

PRAYERS, WARNINGS AND GREETINGS

2 Thessalonians 3

INTO THE TOPIC (OPENING):

What was your first paid job? How long or hard did you work at it? What did you do with the money you earned?

INTO THE WORD (STUDY):

- Paul has twice prayed for these people (1:11-12;2:16-17). How does he want them to pray for him and his companions? How would the encouragements in verses 3-5 help them in their trials?
- How might a misunderstanding of Paul's earlier teaching (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3) have led to the problem of idleness? Why would Paul see that as a serious problem *then* (see 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12) and *now* (see v. 6)? What model does Paul leave for the others to follow (vv.7-13)? What does this have to do with taking responsibility?
- Why does Paul call attention to his handwriting (v. 17)? How else is the close the letter similar to its beginning? Why do you think Paul emphasizes grace and Peace? What does it say about God's will?

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):

- On a scale from 1 (high anxiety) to 10 (blissfully peaceful), where would you rate your sense of God's peace now? Where in particular do you need group prayer and support?
- How are God's love and Christ's perseverance needed in your life now?
- What have you found helpful in encouraging you to pray for missionaries? For whom do you regularly pray? What types of pressures may he or she face in that part of the world?
- Are you idle, a busy-body, a worrywart or a workaholic? What is God's message to you in 2 Thessalonians?