# Family Worship Guide

**Read together 1st Thessalonians 1:2-3.**

Paul is writing to the people in the church at Thessalonica. He tells them that he (Paul), and his friends Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy “always thank God for all of you.” This is because of their faith, love and dedicated hope.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What do each of the following words mean: faith, hope, and love?
2. When have you had to show faith?
3. What are some ways you can show love to others?



*The Bible Project* offers a video that perfectly explains the letter that Paul was writing and why he was writing to the people in the church at Thessalonica. Use the QR code to view (*recommendation to stop or pause at the 3 minute mark*).

**Read 1st Thessalonians 2:7 and 2:11-12.**

Paul treated the believers as if he were like a parent to them. The Bible says he was gentle like a mother and firm like a father.

1. How do your parents help you to know and love the Lord?
2. Ministry Leaders and Volunteers often love and serve like Paul. Can you think of any adults that have helped you in your faith journey?

**Read 1st Thessalonians 4:9.**

“Love one another” is mentioned 15 times in the Bible. This must mean it is very important! When we love and serve one another well, we can point people to Jesus!

3. What does it mean to “love one another?”
4. How can you show love to one another?
5. Why is it important that we love one another?

**Sunday, August 2nd**

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Ruth





# D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Ruth 1:1-14** and discuss the following.

1. What do we know about this time period (**Judges 21:25**)?
2. List the various problems facing Naomi. Which would you most worry about if you were in her situation?
3. How would you describe Naomi's beliefs and feelings about God? How have hard times affected the way you think about God? What did you most learn about Him during those times? What did you discover about yourself?

Read **Ruth 1:15-22** and discuss the following.

4. Describe Ruth and her commitment to Naomi. How would you describe her character and beliefs about God?
5. What does Naomi do upon returning to Bethlehem? Is there any hint that the Lord is already bringing blessing to Naomi? Explain your answer.



Scene 2:

# *The Waterer Watered*

**Ruth 2:1-23**

“Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,  
and one who waters will himself be watered.”

**Proverbs 11:25**

# D-Group Discussion Guide

Briefly work together to review the main events from chapter 1.

Read **Ruth 2:1-13** and discuss the following.

1. We are introduced to Boaz. What stands out to you about him, and why? How would you describe his character?
2. What does Boaz admire about Ruth? How does Ruth respond to Boaz's blessing?

Read **Ruth 2:14-23** and discuss the following.

3. Describe the drastic change for Ruth from the beginning of the book until now.
4. How does Boaz go above and beyond in caring for Ruth?
5. Discuss how his kindness toward Ruth is similar to the Lord's kindness toward us. How have you responded to God's grace and kindness toward *you*?



Scene 3:

# *Fear & Faith*

**Ruth 3:1-18**



# D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Ruth 3:1-18** and discuss the following.

1. Summarize Naomi's plan for Ruth. What all does it entail?
2. What do Ruth's actions mean? What is she requesting? How can she be so bold?
3. How does Boaz respond? How does he make his intentions known?
4. The couple must wait to see if the nearer redeemer is willing. How do Ruth and Boaz exercise faith in this simple act?
5. How well do you do with waiting? What can struggling in this area reveal about one's heart? How can we help one another to wait well?



Scene 4:

# *Redemption*

**Ruth 4:1-12**



# D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Ruth 4:1-12** and discuss the following.

1. In your own words, describe Boaz's negotiation tactics. How do they reveal his desire to redeem Ruth?
2. Why does the first-in-line redeemer decline? What reason does Boaz give for redeeming Ruth? Discuss how these two responses and lines of reasoning are different.
3. Rather than trusting Jesus, our real Redeemer, people often settle for lesser substitutes. List some of these unreliable redeemers. Which are you most tempted to trust?
4. Consider what we have read about Ruth and Boaz. Which of their traits do you wish to imitate in your life, and why?



Conclusion:

# *Genealogy Matters*

**Ruth 4:13-22**



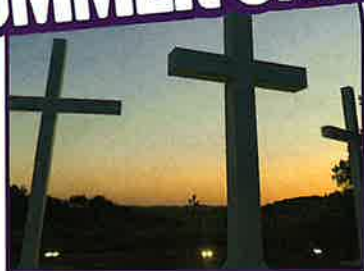
# Family Worship Guide

Read or tell the story of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz.  
Then discuss some personal takeaways from this book.



You can use resources like *The Bible Project* (scan the QR code to the left) or the *Jesus Storybook Bible*.

