



Purley Baptist Church

## Discipleship Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

### 1Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

**This Week's BIG IDEA:** Deep friendships are formed over time through sharing life together. Paul's language in this passage is the sort that was used between friends expressing their feelings and their commitment to each other. It allows us to discover something of what Christian friendship looks like in a community that takes seriously the call to be devoted to one another.

#### CONNECT IN:

I'm aware some groups are meeting for the second/third time. Here's some ice breaker questions you might want to use as you get to know each other:

- My worst culinary disaster ...
- My greatest culinary triumph ...
- Who has been the greatest influence in your life and why?
- What is the most encouraging thing someone has said to you in the last 2-weeks?

**CONNECT UP:** Fix your eyes on God and give him an opportunity to speak to you through his Word

1. What proof do we find in this passage about the strength of Paul's love for the Thessalonians (2:17-18, 20; 3:2, 5, 10)?
2. How have you been strengthened spiritually by other Christians when you were in a trial?
3. What does this passage reveal about the way Satan works (2:18; 3:5)?
4. What are Paul's priorities for the Thessalonians as expressed in his prayer for them (3:11-13)?
5. In what ways could the example of Paul's depth of love and concern for the Thessalonians shape the relationships we have with each other?
6. What practical ideas emerge from this passage that can help you become even better at expressing love and committed friendship within your Life Group?

#### CONNECT OUT as a group to serve the world around you

Pray for each other using the words and ideas of 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13. Commit to praying for one or two people in your group throughout the week.

## **Heartbeat**

We had our first UNITE714 online prayer meeting last week, and we will be sending out a Zoom link for this coming **Wednesday to meet again 7-7.30pm**. Please join us then online, or at home if you can, as we continue to particularly unite as a Church to pray and fast on Wednesdays.

This week's UNITE714 update says that Christians from 178 nations are now registered with the movement-WOW!

When we met last week there was a sense that, just as many people in our neighbourhoods have been on their doorsteps every Thursday to 'Clap for carers', so at 7:14 hours, morning and evening, the global Church is uniting, in homes across the world, to raise a shout to our Father God.

Please find attached the UNITE 714 prayer for use this week.

## **Recommended resources:**

There are some great e-books out there. As you may know, this week we were due to have a BMS gap year team with us. I'd encourage you to read this short e-book about Andrew Fuller whose home BMS was birthed in 1792. A free copy of the book can be downloaded here:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/andrew-fuller-biography-free-ebook>

May it inspire you as you learn about this wonderful organisation we are in Gospel partnership with as a church.