

**Talking to Unchurched & Dechurched - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16**  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

*This week's Top 10 Question - How can we talk to people about Jesus when they have no background of faith, yet struggle with objections?*

Talking to others about Jesus isn't like any other conversation. We can talk about the weather, our family, our job, or our hobbies without ever feeling any tension. But when we talk about Jesus, the conversation takes on a whole different level of importance. When we share our faith with others, their eternity is involved. That's one of the reasons why that conversation generates so much fear and intimidation in the hearts of many Christians. We are afraid to say the wrong thing, give the wrong answer, or "mess up" someone's opportunity to hear the Gospel.

The first key to overcoming this uncertainty and taking steps towards sharing our faith confidently is understanding what is really expected of us. The Bible is full of different ways that the first disciples of Jesus shared their faith. Peter stood before a crowd of the thousands and shared the Gospel with them on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), Paul debated with philosophers in Athens (Acts 17), and Philip was called to share his faith with a total stranger on the road to Gaza (Acts 8). These are all legitimate ways to share Jesus, but none of these are the most common way we share our faith daily. Sharing our faith should be a lifestyle, rather than a single event. Paul gives us a great example to show how to do that in his first letter to the Thessalonians.

In 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13, Paul reminds the Thessalonians of the way he shared his faith with them. He describes a lifestyle of what we could call friend to family discipleship. He doesn't shy away from proclaiming the truth of the Gospel boldly, but he does so in the context of a greater relationship. He mentions the characteristics of their relationship that are important for us to apply. First his relationship with them was selfless. He made sure that he could serve them without ever asking anything in return. Second, living in community with them gave them an opportunity to observe the integrity of their faith. In other words, the Thessalonians saw that he practiced what he preached. And finally, the dominant characteristic of Paul's relationship with them was love. He uses the relationship of a parent to their children to describe his love for them. These characteristics marked a lifestyle of sharing his faith in the context of deep, meaningful friendship that resulted in a powerful church that would spread the Gospel to the entire region.

Friendship to family discipleship requires a much larger emotional commitment when it comes to sharing our faith, but we can rest in the fact that God is the one who saves. We are called to be faithful in sharing our life of faith with those around us, God is the one in charge of the results. We can rest in His sovereignty and concentrate on our faithfulness rather than our powers of persuasion.

## **Bible Reading for the Week**

### **Daily Bible Readings**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 Samuel 12	2 Samuel 13	2 Samuel 14	2 Samuel 15	2 Samuel 16	2 Samuel 17	2 Samuel 18

Reading from this past week's sermon: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Ephesians 5:21-33

## **Family Worship**

Song - *God So Loved*

<https://youtu.be/jasoo3UDSwY?si=0RF45-KEIbsWIA8z>

### **Gospel Project**

Unit: King David

Story: David Showed Mercy

Big Picture Question: Is there anyone or anything greater than God?

Answer: No, God is greater than everything and everyone

Scripture: 1 Samuel 24

### **New City Catechism**

Question 29: How can we be saved?

Answer: Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross.

Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

- What are some other Bible passages that refer to a parent/child relationship with the people with whom we share our faith?
- How does the concept of a friend to family discipleship method make sharing your faith easier or harder?
- What are the biggest challenges you could anticipate for entering into a real relationship with the unbelievers around you?
- How does the promise of God's sovereign control affect your feelings about sharing your faith?

### **Prayer**

\*Pray that God would give us the courage to share our faith and the ability to do it with gentleness and kindness.

\*Pray for our church planting partners in Cayambe, Ecuador, David and Brenda Meyer, and for their church Buen Pastor Iglesia (Good Shepherd Church).