



INTRODUCTION

Paul deals with the division in Thessalonica caused by the idle. He exhorts them to get to work. If they do not, he exhorts the church to discipline them. In dealing with this issue Paul helps us understand God's view of work.

INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore please use it as a tool that best fits the needs of your small group.

OPENING DISCUSSION

- What was the most interesting idea/concept about Sunday's sermon?
- Why do you think the typical response to a belief in the imminent return of Christ is to quit your job (to be unproductive)?

REVIEW

- Have someone read **2 Thes 3:6-18**
- What trouble were the idle causing the church?
- What three commands does Paul give to the church in regard to the idle?
- It's one thing not to feed the idle (**v10**), but why should we "avoid" and "not associate" with the idle (**v6, v14**)?
- Why do you think Paul chose to work while in Thessalonica, even though he had the right to make his living off preaching (**vv7-9**)?

APPLICATION

- What do we learn about the theology of work from this passage?
- Why is work good? If it is good, why do we often not like it?
- What are the modern applications of Paul's command not to feed the idle (**v10**)?
- What are some biblical reasons that Christians should be excellent workers at any job they have?
- What is the connection between how we work and the Gospel? In other words, how does the gospel motivate work?
- What is the ultimate purpose of church discipline?
- What are the consequences of a church failing to practice church discipline?

PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer needs?