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| **1 Thessalonians: Encouragement for a Life of Steadfast Faith**Chapter 5, verses 12-22 |  |

1. Read (see “Short Guide for Bible Study” handout for tips)
2. Recognize and Research
	1. Trace Paul’s flow of thought in this passage (see diagram worksheet)
	2. What are the three characteristics/duties of leaders that Paul mentions in verses 12-13?
	3. What is the reason to “esteem them very highly” in verse 13? Why does Paul give this request? What could cause the opposite reaction to leaders in the church?
	4. Who does Paul give ministry mandates to in verses 14-15? Is he addressing leaders in the church?
	5. What are the specific mandates given in verses 14-15, and how do they relate to the receivers of these mandates?
	6. What are the different focuses of Paul’s exhortations in verses 12-13, 14-15, 16-22. How would you categorize each of these sections?
3. Relate and Reflect
	1. Paul exhorts to give honor to church leaders. Why is this so important?
		1. How does living in peace with one another honor pastors and strengthen the body as a whole?
		2. How does Paul in this letter display the attributes of a leader/shepherd of the church?
		3. What does Scripture say about the burdens of shepherding? How does an understanding of pastoring shape the way we treat our shepherds?
		4. Church leaders are men and make mistakes. How should they be held accountable based on other sections of scripture?
	2. Why is it important to admonish each other? What does the N.T. say about how we should hold each other accountable?
	3. Why does ministry require patience? What does Scripture say about the attribute of patience?
	4. Paul warns about repaying evil with evil. What does Scripture say about taking revenge?
	5. What should be our motivation to rejoice, pray, and giving thanks continually?
	6. What does Paul mean by quenching the Spirit? What does the N.T. say about a Christian’s relationship with the Spirit?
	7. What does Paul mean about prophesy? What do other portions of Scripture say about prophecy? Should we expect prophecy today? How would we follow this mandate today?
	8. What does Scripture say about abstaining from evil? How is abstaining from evil connected to our new position in Christ as Paul describes in 5:4-10?
4. Respond
	1. What should our relationship with our Pastors look like?
	2. What are practical ways to be faithful to minister to one another? How should we minister to the unruly, the fainthearted, the weak?
	3. How do we live a lifestyle of rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks to God? What are we in danger of if these attributes are missing from our life?
	4. How do we grow in our discernment of Biblical doctrine?
	5. What are practical ways that we can abstain from evil? What should be our motivation for fighting the flesh?