## FALLS CREEK SUMMER CAMP



**JUNE 15-20**

**CURRENT 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS  
COST: \$200/STUDENT**

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19-22**

Sun-Wed  
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# PRAYER WALK GUIDE

Prayer walk for Self, Family, or Small group.

## Adoration & Worship

*Begin your prayer time saying back to God how awesome He is. Adore Him as you see His marvelous works. Here are a few scriptures to get you started.*

- **Matt 6:9** “Our **Father** who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name.”
- **Psalms 24:1** “The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.”
- **Psalms 19:1** “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.”
- **Psalms 8** -bring up on your phone and pray through it.
- **Isaiah 6:3** “...Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.”

## Confession & Forgiveness

*Our access to God was possible only by the Cross. Jesus paid it all, so we humbly come to Him in need of daily confession and repentance. To the extent we forgive others, God will forgive us. Take time to align your heart motives to His.*

- **Matt 6:10** “Your kingdom come, Your will be done in earth as it is in heaven.”
- **Matt 6:12** “Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors”
- **Psalms 66:18** “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.”
- **Eph 4:31-32** “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

## **Thanksgiving & Praise**

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*Give some time to thank the Lord for all He has done. Thank Him and Praise Him for the good ways He has blessed you, your family, your church family, where you live, and for living in America with many freedoms. Thanksgiving is a sacrifice of praise.*

- **1 Thess. 5:16-18** “Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
- **Colossians 4:2** “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”
- **Psalms 95:2** “Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”

## **Supplication & Praying for Others**

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*We have been called to love one another and bear one another's burdens in Scripture. Give time to pray to God for the needs of others. Call out to Him for your every need. Call out to Him for the sake of the Gospel going out to the whole world.*

- **Matt 6:11-13** “Give **us** this day **our** daily bread, 12 and forgive **us our** debts, as **we** also have forgiven **our** debtors. 13 And lead **us** not into temptation, but deliver **us** from evil.”
- **Colossians 1:9-11** “... we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may **be filled with the knowledge of his will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 **being strengthened with all power**, according to his glorious might, **for all endurance and patience with joy;**”

- **Phil. 4:6-7** “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by **prayer and supplication** with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

### **Prayer points:**

- Pray for our country in war with other countries. Pray for the lost in those countries; our military; our missionaries caught in the crossfire of war.
- Pray for the Krebs, Mike, Jessica and Evie in Jordan. Protection in the path of war.
- Pray for our partners in Nepal and India. They face persecution continuously.
- Pray for Josh and Karen, Able and Zion in their efforts with Ethnos 360 (mobilizing missionaries)
- Pray for our NB children, their salvation, spiritual growth, their summer VBS and volunteers.
- Pray for our youth and their June trip to Falls Creek; for salvation, spiritual growth, unity.
- Pray for those who are sick and in physical pain.
- Pray for our new incoming and existing Elders, and the new stewardship committee members; our church finances and our budget for 2026/27.

**Consider ending your Prayer Walk with a song of praise or a hymn, or by reading a Psalm, (e.g. Psalm 150)**

# ADDITIONAL FAMILY RESOURCES

## Apps:



**The Parent Cue App** from Orange offers a great article on creating a Family Rhythm that could help foster a time for Family Worship.



**The New City Catechism App** pairs each question and answer with a Scripture reading from the ESV, a short prayer, and a devotional commentary. The app also includes kid-friendly songs designed to help children memorize the entire catechism.

