

UNTIL JESUS RETURNS

2 T H E S S A L O N I A N S

LIFE GROUP STUDIES

By Andy Buchan, August 2026

1. FAITH UNDER FIRE
2. HOLD FAST TO THE TRUTH
3. THE LORD'S GOOD WORK



WEBSITE

considerjesus.au has more resources.

HELP, I'M LEADING A BIBLE STUDY!

What a privilege that is! It can seem daunting. It is helpful to think of yourself as a 'facilitator' of a discussion, asking the questions provided in these studies. You don't have to be the Bible expert and provide all the answers yourself. Ask God to help you be faithful in this task and that His Spirit would help your group understand what He is saying to them through it.

Simple Steps for Your Session:

Warm up: Start with the opening discussion question to get people talking.

Read & explore: Read the passage inviting different group members to read sections aloud—and then work through the study questions.

Seek to include everyone: Gently invite quieter group members to share. Encourage shorter responses so that everyone has space to contribute.

Close in prayer: Make sure to protect time at the end to pray for each other and reflect on what God is saying to your group.

Remember that God's word is living and active, powerful to change us from the inside out (Hebrews 4:12).

WHICH BIBLE VERSION?

One Hope Community Church uses the English Standard Version (ESV) as well as the Christian Standard Bible (CSB). You will find people using various other English translations too (i.e. NIV, NLT, and NKJV). Comparing them can prove to be very helpful.

More expanded versions (like the *Amplified* or *The Message*) can prove quite distracting rather than helpful when studying with a group. Similarly, the notes in a study bible or a commentary can be helpful for individual study, but it is best practice to avoid referring to them in a group setting.

RESOURCES:

BOOKS:

2 Thessalonians for You by Ligon Duncan (Good Book Company, 2023)

Come, Lord Jesus - Meditations on the Second Coming of Christ, by John Piper ([free ebook](#))

How will the world end? and other questions about the last things and the second coming of Christ, by Jeramie Rinne (Good Book Company, 2014).

BIBLE PROJECT OVERVIEW VIDEO:



FAITH UNDER FIRE

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

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Opening discussion:

Describe a Christian perspective on world history.

How do you think it differs from other views?

READ 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

Describe the relationship between the Thessalonian church and Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy.



What does opposition to faith in Jesus look like today?

How are we to navigate it?

How does opposition help mature your faith?

READ 1:5-10

How is persecution evidence of God's righteous judgment?

What does verse 9 teach about the true nature of "eternal destruction"?

In what way does this promise of final justice feature in our understanding of world history and the gospel of our Lord Jesus?

How does it help us endure unfairness or suffering in the present?

READ 1:11-12

How might this shape our prayers today?

Getting Personal



Self-reflection: Is your faith *flourishing* and your love for others *increasing*? (v3)

Perspective shift: How might you understand God's judgment differently in light of this passage?

Outreach: How might you faithfully speak of it with gentleness and wisdom to others?

Prayer

Take a moment to reflect on some of the themes of this chapter: **Grace, Peace, Persecution, Suffering, Faith, Judgment, Glory.**

Pray for one another in areas where faith or love needs growth.

Pray for someone you know who is facing hardship, opposition, or needs to hear and respond to the gospel.



HOLD FAST TO THE TRUTH

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

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Opening discussion:

The second coming of Jesus. Share what comes to mind when you think about this reality. What questions do you have about it?

READ Acts 17:30-31, Revelation 22:12-16

“He will come again to judge the living and the dead” - *the Apostles’ Creed*.

The second coming of Jesus ought to provide us great comfort, hope and unity as his people. How do these passages reinforce that truth?



READ 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

What specific concern was alarming the Thessalonian believers?

What two events does Paul say must happen before the day of the Lord arrives?

How is the "man of lawlessness" described, and what is his ultimate goal?

What does verse 8 teach us about the ultimate fate of the lawless one when the Lord Jesus returns?

How does knowing that God holds supreme control over the timeline of evil give us confidence today?

READ 2:13-17

In contrast to those who perish, how does Paul describe God's work in the lives of believers? (v 13-14)

How do you keep from being swept away by false teaching? (v 15)

How do the "eternal encouragement and good hope" given by God equip us to stand firm in our daily lives?

Getting Personal



Self-Reflection: Is there any area of your life where subtle cultural lies or false teachings have caused you to lose your peace?

Perspective Shift: How does knowing Christ will easily defeat all evil at his coming change how you view current world events and turmoil?

Outreach: How can you help others stay grounded in the truth of Scripture when confusing or alarmist ideas arise around us?

PRAYER

Take a moment to reflect on the core themes of this chapter: **Truth, Peace, Sovereign Control, Deception, Discernment, Final Victory.**

Pray for one another to grow in biblical discernment, spiritual stability, and a deep love for God's truth.

Pray for friends, family, or church members who may be feeling anxious, unsettled, or misled by conflicting messages in the world today.



THE LORD'S GOOD WORK

2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

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Opening discussion:

Why can it sometimes be tempting to throw in the towel, grow idle, or lose heart in doing good?

READ 2 Thessalonians 3:1–5

What specific prayer requests does Paul share regarding the spread of the gospel and protection from evil?



What balance between God's faithfulness and our obedience is highlighted in verses 3–4?

What does it look like for the Lord to direct our hearts to "God's love and Christ's perseverance"? (v. 5)

READ 3:6–13

How did Paul's attitude to work challenge the Thessalonians' view of work?

How does it challenge yours?

Describe what obedience to verses 12 and 13 might look like.

READ 3:14–18

How does Paul instruct the church to lovingly correct and hold accountable a brother or sister who lives idly or disruptively? (vv. 14–15)

How is God's peace described in verse 16, and why is this particularly comforting in times of disruption or conflict?

What is the significance of Paul signing the letter with his own hand? (v. 17)

Getting Personal



Self-Reflection: Is there an area in your daily work, relationships, or faith where you feel weary or tempted to pull back?

Perspective Shift: How might viewing your routine daily responsibilities as part of your Christian witness change your attitude toward them?

Outreach: How can you practically encourage or support someone in your community who is struggling with weariness?

Prayer



Take a moment to reflect on some of the themes in this chapter:

Faithfulness, Prayer, Perseverance, Diligence, Loving Accountability, Peace.

Pray for one another for renewed strength, perseverance, and freedom from spiritual or physical weariness.

Pray for gospel workers (missionaries, church leaders, or others) that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored everywhere.

