



DEAR CHURCH

THESSALONIANS

This week, we are starting a brand new message series that will dive into some of the letters written to the early church by the apostle Paul. The Bible is not a book that simply fell from the sky. It was a book written by real people to other real people wrestling with very real issues. These letters help illustrate just that. Over the next several weeks, we are going to try and get in touch with the story behind some of these letters and hear what they had to say to their original audience in order to better hear what they still have to say to us. We start with Paul's first letter: 1 Thessalonians.

Day 1 Read Acts 17:1-9

Here, we read how the church started in the area of Thessalonica. From this story, what sort of challenges do you think the church in Thessalonica faced? What does this say about the cost of pledging your allegiance to Jesus?

Day 2 Read 1 Thessalonians 1

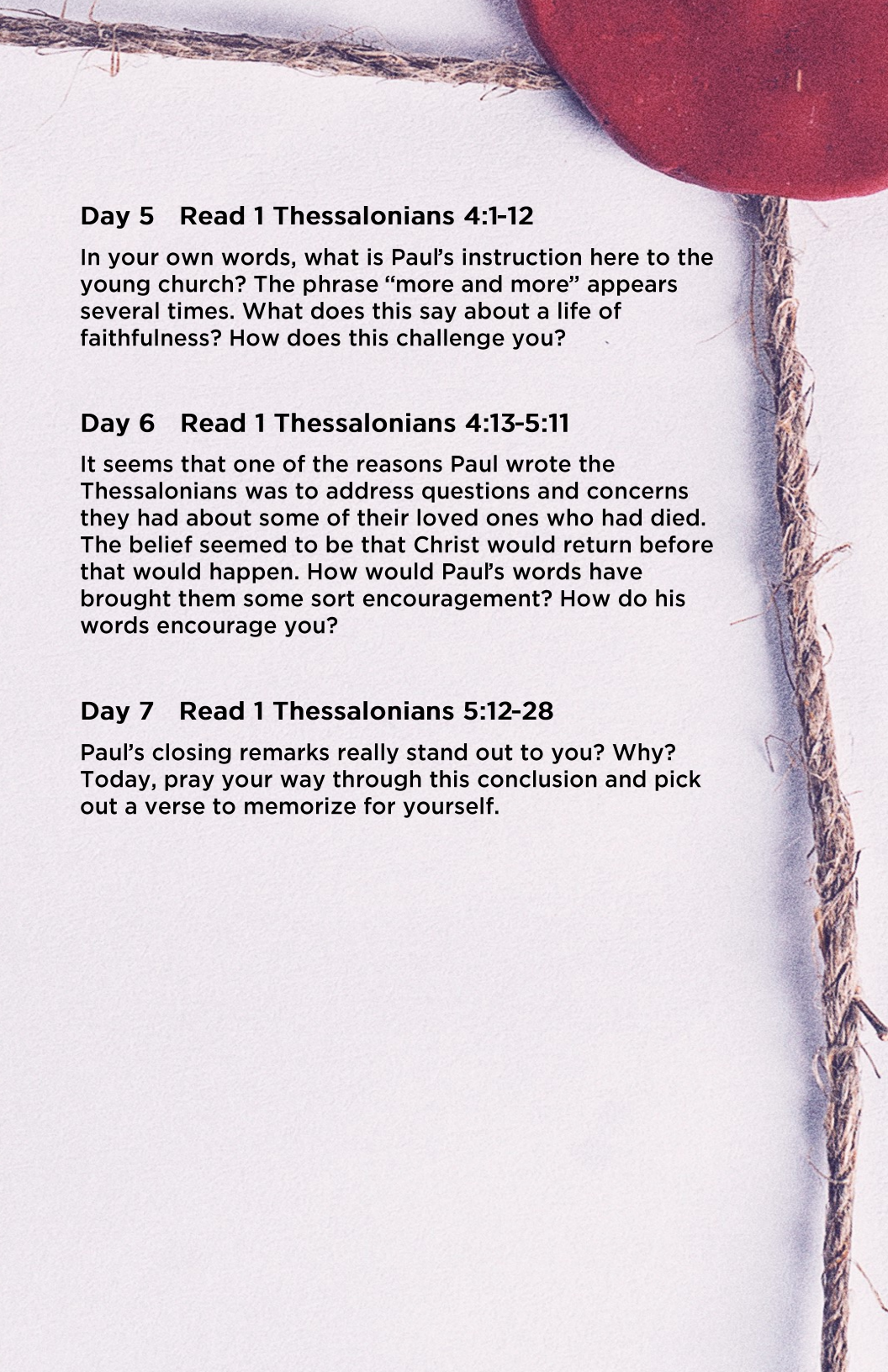
In summarizing this chapter, why would you say Paul is writing to the church in Thessalonica? Why would these words have encouraged them? How do they encourage you?

Day 3 Read 1 Thessalonians 2

Why would Paul feel the need to remind them of his time with them and the ministry he did there? How is it helpful for us to remember, from time to time, the beginning of our faith journey?

Day 4 Read 1 Thessalonians 3

In this section, Paul seems to be pointing out how they are both experiencing a similar sort of struggle—why would Paul feel the need to do that? What does this say about need for one another?



Day 5 Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

In your own words, what is Paul's instruction here to the young church? The phrase "more and more" appears several times. What does this say about a life of faithfulness? How does this challenge you?

Day 6 Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

It seems that one of the reasons Paul wrote the Thessalonians was to address questions and concerns they had about some of their loved ones who had died. The belief seemed to be that Christ would return before that would happen. How would Paul's words have brought them some sort encouragement? How do his words encourage you?

Day 7 Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Paul's closing remarks really stand out to you? Why? Today, pray your way through this conclusion and pick out a verse to memorize for yourself.