

THE BOOK OF  
**2 THESSALONIANS**  
*RETURN OF THE KING*

# Introduction to 2 Thessalonians:

The book of 2 Thessalonians, penned by the apostle Paul, serves as a continuation of his first letter to the Thessalonians. This letter, likely written shortly after the first one, addresses ongoing concerns and provides further encouragement to the Thessalonian believers. The key themes include perseverance in the face of persecution, the imminent return of Christ as the conquering King, standing firm in the truth, and practical Christian living.

**Play Introduction Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbPBDKOn1cc>

## Week 1: Introduction

### Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

**Ice Breaker Question:** What is one challenge you've faced recently and how did you overcome it?

**Verse Text (ESV):** 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

*"Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore, we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring."*

## **SWORD BIBLE STUDY METHOD**

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Sins to avoid?

Promises to claim?

Examples to follow?

Commands to obey?



**1** What do we learn about **GOD?**

**3** What do we need to **OBEY?**

**S.P.E.C**

What do we learn about

**2** **PEOPLE?**

### Supplemental Questions:

1. How does understanding the background and context of a biblical book enhance your study?
2. Why do you think it's essential for believers to receive encouragement during challenging times?
3. In what ways can knowing the historical context of a letter like 2 Thessalonians deepen our understanding?
4. How might Paul's encouragement to the Thessalonians apply to us today?
5. What can we learn from Paul's greeting and prayer for the Thessalonian believers?

# Week 2: Encouragement in Persecution

## Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

**Ice Breaker Question:** Share a moment when you felt God's encouragement during a difficult time.

**Verse Text (ESV):** 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12

*This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

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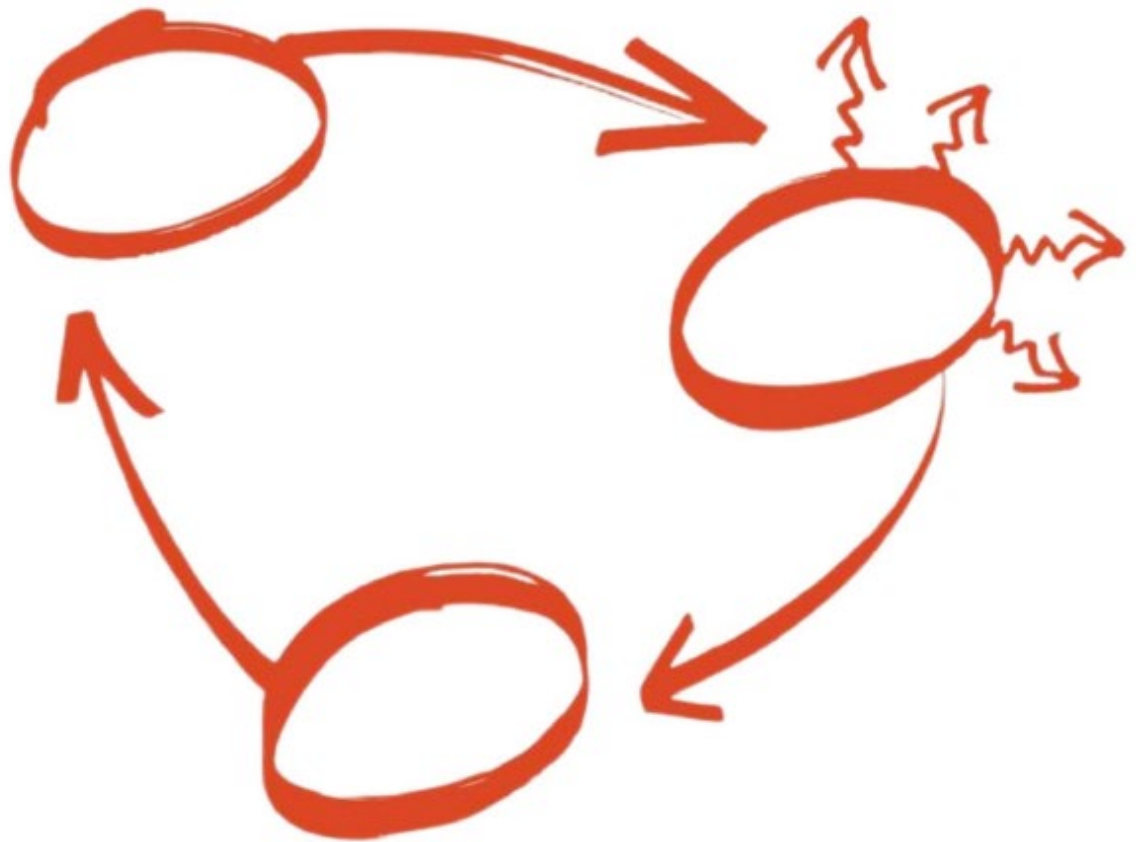
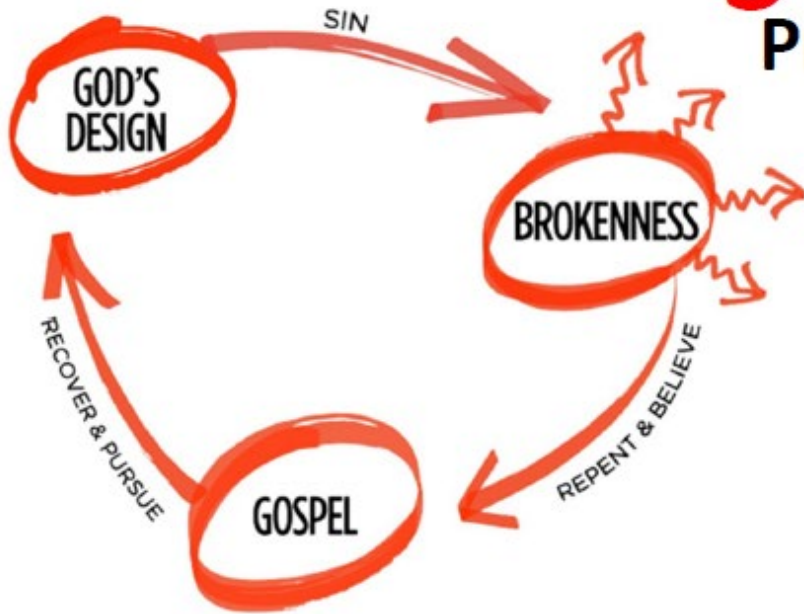
## Supplemental Questions:

