

## **Small-Group Discussion Guide (3/8/2026)**

**Sermon recap:** This week's passage calls us to see that a gospel legacy is not built accidentally. It begins with surrender to the gospel, is shaped by intentionality as we pass it down and live it out, and is strengthened by faithfulness over time. The central burden is simple and weighty: the greatest gift we can leave to those behind us is a life that keeps returning to Jesus and helps others do the same.

**Main passage:** 2 Thessalonians 2:13–17

**All passages used in the sermon:** 2 Thessalonians 2:13–17; Psalm 78:1–8; Psalm 127:1–5; Psalm 128:1–6; Hebrews 12:1–2; Matthew 7:13–14; Jeremiah 6:16; Acts 16:31

**Additional Scriptures:** Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Psalm 145:4; John 15:4–5; 2 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:1–2; 1 Peter 1:3–9

### **Brief definitions:**

- **Gospel legacy:** *the ongoing influence of a life shaped by the good news of Jesus, especially as that faith is handed down to others.*
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### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Share about a person whose life still affects others for good. Then consider how Scripture deepens that idea by tying legacy not just to memory, but to faithfulness and hope. What made that person's influence feel weighty or lasting?
2. Look especially at 2 Thessalonians 2:13–17. God is the one who saves, loves, comforts, gives hope, and establishes His people in every good work and word. Which description of God in this passage do you most need to remember right now, and why?
3. Why does gospel legacy begin with surrender rather than effort alone? The sermon emphasized that we do not first create something for God; we first receive from God. Talk about why surrendering again and again to the gospel is different from merely trying harder to be a better person. What does "returning to the gospel" look like in plain, practical terms in your daily life?
4. In Psalm 78, what does it mean to "pass it down"? This passage highlights both receiving and then telling the next generation about the Lord's works. Discuss the role of testimony—your real story of God's grace—in helping other people set their hope in God. Who first helped pass the gospel on to you, and what did they do that made it stick?
5. How does identity in Christ shape the way we think about influence? If we are loved, chosen, and kept by God, we do not have to build a spiritual legacy out of anxiety, ego, or control. We can live as people who are secure in Christ and therefore free to serve, teach, and love others steadily. Where are you tempted to influence people from fear or pressure instead of from rest in Christ?
6. What does it look like to "live it out" before others? Psalm 127 and Psalm 128 press beyond words into lived example: trusting God, walking in His ways, repenting when we fail, and loving with consistency. Talk about how a visible, imperfect, repentant life can help others see that the way of Jesus is good. Where do the people around you most need to see the gospel in action from your life right now?
7. What weight or sin may be hindering your endurance right now? Hebrews 12:1–2 calls us to lay aside what clings closely and to fix our eyes on Jesus. Name one thing that may be slowing your race, and describe one concrete step of repentance, trust, or obedience for this week. What would help you actually take that step in the next seven days?

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### **Prayer**

Praise God for being the One who saves and keeps His people. Confess where you have drifted, grown anxious, or tried to build by your own strength. Ask for grace to return to the gospel, to pass it down with courage, to live it out with integrity, and to run with endurance with your eyes fixed on Jesus.