

4 Fields Principles:

The Establishment of the Church in Thessalonica (DBS)

FACILITATOR NOTES

Participants need to be familiar with the [Four Fields Framework](#) before digging into this discovery process from the establishment of the church in Thessalonica.

Have groups spend 30 minutes working through the passages working to discover exactly what Paul, his associates and the Holy Spirit were doing that lead to a healthy, reproducing church in Thessalonica after just three Sabbaths.

Reiterate that they will need to dig into the scriptures and look beneath the surface of to discover all that was going on.

When finished, debrief as a group using large sticky notes for each of the fields.

Principles and examples we want the groups to discover.

Entry Strategy

“Went to the synagogue to speak” (Acts 17:2)

“Worked (presumably as tent makers)” (1 Thess. 2:9)

Gospel Strategy

“Reasoned from the scriptures” (Acts 17:2-3)

“With power” (1 Thess. 1:5)

“In the Holy Spirit and with full conviction” (1 Thess. 1: 5)

“Received the word with much affliction” (1 Thess. 1:6)

“Lived with holy, righteous and blameless conduct among them” (1Thess. 2:10)

“Like a father, exhorted, encouraged and charged them to walk in a manner worthy of God (1 Thess. 2:11-12)

Discipleship Strategy

“Some joined Paul and Silas” (Acts 17:4)

“Stayed with Jason” (Acts 17:7)

“Imitated “us” [Paul, Silas and Timothy?]” (1 Thess. 1:6; 2 Thess. 3:9)

“Constant prayer for new disciples” (1Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:11;)

“Teaching, encouraging, equipping through a letter, and through the sending of Timothy” (1 Thess.)

“Lived gently among them, sharing everything” (1 Thess. 2:7-8)

“Sent Timothy to establish and exhort them in their faith” (1 Thess. 3:2)

“Suffering” (1 Thess. 3:3)

“Prepared them in advance for suffering” (1 Thess. 3:4)

“Loving accountability” (1 Thess. 3:5)

“They were TAUGHT BY GOD” (1 Thess. 4:9)

“They were taught things (traditions) and encouraged/expected to do them” (2 Thess. 2:15)

Church Planting Strategy

“Stayed with Jason” (Acts 17:7) ?

“The [brand new] Thessalonian believers took the gospel all across Macedonia and Achaia” (1 Thess. 1:8)

“There is no plan to leave a “church planter” behind to lead the new church for a time. It seems that from the very beginning the plan is to have a new believer lead the church”

Leadership Strategy

“Took guys from all the churches with them, deep investment” (Acts 20:4)

“Took Aristarchus, the Macedonian with them, deep investment” (Acts 27:2)

“Paul invites/releases Silas and Timothy into leadership, like writing the letter” (1 Thess. 1:1)

“Paul sends/releases Timothy back to do pastoral work rather than going himself” (1 Thess.)