

## INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD IN THE LETTERS FROM PAUL

### INDUCTIVE LESSON THREE

#### FAITH

##### 1 Thessalonians 3

##### Day One

Text: (Begin this week's lesson by reading the assigned passage several times.)

Hint: Read the passage repeatedly, prayerfully, thoughtfully, meditatively and patiently.

##### 1 Thessalonians 3

1 Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, 2 and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, 3 that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. 4 For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. 5 For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you — 7 therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. 8 For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

9 For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, 10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

**Memory Verse:** 1 Thessalonians 5:14

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all."

## Day Two

**Words Matter:** In this portion of the lesson we will take a closer look at one or two key words in the chapter. You will need to have your tools or resources at hand, such as more than one Bible translation, a dictionary or Bible dictionary, concordance, atlas, and encyclopedia. If you don't have all of these, simply use what you do have to enrich your learning. To do some digging on your own, start with your dictionary (or Bible dictionary) and then look up the references to add to your understanding. If you have additional resources, you may want to keep digging. Record these additional notes in the Tool Box section of your study. After you've completed the investigative process, write a definition in your own words. Your investigation in today's lesson will lay the groundwork for deeper discoveries in subsequent lessons, so be as thorough as you can.

**Endure:** 1 Thessalonians 3:1

"Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone,"

Dictionary or Concordance definition:

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What does the Bible have to say?

Exodus 18:23

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Psalms 89:29

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James 5:11

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Write your own definition:

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Reminder, choose any other words that help you understand this week's passage.

## Day Three

**Toolbox:** Use your toolbox or secondary helps to enhance your observational findings.

Study Bible:

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Bible Concordance:

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Bible Dictionary:

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Bible Handbooks:

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Bible Atlas:

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Bible Commentary:

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## Day Four

### **Inductively Speaking:**

The beginning of a new book of the Bible will usually fit nicely with all of these investigative questions. As you proceed through this week's passage, some of these questions will not be necessary to answer. For example: pertaining to who the writer of the story is, when was the text written, who in terms of characters are in the story. In other words, there is no need to be redundant regarding the time, characters and main theme of the story after the initial research. Your job is to find out what the Lord wanted these people to know about Him through the story.



**II. Interpretation:** Discovering the lessons or meaning of God's instruction to His people. Hint: Try to place yourself with these people, in their circumstances, at this time of Bible history.

Verse 1–5

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**Inductively Speaking:**

Whether we receive discipline, give it or discipline ourselves the objective is to either be trained to turn towards or away from something with intent. What are you intending to do with your marriage, children, job and most importantly your intention for God? The intent to do something is admirable but be disciplined to act upon the intent. Intention can be equal to thought and discipline likened to action. Whether it is our family life, work life or spiritual life we must discipline ourselves to follow the process to its conclusion. The Apostle Paul shared about his own life as he explained discipline this way “Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” 1 Corinthians 9:26–27

**III. Application:** Applying the lessons and meaning of God's instructions to His people. Hint: Apply the lesson or lessons you found in the interpretation section in the form of a question. Verse 1–5

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**Day Five**

1 Thessalonians 3: 6–10 (Today’s highlighted passage of study.)

6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you — 7 therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. 8 For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

9 For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, 10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

**I. Observation:** Finding the literal facts or most obvious details of the passage. Hint: Begin observation by asking the questions who, what, where, when, why, and how. Verses 6–10

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**Lecture Notes:**