



# Sermon Growth Guide

**August 17, 2025**

## **Find your Pattern, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-7**

**Key Verse:** 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5. “For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.”

**Big Idea:** Life in Christ grows best in the soil of consistent worship.

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### **Foundations**

What if the pattern of your week could shape the pattern of your life?

In 1 Thessalonians 1:1-7, Paul writes to a young church that’s not just surviving persecution—they’re thriving in faith, overflowing in love, and standing firm in hope. Their story is electric: the gospel came “with power, the Holy Spirit, and deep conviction,” transforming idol-worshippers into models of Christlike living for an entire region. Paul calls them a community worth imitating.

As seasons change and schedules fill, we have a choice: let the ebbs and flows of life set our rhythms, or let worship anchor everything else. When we make gathering with God’s people a non-negotiable, week after week, something happens. We’re shaped. We’re steadied. We become the kind of people who can endure hardship with hope and overflow with love that points to Jesus.

The Thessalonians didn’t have easy circumstances, but they had an unshakable center. You can too.

### **Understanding God’s Word**

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-7 together. How does Paul describe the church’s “work,” “labor,” and “endurance”? What is the source of each?

What does it mean that the Thessalonians became “imitators” and “models” for others? What does their example teach us about living faithfully under pressure or persecution?

Compare Acts 17:1-9 with 1 Thessalonians 1:1-7. How does the background add to your understanding of the letter?

### **Applying God’s Word**

How might you set—or reset—spiritual rhythms in this season so that worship is your anchor? What could it look like to “set your pattern of worship so your pattern sets your life” this fall?

If someone were to “remember before God” your church like Paul did, what would they thank God for?

Where do you need endurance right now? What truths about Jesus can inspire hope in that area?

### **Witnessing God’s Word**

Who are the people you consciously imitate in your faith? Who might be imitating you? How might your small group or family become a “model” of Christlike living for others in your city?