

# BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



## FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

*Leadership That Inspires Followers*

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 5:12-13

**Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.**

## **Leaders' Responsibilities:**

**Important:** Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #....). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.
2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)
3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

## **Prior to this Coming Session:**

### **Gathering Time Leader:**

**Bible Study Leader:** Make copies of the leadership principles to give to your students. The list of principles is available at the end of the worship time materials.

### **Worship Time Leader:**

**Music Sources:**

**The Greatest Thing** *The Worship Hymnal*, (2008) #527; CCLI #11500  
**Footsteps of Jesus** *The Worship Hymnal*, (2008) #550; CCLI # 115705  
**We Are an Offering** *The Worship Hymnal* (2008) #547; CCLI # 16220

# 1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

**Gathering Time:** (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

## ***Leadership That Inspires Followers***

### **Focal Text**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 5:12-13

### **Background Text**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 5:12-13

### **Main Idea**

Church leaders inspire followers when leaders serve God and the church with faithfulness, integrity, and love.

### **Question to Explore**

In our small home-based church, how do we develop and live out the goals of faithfulness, integrity, and love that are basic to leaders who inspire followers?

### **Teaching Aim**

To help children, youth, and adults identify qualities of Christ-likeness that will guide them to become leaders who will be affirmed and followed even as they serve others.

### **Gathering together:**

Sing “The Greatest Thing”.

### **First Thoughts:**

Faithfulness, integrity, and love are key words for any one in a leadership position. Parents as leaders in the home need these qualities. Bosses need these qualities to guide a business and their employees. Persons in positions of political influence certainly need these qualities if they are to guide their constituents well. But church leaders must have these qualities as well. This is true whether they are in a paid or unpaid position, an elected or volunteer position, an upfront or behind-the-scenes position. Today we will think about these qualities and others which are essential for leadership in the church – even in a small home church.

## **Closing the Gathering Time:**

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

# 2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

**Note to the Bible Study Leader:** Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

## Teacher Preparation

### *Leadership That Inspires Followers*

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#### **Introduction to your personal study:**

Leadership seminars are a popular commodity. If you have a management position in any company, you will, sooner or later, participate in a day long or weekend long seminar designed to better prepare you to deal with the demands of leadership.

This is certainly true at the level of pastoral training. A least one course will be designed almost entirely to aid one to be a good leader. Beyond that, the focus of other classes, chapel messages, and books assigned will be designed to aid one with the challenges of leadership.

At one seminary, one entire Doctor of Ministry program had as its focus “Leadership”. Seminars, projects, and reading assignments all revolved around this concept.

How strange, then to find in these short verses in 1 Thessalonians the basic concepts of what good leadership entails.

Our study today focuses on only a few verses in one of Paul's epistles. That is good, for it gives us opportunity to treasure the words which Paul wrote to the Thessalonian church so many years ago.

The verses included 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-12 and 5:12-13.

***You know, brothers that our visit to you was not a failure. We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men, but God, who tests our hearts. You know that we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else.***

***As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not be to a burden to anyone while we preached to gospel to you.***

***You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous, and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.***

**5:12-13**

***Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.***

## **Background:**

Please ask for and read the information contained in the **“Introduction”** article found at the beginning of this series of Bible Study and Worship sessions (Bible Teaching #.....). The person who downloaded this session should have that material for you, as well.

It is easy to think of these words as addressed to ordained ministers or paid pastoral staff. Paul, after all, was a chosen one, an apostle. Galatians 1:1 proclaims, **“Paul, an**

***apostle- sent not from me not by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead...***” The co-authors of Thessalonians – Timothy and Silas – spent their lives traveling with Paul or traveling for Paul proclaiming the gospel. They were definitely “full-time Christian” workers.

But the Thessalonian church had been left after a very short ministry by Paul and had somehow managed to do many things right. Paul’s words in these verses were probably directed to the laypeople who were giving leadership to the house church or churches in the area.

If this is true, it is important to realize that the concepts which Paul espouses are truths to be lived out by every Christian – not just by the few who have special training and are paid salaries.

Catholicism is old in the state of New Mexico, U.S.A. The Spaniards who came as conquerors of Mexico brought it with them in the 1500’s and it took firm root in the culture and spirit of many New Mexicans. In recent years, fewer men felt called into the full-time priesthood and a crisis arose as fewer and fewer congregations were able to continue without a priest. Then a fresh wind of hope blew across those congregations as lay people began to assume the functions of the priests. They preached the Word, ministered to the sick, cared for the needy, taught the children. One long-time observer of Catholic life said, “This is the best thing that ever could have happened. The people have taken ownership of their faith. They know if it is to be preserved – to be passed down to their children, they must be the ones to do it.”

That concept is called in formal terms “the priesthood of the believer” and it has always been a central belief and rallying cry for Protestants and Evangelicals. Yet many of those who claim a belief in the priesthood of the believer have grown quite accustomed to letting paid staff do much of the work of the church. A few deeply committed people – deacons or elders – are given responsibility for the decision-making of the church.

