



Family Business 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

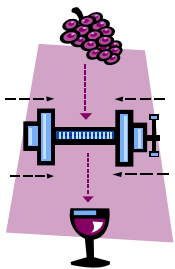
Community Reflection is part three of Vineyard Boise’s “Weekly Discipleship Track.” Community Reflection is intended to point you towards the unique interaction that happens in the face-to-face setting of small group life. You’ve processed the truth on your own in the weekly devotions and have heard the truth presented in Sunday’s teaching. Now you have the opportunity to interact with other believers about the implications and applications of that truth. “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another,” says the proverb. That’s exactly what takes place in the small group setting. Perspectives are clarified, truths explored, convictions sharpened (or softened, as the case may be), life is built. There are three segments in each Community Reflection: **Prepare**, **Process**, and **Participate**.



PREPARE

(For leaders/co-leaders prior to group meeting)

1. Work through “This Week’s Walk.” Do the devotions, noting any key insights you want to share with your group or questions you would like to ask.
2. The following passages will help give you a balanced perspective on one of the key themes in the final chapter of 2 Thessalonians: the biblical process of bringing correction to one another in love.
 - Matthew 18:15-17
 - Luke 17:1-5
 - Galatians 2:11-14
 - 1 Corinthians 5:1-13
 - Titus 3:9-11
3. Pray daily over your upcoming meeting and for each person in your group.

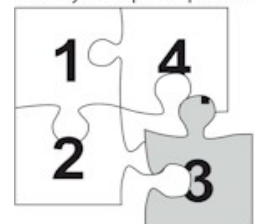


PROCESS

(For leaders/co-leaders during group meeting)

1. Ask your group how they did with their devotions this past week. What stood out as they worked through them? What questions or issues were raised?
2. Have the group read **2 Thessalonians 3:1-18** aloud together. You can begin group discussion by asking any of the following questions:
 - What is the main point of this chapter?
 - What most challenges you?
 - What questions does this chapter raise in your mind?

Weekly Discipleship Track



Depending on where the initial discussion leads, you can choose to focus on

1. Life reflection – need for change, hunger for God
2. Presentation of truth – teaching and studying
3. Processing the truth – reflection and debrief in community
4. Life change – response to truth, new habits and actions

Community Reflection

one or both of the two main points in this chapter:

Focus #1 *Correction in the family of God*

Reread **2 Thessalonians 3:6-15** and make reference as needing to any of these key passages on “family business” in the body of Christ – Matthew 18:15-17; Luke 17:1-5; Galatians 2:11-14; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 and any other passages you come across that apply. Use any of the following questions to stimulate group discussion:

- As disciples of Jesus, how do we deal with someone we have offended? With someone who has offended us? What is the process of reconciliation presented by Jesus? Which of these steps do you find the most challenging?
- When have you ever witnessed or been involved with a “feud” at church or at work? What happened? What is a disciple to do when faced with conflict like this?
- How can we know when to bring correction to a fellow believer and when just to let something “slide by”? When correcting others, how can we make sure we aren’t just being a “busybody”?
- How can we reconcile the teaching of 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 with the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 7:1-5?

Focus #2 *Of couch potatoes and workaholics...*

Reread **2 Thessalonians 3:6-15** and discuss the believer’s work ethic as modeled by Paul. You might also take the group to 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 and Ephesians 4:28. You can use any of the following questions to help get discussion going:

- Why does Paul see idleness as such a serious problem? What model had he left for these believers? How does this apply to us?
- How would you evaluate your own “work ethic”: idle? busybody? workaholic? healthily balanced between work and rest? How is the Lord speaking to you in this area now?
- Which do you need more – to learn how to work better or how to rest better?



PARTICIPATE (As a group during or after your meeting)

After asking group members to rate their current experience of peace on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 for *total chaos* and 10 for *perfect peace*), have group members pair up and take turns praying Paul’s prayer for the Thessalonians over each other:

“May the God of peace give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you.”