



AN INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY OF

1 THESSALONIANS

BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

WEEK and DATE	BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSION ¹	HOMEWORK FOR NEXT WEEK
Week 1 May 27	Introduction to the Inductive Method and 1 Thessalonians. We'll begin with Acts 17:1-15 for background information.	Read all of 1 Thessalonians. Use the "Book Survey" on page 2 to help guide your observations.
Week 2 June 3	Share what you found in reading 1 Thessalonians. Using the "Observations" resource on page 3, record what you find as you read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5.	Read 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10 and record your observations. Continue to use the resource on page 3.
Week 3 June 10	Share what you found in 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10. Using the resources on page 4, come up with an application for this week.	Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20. Record your observations, interpretations, and application.
Week 4 June 17	Share what you found in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20.	Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13. Record your observations, interpretations, and application.
Week 5 June 24	Share what you found in 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13.	Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12. Record your observations, interpretations, and application.
Week 6 July 1	Share what you found in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11. Record your observations, interpretations, and application.
Week 7 July 8	Share what you found in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11	Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28. Record your observations, interpretations, and application.
Week 8 July 15	Share what you found in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28	Summarize your highlights from 1 Thessalonians. Use the resource on page 6 to help guide your summary.
Week 9 July 22	Share your highlights from 1 Thessalonians.	
Week 10 July 29	COMMUNITY WEEK	COMMUNITY WEEK

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the NIV translation.

BOOK SURVEY

READ. READ. AND READ AGAIN.

Read the book as many times as you can. Read it in different versions.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Summarize the historical background of the book.

Resources to use:

- soniclight.com/constable-notes
- Bible Project
- BlueLetterBible
 - Commentaries (ex: David Guzik)
 - Dictionaries (ex: Vine's Expository Dictionary, Concordance)
 - Cross-references
- Logos app
 - Commentaries (ex: The Bible Knowledge Commentary)
 - Dictionaries (ex: Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary)
- Resources in your Bible (cross-references, concordance, etc.)
- Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Information to include:

- By whom was it written (author)
- To whom it was written (audience)
- When was it written (historical context)
- Why was it written (purpose)

BOOK THEMES

List the major themes and highlights of the book. Look for keywords and phrases.

PURPOSE & IMPORTANCE

Answer these questions:

- What is the purpose of the letter?
- What is the importance of this book to Christian knowledge, life and service?

OBSERVATION

What does it say?

Ask simple questions to understand the facts. If the passage does not specifically answer your questions, then wait to answer your questions when you do Interpretation.

WHO? Who wrote the passage? What does the passage state about the author? Who was the author writing to? What does the passage say about the recipient(s)?

WHAT? What are the main ideas? What terms or phrases are important to the main ideas and how are they used? What types of the following word associations appear in the text?

- **COMPARISONS:** Things that are alike. Look for words: even so, like, likewise.
- **CONTRASTS:** Things that are different. Look for words: but, nor, not
- **CAUSE AND EFFECT:** one action resulting from or leading to another. Look for words: therefore, in order to, in order that
- **REPETITION:** Look for words, phrases, subjects, concepts, themes, or ideas that are repeated.
- **ILLUSTRATIONS:** Word pictures the author uses to go from the abstract to the concrete.

WHEN? When was the passage written (i.e. what details about the time period are mentioned in the passage)?

WHERE? Where does the action in the passage take place?

WHY? What problems or questions are addressed in the passage? What has happened that prompted the author to write? What does the passage teach about God?

HOW? How are main ideas communicated (e.g. via a sermon, illustration, letter)? How did the recipients respond?

INTERPRETATION

What does it mean?