1. How does Paul's assurance of future justice provide hope to those facing persecution?
2. In what ways can we encourage one another during challenging times?
3. How can the promise of God's justice impact our perspective on life's difficulties?
4. Share a personal experience of finding strength and perseverance in the midst of trials.
5. How does the biblical perspective on suffering differ from the world's view?

**Activity:** Leader asks someone to share the 3 Circles to clarify the true gospel or demonstrates if no one volunteers.

# 3 CIRCLES

## Practice Sheet



# Week 3: The Day of the Lord

## Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

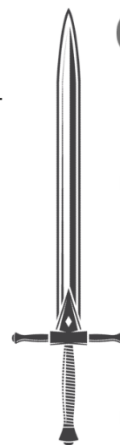
**Ice Breaker Question:** If you could ask God one question about the future, what would it be?

**Verse Text (ESV):** 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

*Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,[a] 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness[b] is revealed, the son of destruction,[c] 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

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## Supplemental Questions:

1. What are the key elements of Paul's teaching about the coming of the Lord in these verses?
2. How does the anticipation of the Day of the Lord impact our daily lives?
3. How can we guard against deception in the context of end-time teachings?
4. In what ways does our understanding of future events influence our present actions?
5. How can we help one another stay focused on holy living in light of Christ's return?

**Activity:** Teach the group how to give a 15-second testimony and practice it in your group. Maybe record each person doing it on your cell phone and share it with the church office. Challenge everyone to share it with someone during the upcoming week, whether church or unchurched.

# 15 Second Testimony

**Intro** ←  → **?**

There was a time in my life when... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

“Do you have a story like that?”

# Week 4: Stand Firm in the Truth

## Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

**Ice Breaker Question:** Share a Bible verse that has helped you stand firm in your faith.

**Verse Text (ESV):** 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

*But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits[d] to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.*

*16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.*

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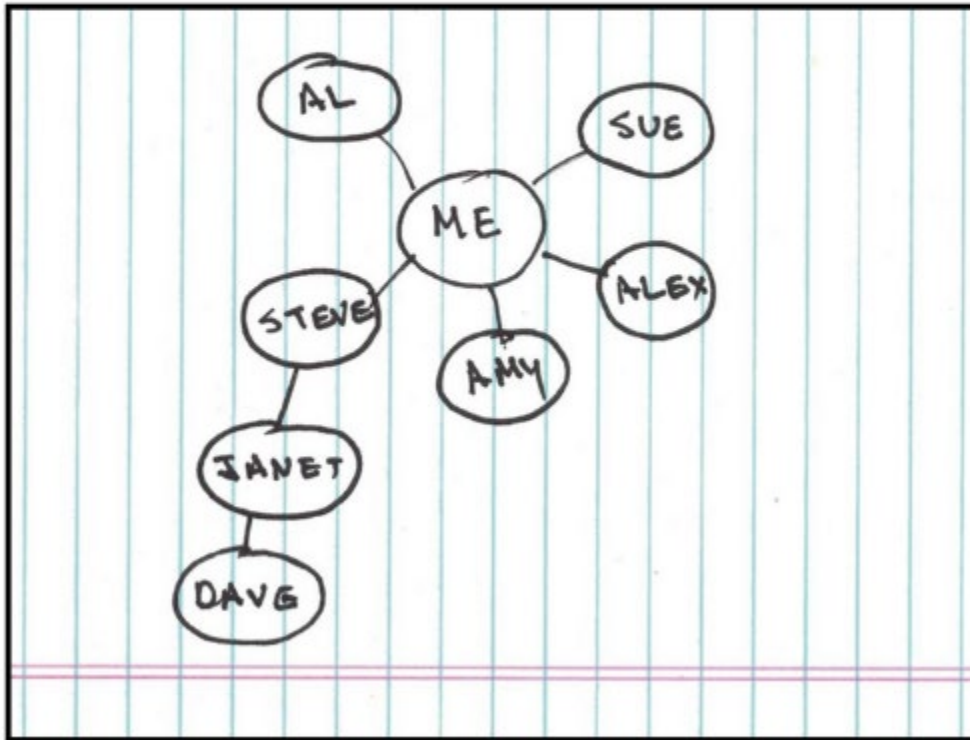
1. How does Paul emphasize the importance of truth in the lives of believers?
2. In what ways does the truth set believers apart and sanctify them?
3. How can we ground ourselves in God's truth in the midst of a world full of different perspectives?
4. Share an experience where standing firm in God's truth made a difference in your life.
5. How does the Holy Spirit play a role in helping us stand firm in the truth?

