**Encouragement to Really Live – 1 Thessalonians 3 Leader’s notes**

**HOOK**

**1. What’s the highlight of the past week for you?**

**2. Did you ever have a nickname? How did you get it?**

**3. Who do you know who has the gift of encouragement?**

**Take a LOOK at the BOOK**

**Read 1 Thess. 3:1- 7 “**We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God’s fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them. In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless. But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith.”

**4. What news report from Timothy encouraged Paul?** (That the church in Thessalonica continued on in their faith).

**5. What (or who) has encouraged you lately?**

**Read Luke 6:38: “**Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

**6. How is encouragement like a boomerang?**

**Read 1 Thess. 3:8-9** “For now we really live, since you’re standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?”

**7. Think of a time when you were really living spiritually. When was it? What caused it? How can you recover that life?**

**8. What are you most thankful for these days?**

**TOOK**

**9. Do you know anyone who is discouraged? How could you encourage them?**

**10. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind someone you need to tell that you’re thankful for him or her – a parent, a spouse, a coworker, or a friend. Say it in person or write or call them.**

**11. Pray for each other.**

**Read 1 Thess. 3:10-13. “**Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what’s lacking in your faith.11Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. 12May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 13May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.”

**Ask God to fill each other with His love, to strengthen each other spiritually, and to make us ready for Christ’s return.**