

Bible Summary

Paul's first letter to the Thessalonian church begins by recognizing their work produced by faith, their labor prompted by love, and their endurance inspired by hope in Christ. These characteristics serve as guidelines for a good spiritual trajectory and encourage us to reflect on how we size up. As individuals and also as church, do we have faith that works? Do we labor in love? And do we foster a hope that gives us endurance?

Scriptures: I Thessalonians 1:2-3, 2 Peter 3:18, John 15:1, Hebrews 11:1, 6, James 2:26, Eph. 2:10, Col. 3:5, I Cor. 13:4-7, John 3:16, I John 3:16, I Thess. 1:6-8, John 13:34, 2 Cor. 5:21, Romans 8:24, 25

Bible Questions & Application

(These are meant to aid in facilitating conversation.
There is no obligation to run through **every** listed question.)

1. How did Sunday's teaching challenge your thinking?
2. Have you ever sized yourself up spiritually? Why or why not?
3. What has helped you mature in your faith?
4. You only see faith by what it produces. What are some examples of fruit produced by faith in your own life?
5. John 13:34 says, "love one another as I have loved you".
 - a. In what ways has Christ loved you?
 - b. In what ways are you showing sacrificial love to others?
6. Hope is a favorable, confident expectation of the unseen future. Share an example of when hope kept you going in spite of your circumstances.
7. As a community of believers, what is the greatest hope we should have?
 - a. How can we encourage each other to have a hope that endures?
 - b. How can we use our hope to influence the world around us?