

INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD IN THE LETTERS FROM PAUL

INDUCTIVE LESSON FIVE

Pursue Good

1 Thessalonians 5

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 5

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. 15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Memory Verse : 1 Thessalonians 5:16–17

" Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, "

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.

Esteem: 1 Thessalonians 5:13

"and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves"

Dictionary or Concordance definition:

What does the Bible have to say?

Proverbs 3:4

Philippians 2:3

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:

Hopefully you are beginning to settle in with the inductive process and if not, then it's time for you to ask for some additional help before discouragement sets in. At the beginning of this next time together those who feel the need for further instruction with the study can ask their group leader to be excused from their normal group time and join the senior leadership regarding the inductive learning process. Remember, this is for questions dealing with the inductive method of Bible study and does not deal with the content or meaning of the text under study.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 (Today’s highlighted passage of study.)

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

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 1–11

Inductively Speaking:

Meditation as defined in Webster’s dictionary states this: “Solemn reflection on sacred matters as a devotional act”. King David said this about the subject of meditation: “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord...” (Psalm 19:14). *Meditation* according to both Webster’s dictionary and Scripture is an action word or verb that originates from the heart, depending less on a believer’s intellect or brainpower and more on the attitude of his heart. As believers, we know that within our heart the Holy Spirit resides, living every day with us, helping to nurture, grow, and sanctify our lives as Christians here on earth. “...The meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord...” reveals to us that in understanding the meaning of God’s Word we must think deeply without distractions from the outside.

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 1–11

Inductively Speaking:

Take the time in God's Word in order for Him to minister to you through the Spirit. In this way you become valuable to God as He uses you through the Spirit to minister to others He places in your path. Other than God and a Spirit-filled believer, no one will ever speak to you this way. Meditate on His Word, be blessed in knowing God's Word is put together for this purpose: revealing Jesus as Lord and Savior of the world for those who believe and accept His gospel message of salvation. Amen!

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 1–11

Day Five

1 Thessalonians 5:12–22 (Today's highlighted passage of study.)

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. 15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

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 12–22

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 12–22

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 12–22

Day Six

1 Thessalonians 5:22–28 (Today's highlighted passage of study)

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

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 23–28

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 23–28

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 23–28

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.

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Prayer Requests:

Lecture Notes: