3

Working Hard while Waiting

2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

1. Do you think that you have grown up to be like your parents? Is this because you obeyed them or because you copied them?

2. Read 2 Thess 3:1-5. Paul requests that the Thessalonians pray for him. What did Paul's prayer requests relate to?

3. Do you have people you can ask to pray for you?

4. What does Paul want the Thessalonians to cherish in their hearts? Describe what these two things mean to you. What is the value in remembering these things? Discuss

5.Read verses 6-15. In the first two chapters of this letter Paul has been correcting theological errors. What is he seeking to correct now?

6. Does Paul want the Thessalonians to copy him or to obey him? Which is more effective at making you change? Discuss.

7. What arguments is Paul making to get his point across in verses 6-15?

8. How does Paul ask the Thessalonians to treat those whose behaviour does not honour Christ? Do you think this will affect a change in those with poor behaviour? Discuss.

9. How do you understand verse 8? What do you think is the context: dining at the “3 hat” restaurant in Thessalonica, or at a church “pot luck supper”?
(cf. Eph 4:28)

10. Do verses 10-12 refer to poor people abusing the charity of the church, or to others in the church community who believe that for some reason they have the right to free meals? Discuss.

11. How might we approach those in our midst who we think are ‘idle’, to help them follow Paul’s example? Conversely, how might we minister to those in our midst who we think are working too hard?

12. Looking back over 2 Thessalonians, pick a highlight or a favourite verse and share why.

13. Pray for each other.