



A Beautiful Church
1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
October 5, 2025

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

When you think of a *beautiful church*, what comes to mind?

- ☐ A building or sanctuary you love
- ☐ A community that cares for one another
- ☐ Powerful worship or preaching
- ☐ A place where people grow
- ☐ Other: _____

Have you ever been part of a group or team that felt like a family? What made it that way?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

A Beautiful Church Follows Its Leaders

Paul begins by telling the Thessalonian church to "respect" and "esteem" those who labor among them and lead them.

Why do you think Paul connects church health and beauty to how we relate to our leaders?

- ☐ Leadership is difficult and requires support.
- ☐ Healthy leadership sets the tone for the church.
- ☐ Trust allows the church to grow and move forward.
- ☐ Other: _____

How have you seen leadership done well—or poorly—in a church? What difference did it make?

Why is admonition (gentle correction and warning) an important part of church leadership? What makes this aspect difficult for leaders and for followers?

A Beautiful Church Loves One Another

Paul gives practical instructions for how members of the church should care for one another: admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with all.

Why is it important to respond *differently* to different kinds of people (idle, fainthearted, weak) instead of treating everyone the same?

Which of these do you find most challenging?

- ☐ Admonishing the idle
- ☐ Encouraging the fainthearted
- ☐ Helping the weak
- ☐ Being patient with everyone
- ☐ Other: _____

How might our church look different if more of us practiced “peer accountability” — gently calling one another back into step with Christ?

A Beautiful Church Lives in Obedience

Paul closes with a flurry of commands: do good, rejoice, pray, give thanks, test everything, and hold fast to what is good.

How do these practices shape a church's witness in the world?

Why is it important to remember that obedience is a *response* to what God has done, not a way to earn His love?

What would it look like for our church to embody these practices more fully?

- ☐ More visible joy and gratitude
- ☐ Greater prayerfulness
- ☐ Courage to confront evil
- ☐ More mutual support
- ☐ Other: _____

Work It Out!

One way I will pursue a more *beautiful church* this week is: