

WHAT ARE YOU AIMING AT?

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

THE HISTORY of the church

Acts 15-17

- To prepare us for the letter to the *Thessalonians*, Pastor gave us a history of the church established by Paul, Silas and Timothy during Paul's second missionary trip.
Discuss Acts 15-17 that Pastor talked about.
- What were the issues they were dealing with?
- What was the issue between Mark and Paul?
- How did Barnabas fit in this problem?
- What was Timothy's background?
- Why didn't they go to Asia?
- What happened to Paul, Silas and Timothy in Phillippi?
- How did they escape?
- Describe the city of Thessalonica.
- What happened in *Acts 17:1-10*?
- What was Paul's mission as he spoke to the church of Thessalonica?

THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION of the church

1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

- How did the three authors of this letter begin the letter?
- What was the spiritual condition of the church?
- What are they reminding the church in *verse 3*?
- Pastor spoke about what faith, love and hope looked like?
 - What is faith anchored in?
 - What is love anchored in?
 - What is hope anchored in?
- What will show when we have faith?
- How will faith be expressed?
- What does this look like?
- How will authentic Christian love be exhibited?
- What does true hope look like?
- How will authentic Christian hope be expressed?

THE REPUTATION of the church

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

- Describe the reputation of the church of Thessalonica?
- How and where did they show and share their faith?
- What are the three great evidences of genuine faith in *verses in 9b-10*?
- What did Jesus deliver us from in the future in verse 10?
- What is Paul telling the genuine followers of Jesus?

APPLICATION

- How does, what Paul wrote, in *verses 9b-10* apply to us in our Journey to Greatness in this 21 century?