

INTRO

Rob began our time together reminding us that Paul was recruiting prayer warriors in the Thessalonian church to pray strength and protection for the workers that had been sent—praying that the message of Jesus would spread rapidly and with honor. Prayer is a significant and vital part of the Kingdom of God’s growth. Just as we did in the sermon, take some time at the start of your group time together to pray for those who have been sent out from Salem Alliance. Here are some examples:

Amit and Kathy	The Guiterez’s
Grant and Dakota	The Vernons
Macie	The Weilands
Carly	The Tuggys
Cameron	Cayla
Julian and Ashli	Micky
Lydia	Debbie

IDEA 1

In this passage (2 Thessalonians 3), Paul called out some early Christians in this church who had stopped working because they expected Jesus's imminent return.

While our context is different, what are some ways we might neglect our earthly responsibilities or relationships because of misapplied spiritual beliefs?

Rob shared that in response to this issue, Paul was practicing church discipline through tough love. However, ultimately Paul wanted restoration, not just punishment, when dealing with idle believers.

How can we practice "tough love" in a way that leads to restoration rather than alienation in our church community?

What might this look like practically?

IDEA 2

Rob discussed the tension between care and enablement in Christian community.

Share about a time when you had to find this balance—either as someone helping others or receiving help yourself. What did you learn from that experience?

Paul told the Thessalonians to "never get tired of doing good" even when facing potential abuse of generosity.

What makes it challenging to maintain generosity after experiencing disappointment?

How can we sustain a generous spirit while being wise stewards?

Rob mentioned that churches sometimes "punt" their responsibility to care for communities to the government.

What unique contributions can local churches make in caring for community needs that other institutions cannot?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

During this sermon, Rob shared a lot of stories about how God is on the move in our church and community. **Take some time to share your stories of God on the move with one another. Sharing stories can help us build faith!**

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

Rob concluded his message this week with the instruction that it is better to error on the side of generosity. **This week consider what generosity could look like for you.**

Here are a few examples:

- **Connect with our Nations and Neighborhoods department to learn how you might get involved in addressing needs in our community.**
- **Consider giving to the church's benevolent fund.**