“Meaning” is not our subjective thoughts read into the text but God’s objective truth read out of the text. Every passage of the Bible has a message, and that message can be understood. The goal of Interpretation is to understand that message. Keep the following four “C’s” in mind:

- **CONTENT:** The database of information gathered during Observation. Remember, meaning should follow the content of the passage. Since this “C” of Interpretation was completed during the Observation phase of bible study, the more time spent in Observation will translate into less time spent in Interpretation.
- **CONTEXT:** The meaning should make sense within its context (i.e. what is happening before and after the selected passage of study). When further study on the context needs to be done, keep the following in mind: literary, historical, cultural, geographical, and theological.
- **COMPARISON:** The best way to understand the meaning of a passage is to compare it with other passages in the Bible. This is typically called “cross-referencing”.
- **CONSULTATION:** The meaning of a passage can be further defined by the use of secondary sources such as: Concordance, Bible Dictionary, Handbooks, Atlases, and Commentaries. These should be consulted as a last option.

APPLICATION

How does it apply to me?

We do not study God’s word to gain facts about Him or those that knew Him. The goal is to know God Himself and understand what He is communicating to us so that we may follow Him by practicing biblical truth in day-to-day life. As we are trusting God to help us apply what we learn, follow this simple approach (S.P.E.C.K.S.) and pray, “Lord, what are you inviting me to do through this passage?”

S: Lord, is there a ***sin*** for me to avoid?

P: Lord, is there a ***promise*** to believe or a prayer to repeat?

E: Lord, is there an ***example*** for me to follow?

C: Lord, is there a ***command*** for me to obey?

K: Lord, is there ***knowledge*** I need to pursue?

S: Lord, is there something I can ***share*** with someone else?

INDUCTIVE METHOD EXAMPLE

PASSAGE: Psalm 119:18, *Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.*

OBSERVATIONS

- Writer makes a request to God
- Requests that his eyes be opened
 - God opens eyes
 - The eyes God opens are closed before He opens them
- Desires eyes to be opened for a reason
 - Reason: “that I may behold wonderful things”
- Wonderful things are found in God’s law
 - “Law” is God’s law
- Beholding wonderful things seem dependent on God opening his eyes

INTERPRETATIONS

- Eyes are not literal, but spiritual
- We cannot see the wonderful things in God’s law if He doesn’t open our eyes
 - Wonderful things must be revealed by God
 - We are naturally blind to the wonderful things in God’s word
- Hebrew for “wonderful” is pala’, which means marvelous, wonderful
- “Wonderful” in English means “extremely good; exciting wonder”
- God’s law refers to the first five books of the Bible
 - Can also be used to refer to any written revelation of God in the Scriptures
- God’s law is not cumbersome or burdensome, but is extremely good

APPLICATIONS

- Recognize my dependence on God to understand His word.
- “Behold wonderful things” by spending 30 minutes reading the Bible every morning.
- Pray over this verse before every quiet time.

BOOK SUMMARY

SUMMARIZE

What are some of the most significant things God has laid on your heart through this study of the Scriptures? Review what you discovered in each week's study passage. Come up with one sentence to capture the main lesson that God has for you from each week.

SIGNIFICANT VERSES & WHY

List here 2-3 of the most significant verses from the study for you and why.

INSIGHTS & APPLICATIONS

Create a plan based on what you have learned during this study. Here are some questions to ask to help you along in the process:

- What will you take away from this study and apply to your day to day life?
- What needs to change in your life for this to happen?
- What do you need to begin doing now?

WEEK 1

Acts 17:1-15

¹ When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ² As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said.⁴ Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

⁵ But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here,⁷ and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.” ⁸ When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. ⁹ Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

¹⁰ As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ¹² As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

¹³ But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, some of them went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up. ¹⁴ The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. ¹⁵ Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

OBSERVATION: *What does it say?*

I can observe that...

INTERPRETATION: *What does it mean?*

What questions do you have about this passage? Are there any answers you can work out through Content, Context, Comparison (cross-references), or Consultation with Bible Dictionaries and Commentaries?

APPLICATION: *How does this apply?*

Why does this passage matter to you and/or to your world today? How do I live out or pass on what I learned from this study?

WEEK 2

1 Thessalonians Book Survey

READ, READ, READ

Read several times in various translations. Which translations did you read from?

MAJOR THEMES

What themes did you notice throughout the book? What topics are addressed? Did you notice any key words or phrases repeated throughout the book?