**Activity:** Help the group draw out an Oikos map. Then, challenge them to make a relational contact with someone on the map in the coming week.

Ask someone to prepare to do the 3 Circles the following week.

# Oikos Mapping

Have your disciple create a simple Oikos Map to track progress and set goals.



In each outer circle list the names of people you know who are:

- People you know who are far from God
- People you know in your network of relationships
- People you see every day as you go through your day
- **First Place Relationships:** Friends and Family
- **Second Place Relationships:** Workplace/School
- **Third Place Relationships:** Places where people gather such as coffee shops, libraries, bars, clubs, schools, etc...



# Week 5: Living a Godly Life

## Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

**Ice Breaker Question:** What is one practical way you live out your faith in your daily life?

**Verse Text (ESV):** 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

*"Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ."*

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## Supplemental Questions:

1. What is Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians in these verses, and how can we apply it to our lives?
2. How can we actively engage in spreading the Word of the Lord in our communities?
3. Share a personal experience where prayer played a crucial role in your life.
4. How can we protect ourselves from evil influences in our daily lives?
5. In what ways can we cultivate a godly lifestyle in the midst of worldly pressures?

**Activity:** Person chosen from previous week practices the 3 Gospel conversation

# Week 6: Work and Diligence

## Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

**Ice Breaker Question:** Share a memorable work-related experience and how it shaped your perspective on diligence.

**Verse Text (ESV):** 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

*Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.*

*13 As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. 14 If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.*

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## Supplemental Questions:

1. How does Paul address the issue of idleness in the Thessalonian community?
2. Why do you think Paul emphasizes the value of hard work and contributing to the well-being of others?
3. In what ways does a good work ethic reflect our commitment to Christ?
4. Share personal insights on balancing work and rest in your life.
5. How can we encourage a culture of diligence and hard work in our communities?

**Activity:** Have group members practice a gospel rep on each other. This time, have them respond in red, yellow, or green. Then, have the one present apply the appropriate step.

## Green Light Response

### Sample Prayer:

“God, I know I’m a sinner. Please forgive me and make me clean on the inside. I need You to heal the broken places in my life. I believe Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. I’m repenting of my sins and believing in Jesus. Help me recover and pursue Your design for my life.”

**Book a time of discipleship with 7 Commands or the next step.**



## Yellow Light Response

“You mentioned you need to think about this some more and I think that’s a great idea. When can we get together to talk some more?”

**Book a time of discipleship to share the 1st story in 7 Commands.**

Or

“I get together with some friends regularly to talk about life and God. We would love to have you join us.” Would you be able to join us?

**Invite them to your life group. Offer to go together if possible.**

## Red Light Response

“Thank you for listening to me. If you ever find yourself in a place of brokenness, please remember our conversation and that God has made a provision for you through His Son, Jesus.”

### Extra Activity

**Green Light:** Write your own theologically accurate prayer. Consider “A.B.C.”

**Yellow Light:** Write your response. Make sure to book the next step.

**Red Light:** Write your response. Continue to connect and pray for that person

# Week 7: Final Instructions and Blessing

## Prayer & Care:

1. How was following this week? What is something interesting that you have read this week?
2. How was fishing this week? Did you have any spiritual or gospel conversations?
3. How is life in general going this week?

**Ice Breaker Question:** Share one thing you've learned from 2 Thessalonians that has impacted your daily life.

Verse Text (ESV): 2 Thessalonians 3:16-18

*"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."*

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## Supplemental Questions:

1. What final instructions does Paul give to the Thessalonians, and how can we apply them today?
2. In what ways can we actively pursue peace and unity within our Christian communities?
3. How can we guard against disobedience in our lives?
4. Share personal experiences of feeling the peace of the Lord in challenging