

SURVIVING LIFE'S TRIALS

1 Thessalonians 3; Acts 17:1-9

INTO THE TOPIC (OPENING):

What room in your childhood home fills you with warm memories? What happened there?

INTO THE WORD (STUDY):

- Why do you think Paul called the Thessalonian church his "hope," "joy" and "crown" (see 2:19)?
- If Paul promised them trials and persecution when he was with them (3:4), why is he writing them about it now?
- What in Timothy's report particularly encourages Paul? What does this tell you about Paul's desires and concerns for the Thessalonians?
- What guidelines can you find in Paul's desires, concerns and prayers for those who disciple new Christians today?

Think Q.U.E.S.T.: *Do you still have a lingering **QUESTION**? What is particularly **UNEASY** for you or catches your attention? Is there an **EXHORTATION** or command in this passage? What is the **SETTING** (historical/cultural/linguistic context)? Is there a **TRUTH** to grasp?*

INTO MY LIFE (APPLICATION):

- If someone were to tell you that God promises a trouble-free life to those who are true Christians, how would you respond? How does God help you through life's trials?
- In what specific ways have you been encouraged by someone else's faith? Have you told them about it?
- Which of Paul's prayer requests would you want someone to pray for you? Do likewise for someone in your small group.