**Books:**

*Ruth: Under the Wings of God* by John Piper

*The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones

*The Legacy Path* by Brian Haynes

*Family Worship* by Joel Beeke

*The Duties of Parents* by J.C. Ryle

*Understanding Family Worship* by Terry L. Johnson

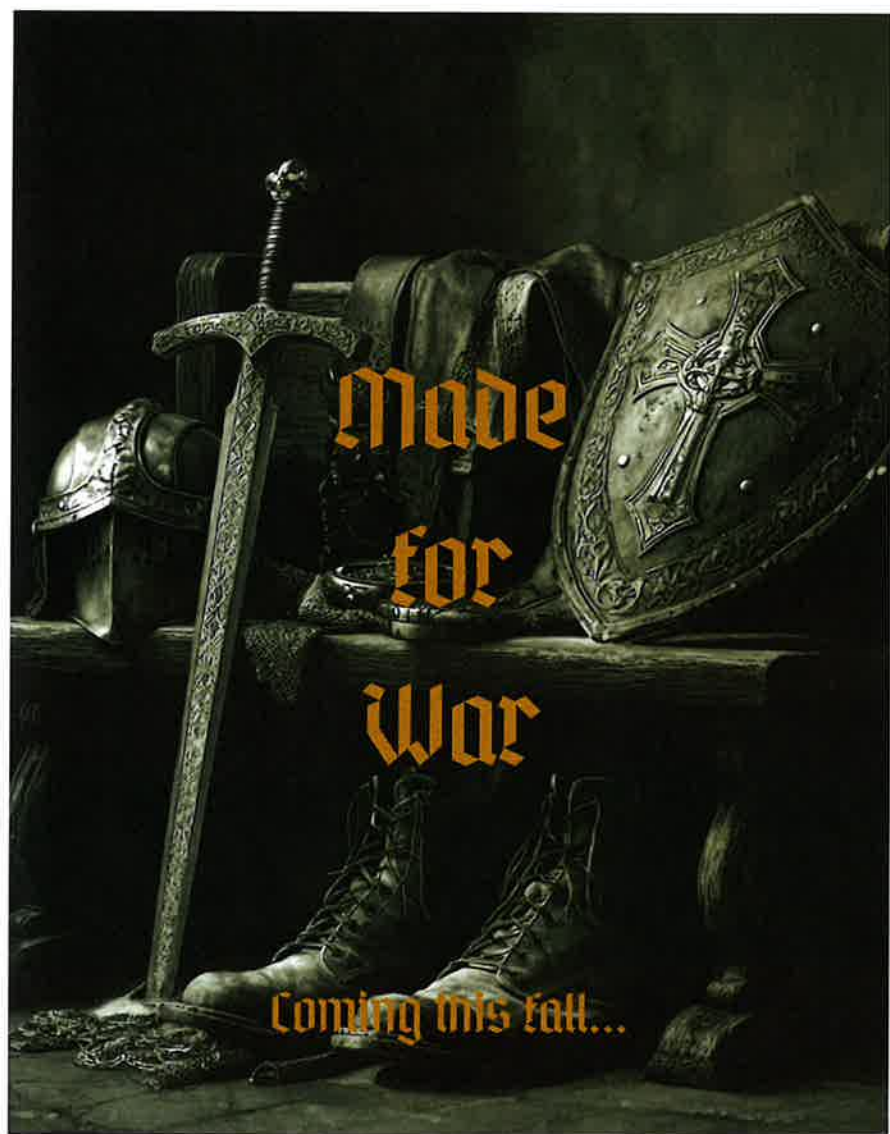
*A Neglected Grace* by Jason Helopoulos

*Family Worship* by Donald Whitney

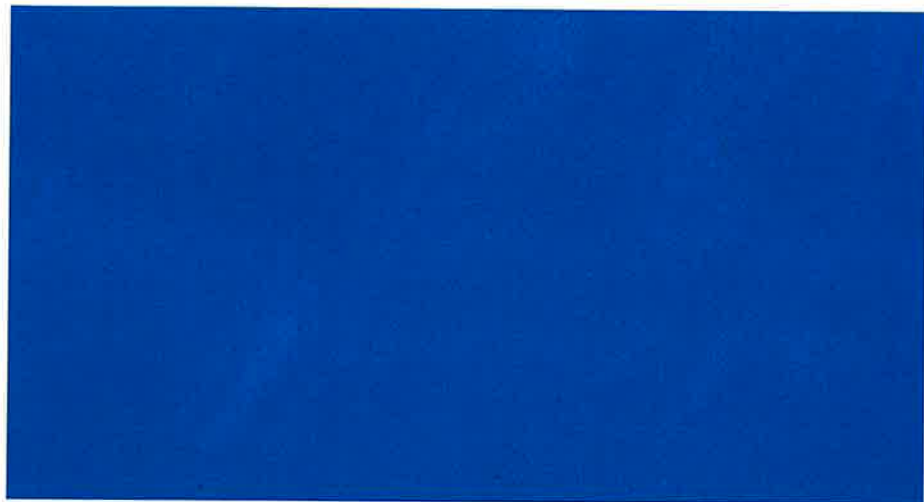
*Faith Conversations for Families* by Jim Burns

*Spiritual Parenting: An Awakening for Today's Families*  
by Michelle Anthony

*Don't Miss It* by Reggie Joiner and Kristen Ivy







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