

**READ:** I Thessalonians 2:7-13 ESV

<sup>7</sup> But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. <sup>8</sup> So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

<sup>9</sup> For you remember, brothers [and sisters], our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. <sup>11</sup> For you know how, like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup> we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

**REFLECT:**

1. List below or underline the characteristics of the ministry of Paul, Silas and Timothy that produced the vibrant Thessalonian church.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How many church programs did Paul describe?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. If not church programs, what does Paul describe that contributed to the vitality of the Thessalonian church

**RESPOND:** What does this passage teach you about your own personal approach to ministry to others?

**REQUEST:** Jot down prayer requests that you and others may have, be personal, not general.

## How to use Word-Share-Prayer

Word-Share-Prayer (Read-Reflect-Respond-Request) is for use with small groups, committees, ministry teams, and boards. The texts are deliberately a bit short so that committees and teams with limited time can still ***"be the people of God before doing the work of the people of God."*** For small group meetings, a longer section of text may be used or just more time spent discussing each segment.

For many team and committee meetings, we follow a 7-7-7 format - 7 minutes for individual Bible Study, 7 minutes to share one insight per person and 7 minutes to pray for one another. If we use these sheets for a regular one and one-half hour Bible study, then the biblical passage could be a bit longer and our schedule would be the ***Word***-30 minutes, ***Share(sharing)*** of lives (blessings and prayer requests)-45 minutes and ***Prayer***-15 minutes.

For a ministry team/committee allow 7-7-7 minutes (plus or minus) format.

1. Give every person 5-7 minutes to work on it in silence (we don't have people do them as "homework" since many will fail to do so).

If the group is larger than around 7 people, at this point break into 3-4's

2. Spend another 7 minutes or so asking people to briefly share one insight.

3. Ask for one-sentence prayer requests. Spend more time on this if someone in the group is in real distress about something. Otherwise, just a sentence or so per person as we want to lift one another up but haven't the time for more in-depth sharing.

If more than 20 minutes is available, then all of the times may be extended.

Pray for one another out loud by name, giving everyone the complete freedom to pray in silence if they prefer.