Paul writes to a church which has not had the privilege of paid leadership. The words he speaks are spoken to all of those who assume responsibility for a task in the church. The leadership seminar which Paul describes is for you and for me.

## **Focusing on the Meaning:**

Here are the points of the leadership seminar.

1. We do what we do with the help of God. V.2 ***“We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you the gospel in spite of strong opposition.”***
2. We do what we do in spite of strong opposition. v.2

3. The teaching we give does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. V.3 ***“For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you.”*** We ought to be able to say, “Well, of course not”, but we are familiar with those religious leaders who do use tricks, error, and impure motives and live on the excessive receipts of generous donors. How amazing that those kinds of people were apparently around even when Paul was preaching.

4. We speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. The gospel is the good news about Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection and the freedom offered to us when we turn our lives over to him. Those entrusted with the gospel are those have experienced that freedom through turning their lives over to him. That’s us – you and me and all the long line of believers since Christ lived on the earth.

5. ***“We are not trying to please men, but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover our greed – God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else.”***

Millions watched the inauguration of the 44<sup>th</sup> president of the United States. In the basic part of the inauguration, there were three prayers. How does one pray at such an auspicious occasion without looking for praise from men? How earnestly those men must have had to search their own hearts before standing to pray publicly. How easily political power could turn them from their appointed tasks. Oh yes, flattery, greed, and the need for public approval become realities for leaders and Paul would remind us to be on our guard against it.

## **Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:**

For a Christian, true leadership consists of following the commandments of Jesus through the leadership of His Spirit in us. Submitting to His will certainly applies to every Christian and not just to those who may be voted or delegated visible “authority”. We must all seek to grow into living examples of servant leadership. Your own example in teaching this session can serve as a lesson in itself by seeking to help your group to learn these principles and begin to apply them.

You, as the leader or “teacher” will approach your teaching hour, not as the expert, but earnestly seeking change and growth in each person that God entrusts to you for that brief moment of learning. Rather than lecture them, help your group to grapple with the idea of every Christian growing in leadership. Help them understand the difference between the world’s concept of leadership and the Christian concept of leading through sacrificial service.

**For Personal Reflection:**

**What have I learned from this study?**

**What personal experience does this session bring to mind?**

**What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

## **Bible Study Plan** (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

### ***Leadership That Inspires Followers***

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

**Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.**

#### **Focal Text**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 5:12-13

#### **Background Text**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 5:12-13

#### **Main Idea**

Church leaders inspire followers when leaders serve God and the church with faithfulness, integrity, and love.

#### **Question to Explore**

In our small home-based church, how do we develop and live out the goals of faithfulness, integrity, and love that are basic to leaders who inspire followers?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To help children, youth, and adults identify qualities of Christ-likeness that will guide them to become leaders who will be affirmed and followed even as they serve others.

#### **Connect with Life:**

**Read or tell the following:** Many people around the world have read or heard about the famous American president, Abraham Lincoln. For over 140 years, most men and women who want to lead a nation somewhere in the world, will study the qualities of Mr. Lincoln that enabled him to accomplish so much in such a brief time.

Many people have even heard the stories and legends of Lincoln's early years in a log cabin in the frontier area of northern America. Of course, like most stories of famous people, some of those stories are exaggerated, even to the ridiculous. In fact, the log

cabin where he was supposedly born is now enclosed in a large marble building managed by the US Park Service. In truth, that cabin was built long after Lincoln died and hauled around for years in pieces to many places just to make money for the promoters. Finally, to make it fit inside the “Memorial”, it was cut down considerably from the original size. Probably none of the wood in that cabin was ever in the original. Lincoln may have lived in a log cabin but he certainly never lived in **that** cabin!

However, one thing is true. Every position Lincoln held was by election and not by force or deceit. It is also true that he lost almost every election he attempted before finally being elected as the U.S. President. A few history books suggest that the reason he finally won the presidency had more to do with his ability to learn from his defeats than mere perseverance. Every election he lost, he spent time with those who voted against him and slowly changed his personality, goals, relationships, and attitudes until the majority voted for him. **He learned to be the leader who deserved to be followed.**

### **Guide the Study:**

Ask: “Has anyone here ever been elected or defeated to a position of public service?”  
Give time for comments.

Follow with this as a discussion: “Why would you vote for a person to lead a group to which you belong?”

Have a group member read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6.

Suggest to the group that in verse 1, Paul states the whole purpose or reason for what he is going to say in verses 2-20.

Ask someone to say out loud what that purpose is.

Now say: “Verses 2 to 6 seem to present a defence or answer to a person or persons in Thessalonica who was questioning the motives of Paul and his missionary team.

Encourage the group to name each statement of defence in verses 2-6.

Look for another person to read verses 7-12.

Encourage a brief discussion as to why Paul might have chosen these words to conclude his defence. (Remind them of the sacrifice Paul and his team made?)

