

Teen bible Study week 5: Thessalonians, a people at a crossroads.

What you will need

1. Bible
2. Pen and Paper
3. A willing person to discuss with

A bit of History

Thessaloniki is a city built at a Roman crossroads. If you wanted to get to Rome from the East or travel between other prominent cities, you would pass through Thessaloniki. And even on top of the road Travel, the city had an important port and was a historical place of power for the Greeks. It would be if you closed every road from Cork to Dublin and made it so the only way to Dublin was through Deansgrange. That would put our church at an important crossroads.

The Culture in that city would be really Roman, which means very closed off to other faiths and world views.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1. **What three things is Paul thankful for in verse 3**
2. **What do you think Paul meant by suffering (verse 6)?**
3. **What is your understanding of Idols (verse 9)?**

The Thessalonians lived a life where they would meet people from all over the known world. Paul points out that they have become “a model to all he believers in Macedonia and Achaia” (verse 7). But with the Gospel reaching so far from so few, what they believed was put on show and some would have hated them for it.

Discuss with your willing person

1. **Where are the places in our lives that are like crossroads? (schools, work, sports clubs...) and how can we show the Gospel there?**
2. **Can you think of a time where someone was asking you about Jesus? Did you find it easy to talk about? Why?**
3. **Back then Idols would be things like the Greek and Roman Gods, what do you think Idols today would be?**

The Thessalonians told others about Jesus even when the very government they lived under said Caesar was Lord. This was not an easy life, but we can see that Paul is amazed at what they were doing and how they lived. We can learn a lot from this.

Let us pray

For the past few weeks, I have been getting you to pray alone, this week (if you are comfortable) pray with your willing person. It does not have to be long, just remember to start with Dear and God and end with Amen,