

House Church Study Questions
Based on the SAC Sermon on July 19th, 2020

Sermon: Vessels of Opportunity
Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:9-18

Gathering Guidelines

-Watch Pastor Brian's intro video for this week.

Take some time to worship

-Play a worship song. Pray to Jesus. Be in His presence.

Read

1 Thessalonians 5:9-18

Discussion Questions

- 1. Seeing God as the center of our daily lives is difficult. Planting a garden is a good way to see how God provides all the necessary elements and how we play a role as well by planting and tending it.
-In what ways can you see God in your daily life?
-When you can acknowledge that He made your daily life/work/involvements possible, how does that make you feel toward Him?**

- 2. God made us as vessels of opportunity. He makes life possible and then invites us to join Him in His task of building life.
-How is it honoring to God to recognize that He gave us the invitation to join Him in this mission?**

- 3. God is all about creating. He does it all the time in big and small ways. He does it in the physical world (planting/growing peas) and He does it the same way in the spiritual world.
Read 1 Thess. 5:9-11 and ask yourself this question:
-"Why would God go to such extremes to save us and to live with Him forever?"**

4. God did this amazing thing of saving us from sin and giving us new spiritual life in Jesus. There is nothing greater than this. Unbelievably, He now gives us the opportunity to join Him in continuing the creation of this spiritual fruit.

Verses 12-18 describe specific ways that we can join in God's mission to grow spiritual life.

-Read these verses slowly and pay attention as you do. Listen to what happens to your heart. As you hear the ways God is inviting you to join Him in growing spiritual life and fruit, two things may happen to you:

1. You may experience a small burst of joy.
2. You may experience a small tinge of frustration.

Pay attention to both. You *need to read these verses slowly and thoughtfully* to give yourself a chance to absorb it. Pay attention to which of the things God asks you to do that makes you feel that joy or frustration.

For example: if you hear that God is inviting you into 'giving thanks in all circumstances' (verse 18) and you feel joy, that is an indicator that you are on track with the Lord and you should go even further in doing this in your life.

But if, for example, you hear that God is inviting you to acknowledge and honor those in leadership in the church family as they 'admonish you', and you feel frustration, then this is an indicator that the Lord wants to free you from bondage and set you on a path where you can join Him in producing spiritual fruit by doing what His will is.

-Now read verses 12-18 *slowly* and pay attention to how your spirit responds. . .

-Talk about your responses with each other and encourage each other to step into God's creative journey.

Invitation and Mission for this week

Your mission this week is to do this:

- 1. Everyday give thanks to Jesus that He has made His will known to you. Verse 18 makes this very clear. This is the beginning of joining into God's plan for your life that will cultivate much joy!**
- 2. Start each day by asking the Lord to give you strength and insight to actually do the things He is inviting you to in verses 12-18. If you have never done any of them, then do one and rejoice.**
- 3. Tell someone in your House Church what you did and share in the journey! This is how we grow.**

Pray for each other

Go around your circle and pray for the person on your left. Pray from the content of your discussions tonight and declare God's truth/blessing over the person next to you. Everyone is invited to pray. Everyone is invited to receive prayer.