

JESUS AT THE CENTER OF THE CHURCH

GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help you experience deeper intimacy with Jesus and build meaningful, lasting relationships with others. Get together with friends or find a group by visiting brookwoodchurch.org/groups. Let's grow stronger together!

Message Title: *Gospel, Word and Power*

Message Date: January 4, 2026

OPEN

Here are some questions to get the conversation rolling.

- What has God been stirring in your heart or bringing to mind this past week?
- Describe a time you felt close to God. What steps did you take or what circumstances led you to that experience?
- What energizes you?

PRAY

Spend a few minutes in prayer, drawing your attention toward God. Consider these prayer points as you invite God to lead and guide you.

- Dear Lord, I pray You'd break through the noise and help me hear Your voice.
- Help me sense Your presence at all times in many ways.
- I'm here, ready to receive from You. I hold nothing back. Show me what You want me to know.
- Lord, grow my trust and dependence on You. Reveal parts of my heart and life where I rely on my power instead of the power You've given me through the Holy Spirit.
- I pray You'd help me experience You in this area (name an area) of my life this week.
- I pray You'd deepen my love and concern for the people around me.
- May the people of Brookwood (you might name specific people) experience more of Your great love this week.

The Word of God is a living fire; it burns the heart that receives it and strengthens the soul in power.

Cyril of Alexandria

STUDY AND DISCUSSION

Don't rush through this. It's OK if you don't get to all the questions. Sometimes it'll make sense to go on to the next question. Other times, you might slow down and process a bit longer. Allow God to guide the pace of your discussion.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (NIV)

¹Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you.

²We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep

conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. ⁶You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. ⁷And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, ⁹for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

1. When Paul, Silas and Timothy thought of the believers in Thessalonica, their hearts were filled with gratitude. What came to mind when they prayed for them?
2. What comes to mind when you think about the people at Brookwood?
3. In what specific ways do you think God wants us to grow as a church?
4. This passage names three virtues: faith, love and hope. How have you seen or experienced these?
5. The Gospel (Good News) came to them not simply with words but also with power and conviction. What's the difference?
6. Do you lean toward word (doctrine and beliefs) or power (miracles and wonders)? What happens when someone focuses on one to the neglect of the other?
7. Which Scriptures have been most influential in your life? What does that tell you about yourself?

8. The Thessalonians remained faithful amidst great opposition (for further insight on the hostility they experienced, see Acts 17:1-9).
- a. What challenges your passion for God?
 - b. What helps reignite the fire?
9. Who's modeled the Christian life for you? What continues to inspire you about them?
10. Pause and thank God for people who've helped you along the journey.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Ask God what He wants you to know from this week's study and discussion. Share this with your group or with a friend, and pray for each other.

A PRACTICAL EXERCISE

Read at least one chapter of the Bible every day this week.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

One of the best ways to hear God in your daily life is to have His words rooted in your heart. Memorize this Scripture, trusting God will bring His words to mind at just the right time.

because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 (ESV)