

15 NOVEMBER 2009
EVERY MEMBER IN EVANGELISM

WELCOME What is the best Christmas present you could receive this year and why?

WORSHIP As we pass through the season of All Saints and journey into Advent, read Revelation 4 slowly through once and then keep silence. Then read it again slowly before singing something like *All heaven declares*.

WORD Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica (background is Acts 17:1-9).
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

vv 1-2 What made Paul share the gospel (evangelism) in the face of opposition? What is the gospel?

v 3 What does Paul mean by the 3 things: ‘error, impure motives, and ‘trying to trick you’?

vv 4-6 What authority does Paul have for sharing the gospel?
What does it mean to ‘please God’ as opposed to ‘pleasing others’?
What does Paul mean by ‘flattery’ and ‘cover up greed’?

v 7 What characteristic does Paul use to describe his manner?

v 8 Why does Paul ‘share himself’ as well as the gospel?

v 9 Why does Paul not want to be a burden to them?

vv 10-11 Compare and contrast v 11 with v 7 (father and mother).

v 12 What is the aim Paul has in mind for sharing the gospel?

1. If someone asked you how to become a Christian, what would you say?
2. Why do we find it so hard to share our faith with others?
3. What will happen if Christians do not share their faith?
4. Thinking about the church, do people ‘believe before they belong’ or ‘belong before they believe’?
5. How can we recover the church growth dynamic of the early church?
6. How important are numbers to the health of a church? What else is important?
7. Is Paul’s concept of ‘ambassador’ in 2 Corinthians 5:20 helpful in thinking about evangelism?
8. 1 Peter 3:15 says: *always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...* Discuss what this means.

WITNESS What opportunities could your group have for evangelism this Christmas? Pray that you will make the most of this season and discuss how you can avoid forgetting this vital aspect of church life.