INITIAL QUESTIONS

After reading through the book several times, what questions do you have about it? List them here (no need to answer them yet, just keep them in mind throughout your study).

CONTEXT: Author, Audience and Purpose

Consult one or two commentaries and answer the following questions:

- *Who is the author of 1 Thessalonians? What do we know about the author?*

- *Who is the audience of 1 Thessalonians? What do we know about the recipient(s)?*

- *What is the purpose of this letter? Why was it written?*

SUMMARIZE YOUR SURVEY FINDINGS

WEEK 3

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.

² We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸ 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,⁹ 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, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

OBSERVATION: *What does it say?*

I can observe that...

INTERPRETATION: *What does it mean?*

What questions do you have about this passage? Are there any answers you can work out through Content, Context, Comparison (cross-references), or Consultation with Bible Dictionaries and Commentaries?

APPLICATION: *How does this apply?*

Why does this passage matter to you and/or to your world today? How do I live out or pass on what I learned from this study?

WEEK 4

1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

¹ You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. ² We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. ³ For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. ⁴ On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵ You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. ⁶ We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. ⁷ Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸ so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹ Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. ¹⁴ For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews ¹⁵ who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone ¹⁶ in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

¹⁷ But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. ¹⁸ For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. ¹⁹ For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? ²⁰ Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

OBSERVATION: *What does it say?*

I can observe that...

INTERPRETATION: *What does it mean?*

What questions do you have about this passage? Are there any answers you can work out through Content, Context, Comparison (cross-references), or Consultation with Bible Dictionaries and Commentaries?

APPLICATION: *How does this apply?*

Why does this passage matter to you and/or to your world today? How do I live out or pass on what I learned from this study?

WEEK 5

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

¹ So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. ² We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, ³ so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them. ⁴ In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.

⁶ But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. ⁷ Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. ⁸ For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. ⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

OBSERVATION: *What does it say?*

I can observe that...

INTERPRETATION: *What does it mean?*

What questions do you have about this passage? Are there any answers you can work out through Content, Context, Comparison (cross-references), or Consultation with Bible Dictionaries and Commentaries?

APPLICATION: *How does this apply?*

Why does this passage matter to you and/or to your world today? How do I live out or pass on what I learned from this study?

WEEK 6

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

¹ As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³ It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵ not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶ and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷ For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

⁹ Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, ¹¹ and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹² so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

OBSERVATION: *What does it say?*

I can observe that...

INTERPRETATION: *What does it mean?*

What questions do you have about this passage? Are there any answers you can work out through Content, Context, Comparison (cross-references), or Consultation with Bible Dictionaries and Commentaries?

APPLICATION: *How does this apply?*

Why does this passage matter to you and/or to your world today? How do I live out or pass on what I learned from this study?

WEEK 7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

5:1 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

OBSERVATION: *What does it say?*

I can observe that...

INTERPRETATION: *What does it mean?*

What questions do you have about this passage? Are there any answers you can work out through Content, Context, Comparison (cross-references), or Consultation with Bible Dictionaries and Commentaries?

APPLICATION: *How does this apply?*

Why does this passage matter to you and/or to your world today? How do I live out or pass on what I learned from this study?

WEEK 8

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you.¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

²⁵ Brothers and sisters, pray for us. ²⁶ Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

OBSERVATION: *What does it say?*

I can observe that...

INTERPRETATION: *What does it mean?*

What questions do you have about this passage? Are there any answers you can work out through Content, Context, Comparison (cross-references), or Consultation with Bible Dictionaries and Commentaries?

APPLICATION: *How does this apply?*

Why does this passage matter to you and/or to your world today? How do I live out or pass on what I learned from this study?

WEEK 9

Book Summary

SUMMARIZE

What are some of the most significant things God has laid on your heart through this study of the Scriptures?

SIGNIFICANT VERSES & WHY

List here 2-3 of the most significant verses from the study for you and why.

INSIGHTS AND APPLICATIONS

Create a plan based on what you have learned during this study. Here are some questions to ask to help you along in the process:

- *What will you take away from this study and apply to your day to day life?*
- *What needs to change in your life for this to happen?*
- *What do you need to begin doing now?*