

Sermon Discussion Guide

Gratitude for Growth

2 Thessalonians 1:1–4

Flourishing faith (3)

Jas. 2:19; 1 Thess. 1:3

- What is biblical/saving faith? How is it different from the kind of faith indicated by sayings such as, “Just have faith” or “You just have to believe”?
- Is your faith growing? How can you tell?
- What are the primary means God uses to grow our faith? What are some practical ways you can increase your Bible intake?

Expansive love (3)

John 13:34–35; 1 John 4:7–11

- What does biblical love look like? Consider some of the “one another” commands in the New Testament: Rom. 12:10; Gal. 5:13; Mark 9:50; Col. 3:13; Jas. 4:11; Eph. 4:15; Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:15; Jas. 5:16; Heb. 10:24
- What are two ways you can seek to grow in love? Hint: see 1 John 4:19 and 1 Thess. 3:12

Steadfast endurance (4)

1 Thess. 3:2–3; Heb. 12:1–2; 2 Cor. 4:16–18

- Why was Paul’s boasting about the Thessalonians OK, even though he says elsewhere we should only boast in the Lord (Gal. 6:14; 1 Cor. 1:31)?
- Do you encourage others by telling them the ways you see God at work in their life?
- What enables us to endure trials and affliction?
- How is Christian hope different than worldly hope?