

Growth Group Sermon Guide

Week of 9/20-9/27

Title of Sermon: "The Message and The Messenger"

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (ESV)

Discussion Questions

1. Icebreaker: what are you all most excited about for the Fall season?

If you have a newer group be sure to spend some time getting to know each other. **It is very important for the first month to spend time fellowshiping and getting comfortable with each other.** Have everyone share their name, where they're from, how long they have been coming to cab, and even a funny question like, "If you could choose one animal that best describes you what would it be?"

2. What has been your favorite thing so far about this new series called "Encourage"?
3. This week was all about the importance of one's character in bringing the gospel to people. How does your character and your ability to be bold relate to each other, especially in your sharing of the gospel?
4. Read verse 3-6, what does this text teach us is the difference between flattery and words of encouragement? How would you explain the difference between the two?
5. Paul contrasts in verse 7 the possibility of making demands on them as an apostle but instead he says they were gentle like a nursing mother, why would the gentleness of Paul be more powerful than making demands as an apostle?
6. Read John 13:3-5. How does this relate to Paul's point about not abusing his spiritual authority as an apostle? In what way does Christ's love for us as shown in John 13 and at the cross empower us to do the same for each other?
7. Why do you believe Paul tells us in verse 8 not just that he shared the gospel only but also to shared his very self?
8. In the sermon we were all encouraged to reach out to 2-3 people this month and resolve to "offer your very self" to them. What might this look like for you specifically? How can we do that for each other in this group?

Prayer: take a few minutes to pray for one another that God would build godly character in all of you. Also, that God would continue to mature us and grow us.