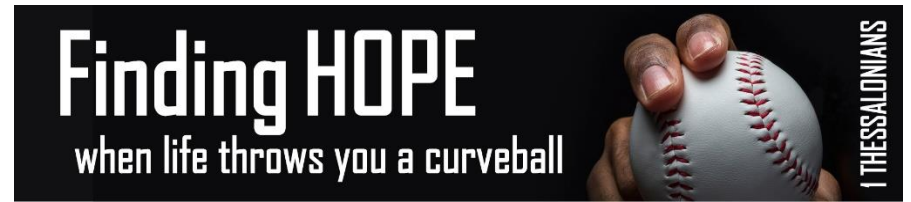


LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK: From Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016 (page 3)

TAKING IT HOME

1. The world's view of boldness in relation to evangelism may differ from the boldness described in today's focal passage. Do you think evangelism "has a bad rep?" Why/why not?
 - How can YOU affect a better rep?
 - What risks *should* Christians take to share the Gospel?
2. Think about one or two people you know who are currently either far from Christ or haven't made a decision to follow Christ. Describe what YOU think would be the attitudes, motives, relational opportunities, etc. that YOU could use to bring that person just a little closer to Christ.
 - What's one step you are willing to take this week?
 - If you are participating in this Life Group discussion and don't consider yourself a Christ-follower, think about the attitudes, behaviors, motives, etc. that you see in Christians that make you want to know more about following Jesus. What about those things intrigues you? Feel free to share with your Life Group.



SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES – Sept. 11, 2016

Series: "How to Find Hope When Life Throws You a Curveball" / 1 Thess.

Message #2: "A Mindset That Can Defeat Any Curveball"

By Mark Brunott

1. To build your life on things that last...Check your motives.

These things do not last:

Lies, impure motives, manipulation, flattery, masks, seeking praise from people.

These things last:

Courage, the Gospel, pleasing God.

2. To build your life on things that last...Look at your actions.

Care for people.

Love people.

Work hard for people.

Regarding serving people:

Keep serving.

Take time to rest.

Let the Holy Spirit motivate you.

3. To build your life on things that last...Listen to Christ's message.

4. The message that lasts:

Live a life worthy of God.

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK: From Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016 (page 1)

QUICK REVIEW

What is one take-away that you gained from Pastor Mark's message Sunday morning?

MY STORY

1. Describe for your Life Group the last time you had an encounter with someone whose motives either weren't what you thought they were, OR weren't what you thought they should be. How did you react? Did this affect your relationship in an on-going way?

2. Who is the boldest person you know?

- What things do you admire about this person?
- Is there anything that makes you uncomfortable about his/her boldness?

DIGGING DEEPER

Let's dig deeper into Sunday's message text, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. The pronouns "we" and "our" are used throughout this section. Look back at the first part of 1 Thessalonians 1 and discover who is included in these pronouns.

1. Read aloud this text: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- What sticks out to you in this passage? Why?
- What words or phrases in this passage describe Paul's ministry to and attitude towards the Thessalonians? (ex. bold, gentle)
- Paul uses the images of a mother (v. 7) and a father (v. 11). In what ways do these images describe the kind of ministry we are to have?

2. In v. 2, Paul mentions, almost in passing, their treatment at Philippi; however, that story is one of the more well-known stories about Paul's missionary journeys. Look at Acts 16:11-40.

- What were the ministry "highs" and "lows" that Paul's group encountered in Philippi?
- Can you think of a time when, within the same situation, you experienced both defeats and spiritual victories?
- In our 1 Thessalonians passage, we see how Paul's experience in Philippi actually gave him courage and boldness to continue preaching (v. 2). Why do you think this was Paul's reaction to persecution?
- In any situation where one is faced with opposition or persecution, what determines whether one retreats or advances with boldness?