

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

“You Are Dear To Us!”

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 2:8b *“We were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”*

Lesson Focus: This is our first weekend with the newly promoted kids! I am amazed at how well our Scripture passage applies to this special weekend. Just as Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy emphasize how dear the believers in Thessalonica are to them, we will emphasize how dear all of these kids are to us and carve out time for you to get to know them.

Activities and Crafts: You are Dear To Us Coloring Page, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion and Prayer Requests for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st and 2nd grade: Share Your Sunshine

Starter Activity: Claim Your Kingdom

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room immediately after worship and play a quick game to welcome them into their new “kingdoms”. (This is the area that each group has all to themselves in the Summit Room just outside their classroom door).

Q: What are some things that you put your name’s on. (i.e. lunchboxes, Bibles, etc.)

Q: Why do you put your names on them? A: Because they are YOURS!

At this point, we will pass out markers to the kids and have them “claim” their new kingdom area by writing on the fresh white tape that we will have laid down for them.

Afterwards we will dismiss the 1st/2nd grade classes to their rooms for their lesson.

Bible Study:

Q: What are some things that you show AFFECTION to? A: Stuffies, pets, grandparents, etc. (**Teachers:** If you have something that you show affection to, consider bringing it in to share with the kids! *)

As we continue in our study of this letter written from Paul, Sil, and Tim, we are going to see how much AFFECTION they had for the people in Thessalonica.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-2a: Remember that Paul, Sil, and Tim were missionaries who started a church in Thessalonica and before they came there they were poorly treated in a nearby town called Philippi. What happened in Philippi is actually recorded in the book of Acts. Read **Acts 16:22-24**. *

Q: What happened to Paul and Sil? A: They were beaten and unjustly thrown into prison for their Christian faith!

Now if this happened to you or me, I think we would be complaining and frustrated. But look at what happened when they were in prison! Read **Acts 16:25**. Wow! They were praying and singing hymns to God. * Finally, read **Acts 16:26-31**. Double Wow! (**Teachers:** Consider letting the kids know that Roman guards were put to death if their prisoners escaped. This is why the guard was going to “kill himself”. Or feel free to summarize the story and skip over that part). *

So, this is some of what happened in Philippi before they went to Thessalonica. What an adventure! As we continue reading in **Acts 17** you will see what happened in Thessalonica. As it says in **1 Thess. 2:2b**, the conflict continues! *

Read **Acts 17:1-4**. These are the first believers of Jesus in this city! But then read **Acts 17:5-6**. More fighting and conflict! *

1 Thessalonians 2:3-4: Despite all of this, Paul and Sil continued to tell people about the life-changing message of Jesus. Notice it says that the gospel was “entrusted” to them.

Q: What does it mean to have something “entrusted” to you?

A: It means something special is put into your care or protection! Often it is the things that are entrusted to you that you show the most AFFECTION to! (i.e. pets, stuffies) *

1 Thessalonians 2:5-6: Paul and Sil didn’t use sweet talk, they just preached the good news about Jesus who came to save sinners!

Q: Have you ever used flattery or “sweet talk” to try and get something from someone? (**Teachers:** Consider sharing a personal story of yours when you may have tried to “sweet talk” someone into doing something for you *)

Paul, Sil, and Tim never made ministry about them, but always about Jesus first!

1 Thessalonians 2:7: So Paul, Sil, and Tim made it about Jesus first and others second! Paul, Sil, and Tim cared for the church like a mother cares for her own children!

Q: How does a mother typically care for her little children?

A: Feeds them, rocks them to sleep, changes their diapers! (**Teachers:** Consider bringing in a baby doll and asking a girl to come up and demonstrate all the different ways a Mom cares for her child) They tenderly loved the people in this church!

1 Thessalonians 2:8a: Paul, Sil, and Tim said that they didn't just teach them the gospel, but they gave them their lives. They made sacrifices for them!

Q: Why? Why would Paul, Sil, and Tim give so much to these people that for most of their lives they didn't even know? (**Teachers:** Consider letting the kids chew on this a little before reading the rest of the verse)

1 Thessalonians 2:8b: Because they became **DEAR** to them. They wanted them to know Jesus and be saved from hell! They wanted them to turn away from sin and live their lives God's way (His way is the best way!). They became close friends with each other!

Boys and Girls: Have a look at your new leaders. They also want you to know Jesus! They want you to be saved! They want you to live your lives God's way. They will make sacrifices for you. Why? **BECAUSE YOU ARE DEAR TO THEM!**

Have you noticed the blue T-shirts that we are all wearing? These T-shirts have a logo on the back which describes what we want Kids church at RMC to be all about: *

- 1) Showing you Jesus
- 2) Knowing you just like Jesus would

This is exactly what we see of Paul, Sil, and Tim here in this passage. They showed these people in Thessalonica Jesus and they knew and cared about the people just like Jesus would have.

This is what you can expect from us in kids ministry here at RMC. Yes, we are going to teach you about Jesus, but we also are going to show that we care about you. For you are dear to us!

Small Group Time Afterwards: We want to give you some extra time to get to know the kids afterwards. We will give you some dice and a "get to know you" game where each kid will take turns rolling the dice and have to share the appropriate thing about himself or herself. I would also encourage you to introduce your class to the Compassion kid in your room and remind them about the giving jar that goes to that kid. 1st/2nd grade leaders: See the craft which will help you get to know your kids!

3rd-5th grader leaders: We will also supply your room with fresh prayer request sheets that kids can fill out and give to you. Take them home and commit to praying for your kids throughout the week!

Bring It Home

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

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Teachers/Parents: As we see how Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy affectionately care about these believers in Thessalonica in this passage, we began our lesson by talking about things that we show affection to. Think back to when you were younger. What did you show affection to? What are some things that you show affection to now and how do you show it?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **1 Thessalonians 2:1-2**. Where did Paul say they were treated unjustly? See the next two questions where we have a record of what actually happened there in a different book of the Bible!
- 2) Read **Acts 16:16-24**. Why did they throw Paul and Silas into prison?
- 3) Read **Acts 16:25-31**. What happened while Paul and Silas were in prison?
- 4) After they were released from jail in Philippi, they entered Thessalonica for the first time. Read **Acts 17:1-6**. In v. 6, the mob described them as people who have “turned the world upside down”. How does the gospel turn the world upside down?
- 5) Read **1 Thessalonians 2:4**. What did God “entrust” to Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy? What are some things that are entrusted to you?
- 6) In **1 Thessalonians 2:7**, Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy affirm their love of these believers in this church like a mother loves her little children. What are some ways that a mother cares for her children?
- 7) Read **1 Thessalonians 2:8**. What are the two things that Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy “imparted” or gave to the church at the Thessalonica? What was the reason why they imparted those things?
- 8) Who can you show affection to this week?