

# THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY THAT

## Group Discussion Guide

### The Bible Doesn't Say That 2: 2 Thess. 3:6-14, Galatians 6:7-10

**Big Idea:** *Sometimes God purposely allows more than we can handle*

**Leader Note:** You'll notice several of these leader notes throughout the guide. These don't have to be read out loud. But you can if they're helpful. They are simply here to help you navigate discussion with a little extra knowledge or helpful tips. If I can help you with anything before group, please feel free to get a hold of me! You can easily contact me at [daniel@fcc-online.org](mailto:daniel@fcc-online.org)

## ICEBREAKER: (5 MIN)

- **Question:** When you start a new job or move into a new neighborhood, what are some things you could do to make a good impression with neighbors and co-workers?

## CONNECT: (5 MIN)

- **Say this:** *Helping others can feel tricky. Oftentimes we may hear of a need but either feel guilty when we don't help enough or don't know how to help at all. Sometimes we think God helps those who help themselves but is this really true? And where does that idea come from?*
- **Connect Question:** When you were growing up, was there a particular cause your family felt strongly about? Or was there a particular group of people your family was wary of helping? What were those experiences like?

## Starters: (15 MIN)

- **Read:** 2 Thessalonians 3:6-14
- **Question:** When you read verse 10 on its own, what does it sound like Paul is teaching?

- **(Leader Note:** A common misinterpretation here is that God especially favors the hard working to the neglect of those who are unwilling to work.)
- **Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**
- **Question:** When we consider Paul's second and first letters to the Thessalonians together, how does it help clarify Paul's intent in 2 Thessalonians 3:10?
  - **(Leader Note:** It seems like Paul is more concerned with the witness of the Christian community in Thessalonica, than making a statement about who God helps in general.)
- **Question:** Think about our group for example. If we claimed to follow Jesus but all stopped showing up for work or caring for our families, how would that impact our witness to those outside of our group?

## DISCOVER: (25 MIN)

- **Say this:** *On Sunday, we asked the question, "Does God help those who help themselves." If we are being honest, that doesn't seem to be Paul's focus in his letter to the Thessalonian church. But what else do Paul's letters have to teach us about helping others in general?*
- **Read: Galatians 6:7-10**
- **Question:** The sow and reap concept is sprinkled all throughout scripture (Luke 8, 2 Cor 9:6 for example). What do we mean by "sow and reap" and what do we not mean?
  - **(Leader Note:** Sow and reap means that there are consequences to our actions whether positive or negative. This is not "karma," or "you get what you deserve." This means that over time our actions impact our lives, the lives of others, and the world as a whole.)
- **Question:** Every letter of the New Testament is written to a minority religious group (1<sup>st</sup> century Christians) living in a culture that predominately did not fear God or even know of Jesus' name. How does this knowledge shift our understanding of Paul's letters?
  - **(Leader Note:** Much of Paul's letters can be viewed through the lens of Christian witness. It matters that Christian's life lives of integrity if the mission of Jesus is going to move forward.)
- **Question:** Paul encourages the Christians in 2 Thessalonians and Galatians to "not tire" or "grow weary" of doing good. As you've followed Jesus have you found it hard to continually do good and serve others? How do you stay motivated?
- **Question:** When you think about Paul's command to do good to all people, who immediately comes to mind that would be hard for you to do good to?
- **Question:** How can you partner with God where you are in life right now, to do good to others and be the Church where you live work and play?

## **RESPOND/PRAYER: (15 MIN)**

- **Prompt:** Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this week? (**refer to the cheat sheet on the last page of this discussion guide**).
- **Prompt:** Pray that God would open our eyes to see the people who He wants us to B.L.E.S.S. where we live work and play.
- **Prompt:** Spend time sharing prayer requests.

## **WRAP UP: (OPTIONAL)**

- As Christians, we don't have the option of a "do-good" limit. Jesus' Mission is too important for us to be selective in whom we love and serve. Rather, when we look throughout God's Word, we see that God helps people... Period. When we make this perspective shift Paul's encouragement becomes so important... that we "not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." As we continue to meet let's continually encourage one another in this way.

# FIRST Groups B.L.E.S.S. Updates

At FIRST, *our groups exist to help us grow in our relationship with God and each other.* But for what? Why does God want us to grow? We are convicted that God wants to use the strength and community of our groups, to bless the people where we live work and play. Especially the people we know who do not have a relationship with God. This is how we'll fulfill the Jesus Mission to "go and make disciples" (Matt 28-18-20).

As groups, **we want to intentionally "B.L.E.S.S." people each week.**<sup>1</sup> *What do we mean by that?*

**B - Begin with prayer:** We will pray for the people where we live work and play.

**L - Listen:** We will intentionally listen to the people in our lives where we live work and play.

**E - Eat:** We will share meals with the people where we live work and play.

**S - Serve:** We will respond to the needs we discover among the people where we live, work, and play.

**S - Story:** We will share the story of Jesus and what He is doing in our lives with the people where we live work and play.

## So in your group:

- *Start every prayer time by asking, "who did you B.L.E.S.S. this week?"*
- Write down what each of your group members say, and follow up week by week.
- **ENCOURAGE:** This is not meant to shame, but to empower us to take intentional steps to be a blessing. If all else fails, you can encourage timid or nervous group members to start by intentionally praying for God to open doors for them to be a blessing (Colossians 4:2-3)
- Continue to share personal prayer requests and praises.

This subtle shift in times of prayer can lead to a massive impact over time. Thanks for helping your group grow and be a blessing!

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<sup>1</sup> This B.L.E.S.S. acronym was originally developed as a church resource by Dave Ferguson.

[https://smile.amazon.com/Discover-Your-Mission-Dave-Ferguson/dp/0983086486/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1539805578&sr=8-1&keywords=discover+your+mission+now](https://smile.amazon.com/Discover-Your-Mission-Dave-Ferguson/dp/0983086486/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1539805578&sr=8-1&keywords=discover+your+mission+now)