Message Guide

THE JOURNEY
REAL CHURCH FOR REAL PEOPLE

Built Different | More Than Just Words| Week One

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Bible isn't just for information, it's for transformation.
God's Word is meant to ring out from our lives.

Being *Built Different* isn't about having more information or knowing all the right answers. Through Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, we are reminded that real faith is more than words - it is the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. As we surrender to God and his word, our faith begins to shape the way we live, love, and impact the people around us.

- **Loved and Chosen** - Paul reminds the Thessalonians that God loves them and has chosen them. Our identity is not found in our past, our accomplishments, or what others say about us, but in who God says we are.
- **More Than Just Words** - Faith is not just agreeing with information about God. The Holy Spirit works through God's word to transform our hearts, shape our desires, and change the way we live.
- **A Faith That Rings Out** - When our faith becomes real, it becomes visible. The people around us begin to notice the peace, compassion, generosity, and hope that only God can produce in us.
- **The Bible is for Transformation** - Scripture is not simply a collection of rules or information. God uses his word to teach, connect, equip, and transform us so that we can become people who reflect Jesus in everyday life.

PRAY

As you pray this week, ask God to speak during your slot and spot. Pray that God provides you with a heart that consistently seeks Him.

Lord, we praise you because you are good, faithful, and powerful. Thank you for loving us and choosing us, not because of what we have done, but because of who you are. Your Word is alive and active, meant not only to inform us but to transform us, shaping our hearts, our minds, and the way we live so that others may see you through us.

Father, we confess that too often we treat your Word as something to know instead of something to live. We admit there are times when fear, distraction, comfort, or doubt keep us from letting our faith ring out to others. Forgive us for the moments we stay silent, lose focus, or fail to trust that you are still working in and through us.

Thank you for your grace, for the people who have helped shape our faith, and for the ways you continue to transform us day by day. We ask that you would help us remain faithful in reading and knowing your Word, empower us through your Holy Spirit to live boldly for you, and let our lives become an example of your love and truth wherever we go. In Jesus' name, amen

WORSHIP

Bring the worship set from this weekend into your Slot and Spot and praise God for his Word that transforms.

House of the Lord - Vertical Worship
So Much - Life.Church Worship
What a God - SEU Worship

LEARN

This week, read through the scripture shared in the message and dive deeper into God's word.

Read

- 1 Thessalonians 1:4-8
- 2 Timothy 3: 14, 16, 17
- Book of 1 Thessalonians

Watch

- 1 Thessalonians - Bible Project

Listen

- 1 Thessalonians 1 - Through the Word

REFLECT

Reflect on these questions during your Slot and Spot/discussions with others.

Faith is the power of God transforming us- changing the way we think, what we want, and who we are.

- Consider your own faith journey. How have your thoughts and wants changed? Do you feel like you have changed as a person?
- Paul celebrated and served as a mentor for the Thessalonians. Who, if anyone, has done the same for you? Who have you done the same for?
- If you were a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8. The Thessalonians received God's word, let it transform them, and then let the message "ring out from" them.

- Who in your life has faith "ringing out" from them? How have they impacted your own faith?
- Who is the last person you shared your faith with? How long ago was that?
- What do you find most challenging about sharing your faith?

We become people who are "built different" by changing the way we approach the Bible.

- Describe your slot and spot. What challenges do you face in staying devoted to this?
- Do you struggle to understand more than just the rules of the Bible? Who will you reach out to for help with this?
- What is the last verse you read that brought you an unexplainable peace?

NEXT STEPS

- Download the five-week guide and begin reading through the first section based on 1 Thessalonians during your slot and spot this week.
- We grow the most by helping someone else grow. Spend some time this week praying about leading a J-Group this summer.