

THE THESSALONIAN STORY

1 Thessalonians 2; Acts 17:1-9

INTO THE TOPIC (OPENING):

Share about a time when rumors were spread about you. Or a moment when you failed and had to face the consequences.

INTO THE WORD (STUDY):

1. What rumors about Paul have been spread by his opposition (vv. 1-6)? Does Paul sound reassuring to you? What concerns might linger?
2. From verses 1-12, what does *ethical* ministry look like? What would its opposite look like? What do the images of being a mother (v. 7) and father (v. 11) add to this picture? What do these images say about caring for your own children or "young" believers?
3. What difficulties were the Thessalonians facing (vv. 14-15)? How would Paul's example of perseverance in the face of persecution encourage them?

INTO MY LIFE (APPLICATION):

1. List the characteristics of a faithful Christian worker given in this passage. Which do you possess? Which do you want to develop?
2. Who has been a positive influence on you for godly living? How so? How can you be a positive influence for someone this week?
3. What turns you off about the way some people present the Gospel? How are you attempting to avoid these mistakes and yet maintain a strong witness?
4. What opposition to your faith are you facing? What encourages you to persevere?