

## Life Group Message Discussion Questions

### 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

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## Message Notes

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Bible Focus: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

Current Series: Hardly a Failure

Message Title: Welcoming the Word

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1 Thessalonians 2:13-16: <sup>13</sup> *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.* <sup>14</sup> *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* <sup>15</sup> *who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone* <sup>16</sup> *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.*

Paul's ministry to the Thessalonians was fruitful because:

1. They \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13)
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 13b-14)

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16. What evidence do you see in these verses that Paul's ministry to the Thessalonians made a significant impact on their lives? What specific connections or parallels do you see between these verses and what Paul shared earlier in 1:2-7?
2. What is your typical response to preaching or to hearing God's Word taught (e.g., Boring? Exciting? It depends?)?
3. Do you typically prepare your heart every Sunday morning to receive and welcome the Word of God as it is preached? If so, how? Do you spend time in God's Word throughout the week, and if so, how does that help you to hear from God on Sundays at church?
4. Read the Parable of the Sower in Mark 4:1-20. What are the different responses that Jesus said people have to the Word of God? What did Jesus indicate is the right response to the Word (v. 20)? What does this tell us about the Thessalonians' response to the Word?
5. Paul said that the Word of God works in those who believe (v. 13). What are some different ways you can think of that God's Word works in us? (You can use verses like Psalm 119:105, Colossians 3:16, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, or Hebrews 4:12 to get you started on some ideas.)
6. Verses 14-16 tell us that the Thessalonians suffered persecution as a result of accepting God's Word. Why did Paul remind the Thessalonians that "God's churches in Judea" had endured the same type of suffering (v. 14)? When you are suffering, how does it affect you to know that others have suffered before you? Why is this helpful?
7. Compare and contrast the Thessalonian believers who, with limited opportunity, responded favorably to the Word of God, with the Jews who, in spite of unlimited opportunity, rejected the Word (vv. 14-16). Why is this significant?