

# Goldstone Church

## Small Group Questions

### 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

#### For Starting

- What is a piece of advice you would give your younger self?
- When have you sacrificed financially so you could have something you wanted or needed? (e.g. saving for a car)
- Who was a positive mentor to you? What did they say or do that had an important impact on you?
- What sticks out to you in this passage?

#### For Reviewing

- How did Paul's ministry in Thessalonica contrast with his experiences in Philippi (v.2)?
- What are the 'what', 'why', and 'how' of Paul's motives and methods in his ministry (v.3-9)?
- What does Paul say about the origin of his teaching (v.4)? Why is this important?
- How would the Thessalonians remember how Paul conducted himself with them (v.9)?
- What was the goal of Paul's teaching (v.12)?
- How had the Thessalonians received Paul's teaching (v.13)?
- Whom did the Thessalonian church imitate (v.14)? How?
- What accusations did Paul make against the Judeans (v.15)?

#### For Discussion

- Do you think of the gospel as something mainly for Christians or mainly for non-Christians?
- Paul wrote that he was put "in trust" of the gospel (v.4). What are our responsibilities as guardians or caretakers of the gospel message?
- What do you think enabled Paul to continue his ministry even though he was beaten and persecuted?
- Paul preached through speaking and by example. Which would you say is more important to today's church? Why?
- You could end by reading together Philippians 1:27-30.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:1-16 (NIVUK)**

<sup>1</sup> You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. <sup>2</sup> We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition. <sup>3</sup> For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. <sup>4</sup> On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup> You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness. <sup>6</sup> We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else.

As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, <sup>7</sup> but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. <sup>8</sup> We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. <sup>9</sup> Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

<sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. <sup>11</sup> For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, <sup>12</sup> encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

<sup>13</sup> And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. <sup>14</sup> For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, <sup>15</sup> who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men <sup>16</sup> in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.