



What Are We Waiting For? – 1 Thessalonians How To Turn The World Upside-Down

Date: Sunday 4th September

Speaker: Lauren Morris (City Centre Site), Kat Densham (South Site)

Key Verses: 1 Thessalonians 1

Talk Summary:

The Thessalonian church that Paul and his friends planted is doing well despite persecution. Paul takes the opportunity to write to them to encourage them and remind them of who and what they are suffering for.

There is no end to God's love for us, and He has also chosen us to be part of His team, sharing His love with others. Jesus promises to give us the words we need when we are sharing His love with others, and He also promises to give us His Holy Spirit, who comes with power.

The Thessalonians were part of a culture that worshipped lots of things and people, which goes directly against the teachings of Jesus. The gospel was seen as a threat to the status quo in Thessalonica – God's Kingdom was so alien to them, that it felt like Jesus' message was turning the world upside-down. The Thessalonians turned to God from idols. When we worship something or someone other than Jesus, we often go wrong because there is no lasting hope in them. Jesus is "the living and true God" in a way that idols can never be, so we must turn away from them and towards Jesus.

Once our hope is in Jesus, we are free from the ties of the world, and there is great joy to be found. People around us can see this joy and hope and it helps the Good News of Jesus spread, turning the world upside-down.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- How have you experienced the love of Jesus?
- Are you inviting and expecting the Holy Spirit to turn up in your everyday encounters? What might that look like?
- What are some idols that distract you from Jesus? What steps can we take to help turn away from them and back towards Jesus?

Witness - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
 - Upcoming Events (*go to bvc.so/whats-on for details*)
 - Young Adults Night – Saturday 10th September