

RECAP

If you were able to brainstorm an action step last week, how did implementing it go this week?

IDEA 1

What was something that stood out to you from this week's sermon? Why do you think that stood out to you?

Josh pointed out that there is a difference between hardship and persecution. **How would you describe the difference between the two?**

Why is that distinction significant?

How can God be found in the midst of both?

IDEA 2

What does or could it look like for God to be honored in the way we live, both when we are suffering and when we are not?

Josh shared a simple definition of faith: confident expectation. **How would you describe faith and how can that definition help during hard times?**

Josh touched on the fact Paul speaks soberly about the eternal separation from God that awaits those who don't know Jesus. **How does this weighty truth impact your heart and motivation for sharing the gospel? What specific opportunities do you see in your life to share Christ's love with others?**

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Paul ends this part of his letter with another prayer in 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12:

11 So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do. 12 Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Take some time to pray this prayer together.

First, pray it for someone you know. Pray slowly enough that the Holy Spirit can prompt you with some specifics for that person.

Then pray for yourself in the same way.

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

This week, continue to pray that prayer for those in your life and for yourself. Consider ways that you can be the peace, power, and presence of Jesus everywhere you go this week. Notice those that Jesus is prompting you to interact with!