



Sermon Growth Guide

August 31, 2025

Find your Place

1 Thessalonians 2:7-13

Key Verse: 1 Thessalonians 2:8 – “Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”

Big Idea: God has given every believer a place to serve, not out of guilt or duty, but out of love—so that His church may grow and the world may know Christ!

Foundations

Paul paints a picture of ministry not rooted in power or prestige but in gentleness, integrity, and deep abiding love. Like a parent with their children, Paul reminds the Thessalonians that the gospel is not just spoken but embodied.

Every believer has a role in God’s family. Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit gives each of us gifts (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12) to build up the body of Christ. Finding your place in God’s mission means discovering how your unique gifts, passions, and life story can bless others.

Too often, people serve out of guilt, fear, or obligation. But Paul shows us a better way: service that flows from love, integrity, and the desire to see others grow in Christ. When we each “find our place,” the church becomes a living witness of God’s kingdom.

Understanding God’s Word

What do you notice about the way Paul and his companions ministered among the Thessalonians? How does Paul’s imagery of being like a mother (v.7) and like a father (v.11) shape our understanding of spiritual leadership and service?

Paul says he shared not just the gospel but his very life (v.8). What might that look like in our relationships today? In verses 10–12, Paul highlights integrity and encouragement. Why are these vital in serving others?

Applying God’s Word

What motivates you most when you serve? Do you see any “bad motivators” in your own heart that you want God to transform? Where do you currently feel most “in your place” in serving God and others? What areas of church or community life stir your passion but remain unexplored? How might you take a next step toward serving out of love rather than obligation?

Witnessing God’s Word

Imagine what our church would look like if every member joyfully used their Spirit-given gifts. How would that change our impact in the community? Think of someone in your life who hasn’t yet “found their place.” How could you encourage them this week?