

RECAP

Spend some time sharing with each other how the process of discerning God in your stories went this last week!

IDEA 1

Jennifer walked us through 1 Thessalonians chapter 2. There were a number of questions that the text prompted us to process:

From verses 1-8 we see that Paul seemed a bit defensive. Jennifer pointed out that when we do the work of God, that doesn't mean we will be free from misunderstanding, false accusation, and opposition.

What do you do when you are falsely accused, or face opposition?

- Do you get defensive or try to correct people's perceptions?
- Do you withdraw/quit - it's not worth it if your reputation suffers?
- Do you go on the offensive and attack back?

How would you like to respond?

From verses 7-8 and 11-12 we see Paul's love for people.

One question Jennifer asked was: Are we willing to be part of this kind of loving "family of God" community, or do we hold ourselves apart, not wanting to risk the pain of loss for the gain of loving connections? How would you answer that question?

Verse 13 talks about how we can trust the word of God.

How have you seen the Word of God work in your life?

IDEA 2

Jennifer's big idea was saying "yes" to God.

Paul's yes was to continued ministry despite persecution and to love deeply even in the face of false accusation and more persecution.

The Thessalonians' yes was to the accepting the word as truth and to continuing in faith even when suffering.

Take some time to process what God may be asking you. What is your "yes" to God?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer together.

Ask God to give you His courage to say yes to Him and to allow you to be an example of Christ-likeness throughout your days.

Allow portions of Psalm 27 to be your prayer.

The LORD is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? Hear me as I pray, O LORD. Be merciful and answer me! My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "LORD, I am coming." Teach me how to live, O LORD. Lead me along the right path, Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.

Taken from Psalm 27:1, 7, 8, 11, 14

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

This week, take some time to think about how your life has been shaped by Jesus—your values, your behaviors, and your character. How have you said yes to Him in the past and how has that impacted others? List some examples. Take time to thank God. Invite God to continue shaping you.