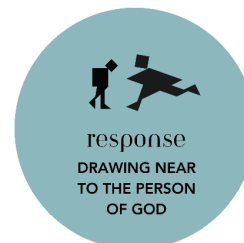
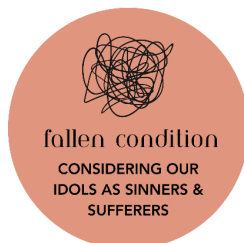


# Members' Handout - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Series: The Gospel Made Visible



1. How does Paul describe God's role in bringing the Thessalonians to saving faith?
2. How did the Thessalonian church live out their faith? What impact did the Thessalonian church have on the rest of the world?
3. The church is called to proclaim the gospel in word and deed. Consider each of the following components of church life:
  - a. Community & fellowship
  - b. Preaching & Teaching
  - c. Worship
  - d. Missions (e.g. Church Planting, Mercy & Justice)
  - e. Serving (setting up, kids ministry, hospitality)

How do each of the above components display or proclaim the gospel?



3. The church's primary goal is to live and proclaim the gospel. How have we been prone to view the church before this? How has your understanding of church been challenged?



4. Jesus gave His life to rescue us from God's wrath and bring us into His family. How does the way we relate to God's church compromise or demonstrate what Christ came to do?

5. Think about the community of believers that God has placed you in (interpersonal relationships, community groups, life stage-specific ministry, a ministry you volunteer in RHC). What are some needs of the people there? How is God moving your heart to love, serve, and encourage these specific people?



6. As a CG, read the devotion from "Truth that Makes Us Sing – Q37: What is the Church?" Meditate on the purpose of the church and pray for God to help us approach the church with the right heart that is compelled to live out the gospel in Jesus' family. Then, read the question and answer out loud together.

## 37 What is the church?

### ANSWER

The Church is the people of God, the body of Christ, and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. The universal Church is the sum total throughout history of all those whom God has chosen and redeemed for himself. Local churches are the visible expressions of this universal Church. The Church is made up of disciples of Christ who are united by a common faith in the gospel. It is a community that loves, follows, learns from, and worships God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by their love for one another.

REFERENCE *Ephesians 2:19-22*

### DEVOTION

What is the church? Or rather, WHO is the church?

It is not a building or a gathering on Sunday morning, it extends beyond both. The church is made up of "fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, [with] Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone" (Eph 2:19-22).

On a historical and macro level, the church refers to the total number of believers who have ever lived, to all the redeemed who look to Christ for salvation. But on a micro level, the church can also refer to a group of believers in a particular locality, a people called to life together in a geographical location.

In Ephesians 3:10, Paul tells us that "through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." The church exists to help people see that God is real, faithful, and true. So how should the church live to help others

see that? Jesus calls us to "let your light so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matt 5:16). According to Jesus, good deeds done in his name will and should move others to praise God (Eph 2:10, Titus 2:14, Matt 5:16). We, as a church, exists for God and for others.

When we leave our Sunday gatherings, we do not stop being the church. Instead, we live our lives knowing that in everything we do, we do as the blood-bought church of God with the goal of spreading the supremacy of God for the joy of all people.

### PRAYER

*Dear Lord, through your blood we are joined with your people through all of history. Help us to desire to do good unto our neighbours so that they may see and love you too.*

### SONG

The Church's One Foundation  
*by Samuel J. Stone*