

## Grow Up

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

I Thessalonians 1

#### Discussion Questions

1. How can you tell if someone is a mature person? Is maturity based on age, or is it based on one's ability to cope with life?
2. Maturity is about being teachable and willing to learn instead of thinking that you know everything. There are believers who are young in their faith who show great maturity in faith. Apostle Paul and his fellow missionaries Silas and Timothy led many to trust in the Lord in Thessalonica, a political, economic, and religious capital of the Roman province of Macedonia. The dominant religions of the city were the worship of the Greek god of wine Dionysus and the Egyptian sun god Serapis. Worship of these deities was characterised by drunkenness and all kinds of sexual perversion. But in spite of all these, the young Thessalonian believers continued in their faith. Read 1 Thessalonians 1. From this passage, Paul showed three marks that characterised their spiritual maturity:
  - a. **#1: Active Faith: Faith in action (v. 1-3).** Faith is the unwavering trust in what God has done through Jesus Christ. It is an energetic and productive force that leads us to do good works. Then there is agape (unconditional) love—one that gives without expecting anything in return. The word for *labor* in Greek means hard work that results in exhaustion. Paul also mentioned endurance inspired by hope. The Greek word for *hope* means “to look forward with total confidence.” Share how active your faith is. Discuss how love for Jesus motivates a person to serve to the point of exhaustion. Does

knowing that Jesus is coming again help you not to give up or give in to temptation? In what way?

- b. **#2: Secure Faith: Faith that is firmly anchored (v. 4-7).** God made it possible for us to hear, to understand, to believe, and even to endure. We need to hold on to Him, to anchor our faith, hope, and love on God's promises and faithfulness. Describe how the Thessalonians responded to the message of the gospel (v. 6-7). How did their faith affect others? What characterizes a Christian life that would convince you that a Christian is indeed a true believer chosen by God?
- c. **Shared faith: Faith that is passed on (v. 8-10).** When the Thessalonians came to know Christ, God's message of salvation was passed on to the hills and valleys of Greece. They indeed must have been actively sharing their faith. Others must have known that these believers had turned away from worshipping idols to serve a true and living God. Share how you have been visibly changed because of your faith in Christ. Discuss how waiting for the Lord's return could affect your everyday attitude and actions.

### Walk

What are the qualities of someone who has truly grown up in faith, is balanced, and able to cope with life? We learned about faith that is active, secure, and shared. Remember it is not so much about the number of years you've been a Christian, but about your willingness to grow and learn. Think of how can you be a good example to other believers this week.

### Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that spiritual maturity is not based on how long I have known You, but about my willingness to grow and learn more about You, and how I should be living out my faith so that I could be a better example to others, especially to those who are younger in faith. May my Christian life be characterised by the marks of active, secure, and shared faith just like the Thessalonian believers. Help me to always hold on to You and to anchor my faith, hope, and love on Your promises and faithfulness. In Jesus' name. Amen.