
INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD IN THE LETTERS FROM PAUL

INDUCTIVE LESSON FOUR THE WILL OF GOD

1 Thessalonians 4

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 4

1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; 2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. 7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; 11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, 12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be

caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:15

"See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for 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.

Sanctification: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,"

Dictionary or Concordance definition:

What does the Bible have to say?

1 Corinthians 1:30

2 Thessalonians 2:13

Write your own definition:

Day Three

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

Study Bible:

Bible Concordance:

Bible Dictionary:

Bible Handbooks:

Bible Atlas:

Bible Commentary:

Day Four

Inductively Speaking:

Take the time in God's Word so that His Spirit can minister to you. This is God speaking! Other than God, no one will ever speak to you this way. His words are more valuable than all the philosophers, authors, psychiatrists and politicians combined who have put stories, theories, and ideas to paper since the beginning of time. Meditate on His Word, be blessed in knowing each and every word is placed upon the foundation of His Son's unconditional and perfect love towards us.

bite at a time. Their success, more than likely, came with a disciplined daily schedule rather than focusing on the entirety of the work ahead. It is interesting that each of these professions mentioned deal with human life in one way or another. You and I deal with human life as Christians by witnessing, ministering and serving others for the Lord. We need to come to God's Word through inductive studies, disciplining ourselves to eat day by day something larger and more sustaining than the massive elephant, the Word of God. Shouldn't our efforts be as diligent as those professionals we have mentioned?

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.

Verses 1–8

Inductively Speaking:

We must always remember that God's Word speaks to each individual through the Holy Spirit. Do not short-change yourself as to what you will be hearing and learning from God. Our times together, discussing God's Word, reveals that God truly does minister to all of us in different ways as we seek His will for our lives. This does not mean that there are many different meanings to the Scripture passage under study, certainly not! It does mean that you are valuable to God and He may instruct you to apply His Word in a different way than your brother sitting next to you. Utilize your toolbox effectively, constructing your interpretation with the help of experts.

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.

Verses 1–8

Day Five

1 Thessalonians 4:9–12 (Today's highlighted passage of study.)

9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; 11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, 12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

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 9–12

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.

Verses 9–12

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.

Verses 9–12

Day Six

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (Today's highlighted passage of study)

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

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 13–18

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.
Verses 13–18

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.
Verses 13–18

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:15
"See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all."

Impact Statement: A simple personal statement about how the Holy Spirit will guide and direct you from this week's study.

Prayer Requests:

Lecture Notes: