

# GRACE GROUP GUIDE WINTER WEEK #9

MARCH 15, 2026 | 2 Thessalonians 2

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### 1-MIN OVERVIEW

The fledgling church at Thessalonica is experiencing some anxiety about Jesus's return, and Paul seeks to address these fears by correcting their misunderstandings and giving them a glimpse into the end times. It's not a warm and fuzzy picture, but Paul reminds them (and us!) that we belong to the eternal King who will have the final victory over evil, sin and death. Encouraged by this hope, we can live with confidence in God's peace, truth and love as we await His return.



### WARM UP

1. *The Thessalonians were known for having their “eyes on the sky” and living in anticipation of Jesus’s return. What is something you are looking forward to in the near future, and in what ways does your anticipation of this event impact your daily life, your choices, thoughts and emotions?*



### KNOW IT

1. *Review the historical context of this letter: who is Paul writing to, and what do we know about them? What are the challenges they are currently facing? Based on **2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**, what are they concerned about, and what seems to be the root of their fears?*
2. *Read **2 Thessalonians 2:3-12**. What are some of the characteristics of the “man of lawlessness” that stick out to you? How do you see God’s character and involvement on display in this passage?*  
(see Note for Leaders #1)



### SHARE IT

1. *Remember that Paul’s intent for writing this was not to scare his readers, but to give them hope. Why do you think Paul chose to respond to the church’s concerns in this particular way? What would be encouraging to them about his descriptions of the man of lawlessness and the Day of the Lord?*  
(see Note for Leaders #2)

2. Read **2 Thessalonians 2:13-17**. What does this tell us about the identity of believers, especially in contrast with the “perishing” and “condemned” described in verses 10-12? How does this passage describe each Person of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and the role that they play in our salvation?



### LIVE IT

1. What are the three imperatives, or specific instructions, that Paul gives the church in this chapter? (Look at verses 1-2, 3 and 15). What does this look like for us today? Keeping in mind that Paul was writing to a church family, not individuals, how can we follow these instructions together as brothers and sisters?
2. Remembering the specific challenges they were facing, how would this chapter have encouraged Paul's readers? Why is it so important to have true beliefs about the life, death, resurrection and return of Jesus, and how does that impact the way we live on a daily basis?

**Note for Leaders #1:** One of the things God does in this passage is “send them a strong delusion” (vs 11). Scripture is clear that God does not lie, deceive or tempt – those are Satan’s strategies. So what’s going on here?? Encourage your group to look back over the previous verses to identify exactly who the “them” is, and the reason that God sends this delusion. It may also help to reference Romans 1:28, which describes a similar scenario. Study Bibles may have helpful notes on this verse, and this article by John Piper provides some valuable commentary as well:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/does-god-send-strong-delusions-into-the-world>

**Note for Leaders #2:** If you would like to dig deeper into the Man of Lawlessness, note that he shares many characteristics with the beasts described in Revelation 13, and be sure to also read about the fate of the beast in Revelation 19:11-21. As with any questions related to the end times, it’s important to remember that God did not give us these glimpses into the future to prompt fear, worry or speculation, but rather to encourage His children with the assurance of His final victory. In addition to notes in your study Bible, you may find these resources helpful, either for your own reading or to recommend to group members:

[Book of 2 Thessalonians | Guide with Key Information and Resources](#)

[Who Is the Man of Lawlessness? | Desiring God](#)


[What Should We Know about the Man of Lawlessness in the Bible? | Christianity.com](#)


## Suggested Daily Reading and Reflection


**Passages for Next Week:** Day 1: 2 Thess 3, Day 2: Proverbs 31:10-31, Day 3: 1 Timothy 5:1-16, Day 4: 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2


**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.