1 Thessalonians

LESSON # 1

Introduction and Chapter and Book Overview

Your memory verses for this week and next will be **1 Thess. 1:1-4**.

**When we approach a book study, we should think of it as preparing to go settle in a new place. Before we go, we want to gather some basic information about this foreign land: What is the weather like? Is it rural or urban? How big is it? What kind of food can we expect to find? What challenges might we encounter? Think of this lesson as a general survey of the land in which we gather information that will help prepare us to “dwell” in this book over the next few months.**

1. Read through the book of 1 Thessalonians in two different translations before you begin answering the questions below.

**Using only the text of 1 Thessalonians, try to answer the following questions. Be sure to note the scripture reference to show where you found the answer. At this point, you may not be able to answer every question using only your bible.**

1. Who wrote the book?

Paul (vs 1,18)

1. Who were Paul’s companions? What do you learn about them?

Silvanus (Silas), Silas didn’t accompany on the 3rd journey

Timothy (v1:1)

Non-Bible

Timothy was Greek, his mother was faithful Jew

Silas was

1. To whom is it written? Who is the audience, and what are they like?

V1 Church of Thessalonica not just the elders but to all the members V5:27

1. When was the book written?
2. ~50, 51 AD
3. Where was it written?

Corinth in Macadon (Macedonia) possibly after having been driven from Thessalonica (Acts 18)

1. What is the general tone of the author of the book?
2. What is the author’s purpose in writing this book?
3. What big topics are included in this book?
4. What are the key words of the book? Key words are words that are repeated or carry an important thought.
5. What are the main themes of the book? A theme is the main idea, the overall message.
6. What attributes of God, along with other truths do you learn from the book? Be sure to list the verse. Example1:4, God’s sovereignty in election.
7. What insights have you gained thus far in your study of 1 Thessalonians? If you want, you may now use another resource, to answer the questions you were unable to with the text alone. **This is not the time to read commentaries.**

Chapter and Book Overview

This next step in our Bible study will introduce you to the contents, flow, and plan of the book as you write a summary of each chapter. Let’s say you were going to spend a year living on a certain island. The last lesson was like being handed a map of the island, a briefing about its history, and a description of its main features. This lesson will be like flying a plane over the island. As you gaze down from the circling plane, you will begin to gather important details about the land which you will be living, like the best place to live, where to find food and water, potential danger zones, and interesting things you’d like to explore later. Whenever we study a book of the Bible, we want to have a general understanding of the purpose and contents of the book (the flyover) before we begin the process of interpretation and application (living in the land).

***How to fill in the CHAPTER OVERVIEW CHART.***

1. To begin, read through Chapter 1.
2. Next, list the events and details of Chapter 1 in the **summary box** on the attached CHAPTER OVERVIEW CHART. This is not the time to be super detailed, instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
3. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote in the summary box ask: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Write your answer in the **theme box**.
4. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that best summarizes the contents of the chapter. Some are tempted to choose their favorite verse here. Please do not do that. Consider which verse *best* sums up what’s in the chapter. Write down the verse you choose in the **key verse box.**
5. Now you are ready to **title** your chapter. Your 3-5word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title’s purpose is to help *you* remember what is in each chapter.
6. **Follow steps 1-5 for chapters 2-5.**

***How to fill in the BOOK OVERVIEW CHART*** found.

1. On the BOOK OVERVIEW CHART write a **one-sentence summary** for each of the chapters of 1 Thessalonians. The summaries you wrote for each of the chapters on your CHAPTER OVERVIEW CHART will be helpful for you here.
2. Next, fill in the **author and recipients’** box. Who wrote the book and to whom was it written?
3. Then think about the **purpose of the book** and write it down in the box. Why did the author write this book? What was he hoping to accomplish?
4. What is the theme of the book? What is the big idea that comes through loud and clear when you read 1 Thessalonians? Write down your answer in the **book theme** box.
5. What is the one verse that best expresses the theme of the book? Write this in the **Key Verse** box.
6. Finally, what title would you give 1 Thessalonians that reflects the theme of the b book? Write down your **book title** in the box.**Chapter Overview Chart**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chapter 1 Title | Chapter 2 Title | Chapter 3 Title |
| Theme | Theme | Theme |
| Key Verse | Key Verse | Key Verse |
| Summary | Summary | Summary |
| Chapter 4 Title | Chapter 5 Title |  |
| Theme | Theme |  |
| Key Verse | Key Verse |  |
| Summary | Summary |  |

**Book Overview Chart**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Book Title | |
| Book Theme | Purpose of the Book |
| Author and Recipients | Key Verse of the Book |
| Chapter 1 One-Sentence Summary | Chapter 2 One-Sentence Summary |
| Chapter 3 One-Sentence Summary | Chapter 4 One-Sentence Summary |
| Chapter 5 One-Sentence Summary |  |