### **Encourage Application:**

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the session by and for themselves.

If possible make copies of the points of the leadership seminar for each participant. These are available for copying at the end of the worship time materials. If you cannot make copies, have a white board or large piece of paper with the points written on it. Go over these points to help students gain the whole picture of Paul's teachings.

Here are the points of the leadership seminar.

1. We do what we do with the help of God. V.2 ***“We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you the gospel in spite of strong opposition.”***

2. We do what we do in spite of strong opposition. v.2

3. The teaching we give does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. V.3 ***“For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you.”*** We ought to be able to say, “Well, of course not”, but we are familiar with those religious leaders who do use tricks, error, and impure motives and live on the excessive receipts of generous donors. How amazing that those kinds of people were apparently around even when Paul was preaching.

4. We speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. The gospel is the good news about Jesus' death, burial and resurrection and the freedom offered to us when we turn our lives over to him. Those entrusted with the gospel are those have experienced that freedom through turning their lives over to him. That's us – you and me and all the long line of believers since Christ lived on the earth.

5. ***“We are not trying to please men, but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover our greed – God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else.”***

**Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time.** Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

# Youth!!! Take Ten

## Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

### ***Leadership That Inspires Followers*** 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 5:12-13

**A youth will lead the following activity and comments.** No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

## Wise Leadership

### Use your time to discuss the following:

(You can make more copies from the list at the end of the session.)

1. We do what we do with the help of God. V.2 ***“We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you the gospel in spite of strong opposition.”***
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**Worship Time** (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***Leadership That Inspires Followers*****1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 5:12-13****Beginning the Service:**

Sing "Footsteps of Jesus"

**Offering:****Praying for the World:**

Approximately ten percent of the population of Egypt or 7.5 million are at least nominal Christians. Ask God to revive and empower His people in Egypt to be faith, bold and winsome witnesses who daily share the gospel with those who have never heard. Pray for the Spirit to sweep through Egypt calling this generation of Egyptians to complete surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Sharing Guide:**

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

**Servant Leader or Man in Charge****Introduction:**

Several years ago, the concept of servant leader was popularized. Several books were written talking about leadership as serving others in multiple, sacrificial ways. However, it was not long before another style of leadership began to be common in churches. Some refer to this as the CEO model. This leader needed many skills of administration, ability to speak well, good people skills, ability to set a vision, even a pleasing personal

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appearance. Large churches were especially interested in this kind of leader. Members of the church may never have any personal contact with that leader or pastor but they have no doubt that he is the man in charge.

We rejoice that those multi-talented people have used those abilities in the Lord's service. Yet we long for a model of leadership that has room for all of us. And the model which Jesus himself gave fits us all. Here is what Jesus said,

***“An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all – he is the greatest’”*** (Luke 9: 46-50).

In Matthew 23: 11-12 we read

***“the greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”***

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor; he told them a parable. ***“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘give this person your place’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted”*** (Luke 14:7-11).

The main idea for our Bible study and worship today has been “Church leaders inspire followers when leaders serve God and the church with faithfulness, integrity, and love.” We asked ourselves “In our small home-based church, how do we develop and live out the goals of faithfulness, integrity, and love that are basic to leaders who inspire followers?”

The scripture that we have read during this worship time speaks one message which relates to our leadership and service. That message is clear ***“For he who is least among you is greatest of all.”***

It is a reminder that we need even in a home church. For however small or large a group may be, there can always be that “person who wants to be in charge”. May we commit to one another to serve one another in all the ways that we can knowing that our reward will be given, in the right time, by the very God of the universe.

### **Call to Commitment:**

**Leader:** If you have older children or youth in your group, ask them to prepare to read the words to “**Something for Thee**” or another song of commitment. If you do not have children or youth, ask an adult to read the hymn which is found at the end of the Worship Time materials.

### **Concluding the Service:**

**Close the worship time by singing “We Are an Offering”.**

{Make copies of this list for use in the Bible study time. As well, the youth may need copies for their “Take Ten!!!” study application time.}

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## Something for Thee

Savior, Thy dying love  
Thou gavest me,  
Nor should I aught withhold,  
Dear Lord, from Thee:  
In love my soul would bow,  
My heart fulfill its vow.  
Some off'ring bring Thee now,  
Something for Thee.

At the blest mercy seat,  
Pleading for me,  
My feeble faith looks up,  
Jesus, to Thee:  
Help me the cross to bear,  
Thy wondrous love declare,  
Some song to raise, or prayer,  
Something for Thee.

Give me a faithful heart,  
Likeness to Thee,  
That each departing day  
Henceforth may see  
Some work of love begun,  
Some deed of kindness done,  
Some wand'rer sought and won,  
Something for Thee.

All that I am and have,  
Thy gifts so free,  
In joy, in grief, through life,  
Dear Lord, for Thee!  
And when Thy face I see,  
My ransom'd soul shall be,  
Through all eternity,  
Something for Thee.