

GRACE GROUP GUIDE WINTER WEEK #8

MARCH 8, 2026 | 2 Thessalonians 1

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1-MIN OVERVIEW

2 Thessalonians 1 is a reminder for the Thessalonian church about the relief Jesus will bring for the afflicted and vengeance he will take against his enemies “and on those who don’t obey the gospel”. While some read this and feel disheartened, Paul’s goal is to encourage those who have believed the message and pray for them that “God will make you worthy of his calling”, while also warning everyone of the reality of the wrath to come.



WARM UP

1. Have your leader assign someone to lead a game or mixer for the group to get to know each other and have fun. While *Two Truths and a Lie* may be old hat, find something that fits your specific group. Here’s a site that has many to choose from:

www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/help-others-grow/leading-small-groups/small-group-icebreakers

2. This chapter begins with both comfort and warning concerning the same event (the return of Christ). What is something in your life that both comforts and warns you at the same time? How do you know when to be comforted, and when to be warned? Have you ever mixed up those reactions?



KNOW IT

Optional: Watch Bible Project Video for 2 Thessalonians (<https://bibleproject.com/videos/2-thessalonians>)

+ To find this video without the link, simply search Google for “Bible Project 2 Thessalonians”

To start, read 2 Thessalonians 1 together, switching off between individuals.

1. 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2 contains a new greeting for a new letter to the church. Why are these verses not wasted space that we should skip over? Why are “grace” and “peace” pillars in our faith and fundamental to this letter?

2. 2 Thessalonians 1:3 contains thanksgiving to God for the Thessalonians. Why does Paul not thank them for their faith and love? Are there any instances in the Bible where one person thanks another person? Should this influence how we speak to one another?



SHARE IT

1. *2 Thessalonians 1:5-8 highlight the vengeance “with flaming fire” God will take on those who don’t believe and don’t obey the gospel. Do you believe it’s fair that God will judge unbelievers in this way? How does something as seemingly small as not believing or not obeying incur such judgement? How does this point to our sin and fallen nature?*

2. *2 Thessalonians 1:9-10 speaks not only of the day Jesus, with his angels, enacts judgement but the eternal penalty that comes after. Why is a healthy theology of hell (i.e. eternal judgement) helpful in how we walk with outsiders? Apart from an urgency to preach the gospel, how does this promised future change how we view life and death?*

3. *Looking at passages like 2 Thessalonians 1 can stir up feelings and worry inside of us. Spend time as a group sharing what you wrestle with when looking at Scripture like this. Does it make you angry, afraid, anxious? How can others care for and pray for you around your thoughts about eternal judgement? With this, how can we balance the weight of this future with the abundant love Jesus showed on the cross?*



LIVE IT (For Group Leaders to Develop)


If you’re a group leader, please take time before the group meets to consider ways that 2 Thessalonians 1 leads those in your group to live out the promises/commands/truths/mission revealed in this section of Scripture. Come up with a few questions that will drive discussion for your group for where they are in life. Be sure to consider how this Scripture leads you/them to the Gospel (birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and future return of Jesus) and how that good news helps us live out the truths of 2 Thessalonians 1.


Suggested Daily Reading and Reflection


Passages for Next Week: Day 1: 2 Thess. 2:1-12, Day 2: 2 Thess. 2:13-17, Day 3: Joel 2:1-17, Day 4: Revelation 6:1-17


Memory Verse: Romans 5:8


Opening Prayer *Dear God, open my eyes so I may see wondrous things in your word. (Psalm 119:18). May your Holy Spirit help me to understand and apply it to my life for your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

 **Observe - 1st Reading** Read the passage to get the general flow. What does the passage say? Write 1-2 sentences summarizing key thought(s). Also, write down a verse you think is significant.

 **Digging Deeper - 2nd Reading** Underline action words and repeated phrases. Answer the questions: Who... is the author? are the recipients? are the key people? What events, teachings, commands, promises do you see? Why was the passage written? What problems are addressed?

 **Searching for Gold - 3rd Reading** Write down key words, themes, and observations. Dig for meaning in repeated phrases or theological terms. How does this passage ultimately point to Jesus?

 **Respond** Since God's Word is true, is there something new about God to ponder, commands to obey, promises to claim, sins to avoid, challenges to face, or examples to follow? Pick one of these and spend time writing how this truth can affect the way you think and live.

 **Connect** with God on what you learned. Praise Him for who He is (consider attributes of God revealed in reading). Thank Him for what He's done. Listen to Him. Confess sin. Bring requests to Him.



Memory Verse Choose one verse from reading and write it down each day.