

# 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

## “Who Do You Appreciate?”

**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

**Memory Verse:** 1 Thessalonians 1:2 *“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers”*

**Lesson Focus:** While we are **beginning** the book of 1 Thessalonians this weekend, we are also **ending** our time with the current set of kids as they will all be promoted next weekend to the next grade. After a short teaching where we will look at how Paul appreciated the believers in Thessalonica, we will celebrate the year we’ve had together with some special fun games in the Summit Room.

**Activities and Crafts:** Thank You Coloring Sheet, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for ALL: Appreciation Activity

**Starter Activity:** What Do You Appreciate Challenge

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room immediately after worship and we will remain there until the top of the hour. Afterwards, you will have time with your kids in their rooms.

Q: What does it mean to appreciate someone or something? \*

A: To recognize someone or something’s value and be truly thankful for it!

There are a lot of things that I think we can easily take for granted. This means we get so used to them that we don’t stop to truly appreciate them!

**Teachers:** At this point I will invite one volunteer from each class to come up and demonstrate life without certain things that we take for granted.

- 1) Eyes
- 2) Feet
- 3) Fingers
- 4) Tongue \*

Q: And most importantly, WHO do we have to thank for all of these things that we appreciate? A: God, of course!

We are going to start a new book of the Bible today and right from the start we are going to see one great example of showing appreciation. Take a look with me!

## Bible Study:

**1 Thessalonians 1:1a:** This “book” of the Bible is one of the many letters written from one Christian to another. \*

Q: Who wrote this letter? A: Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy. \* You read about all three of these guys in many other places in the Bible. They were **missionaries**.

Q: What is a **missionary**? A: Someone sent out to tell lost people the good news about the love of Jesus Christ. \*

**1 Thessalonians 1:1b:** Like any letter you would write today, you add your name and then you would add the person you are writing it to.

Q: Who did Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy write this letter to? A: The church \* in the ancient city of Thessalonians.

**1 Thessalonians 1:1c:** What a nice greeting! As believers in Jesus, they experienced the grace and peace of God through faith in Jesus. But what do “grace” and “peace” mean?

**Grace:** Freely getting what you do NOT deserve! They deserved punishment because of their sin against God, but God offered forgiveness/blessing (grace) to them. They freely received this when they believed and trusted in the finished work of Jesus on the cross!

**Peace:** After receiving God’s grace, this is what they experience as God’s children. For all of their sins, past, present, future, are forgiven! \* They are HIS now!

But this greeting doesn’t just apply to them. It applies to ALL believers in Jesus Christ throughout the world, both then and now, including you and me! We also experience this grace and peace in the same way that they did!

**1 Thessalonians 1:2:** Now Paul, Sil, and Tim say what it is they APPRECIATE! \*

Q: Who did they say they appreciate? A: The believers in this little church! \* And they show their appreciation by praying for them! \*

**1 Thessalonians 1:3:** But now Paul, Sil, and Tim say WHY they appreciate them. Listen for three things. \*

Q: What three things described them? A: Their faith, love, and their hope in Jesus.

**Boys and Girls:** Have a look at your leaders. They have been faithfully with you and for you all year (some, every week!). They don’t get paid to be here! They do it because they care about you. APPRECIATE THEM! \*

**Teachers:** At this point we will finish up our time together with some fun group games!

**Small Group Time Afterwards:** Since this is the last time you will be with this group of kids with them graduating the following weekend, please spend some extra time with them in a small group setting and encourage them as they move onto their next class. Use this time to tell the kids something you appreciate about them. Pray for them and spoil them too if you like!

Consider reviewing the memory verse and remind the kids of how thankful you are to the Lord for them and how you have prayed for them this last year!

# Bring It Home

Download at: <https://rmcalvary.org/volunteering/childrens-ministry/family-resources/>

**Lesson Theme: “Who Do You Appreciate?”**

**Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3**

**Memory Verse:** 1 Thessalonians 1:2 “*We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers*”

**Teachers/Parents:** We began our lesson by playing a game that demonstrated how easily we take very important things for granted. Pause for a moment and think of some things or persons that you might take for granted. Have everyone in the family share one thing they thought of. Why do you think it is so easy to take these things for granted?

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) This book of the Bible begins by identifying the three guys who wrote the letter. Who were they? In class we talked about how all three of them were some of the very first missionaries, people who were sent out to tell others the gospel. Do you know of any missionaries? If not, consider taking a missionary card from our kids ministry board and praying for them as a family.
- 2) Read **1 Thessalonians 1:1**. Who was the recipient of this letter? How do you think the believers in Thessalonica reacted when they received this letter?
- 3) The believers in Thessalonica were greeted with grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ. In class we talked about how grace is “*getting something good that you don’t deserve.*” How has God given us today something good that we don’t deserve? (Hint: See **John 3:16**)
- 4) Read **1 Thessalonians 1:2**. How do you think the believers in Thessalonica felt after hearing that Paul appreciates them and is praying for them?
- 5) In **1 Thessalonians 1:3**, Paul continues to show WHY he appreciates these believers in Thessalonica. What three things did he say? Consider taking a moment and think about something that you appreciate about someone else in the family. Then take turns sharing that to encourage one another!
- 6) So much of this letter is one of encouragement to the believers in Thessalonica. Is there anyone among your friends and family that could use a letter of encouragement mailed to them? Consider writing such a letter to them and tell them why you appreciate them!