

LESSON 1

HOW'S YOUR FOLLOW-THROUGH?

1 THESSALONIANS INTRODUCTION



1 When you buy a household appliance, what kind of service or support do you expect from the dealer after the sale?

2 What do you appreciate about this support?



Read the introductory material to 1 Thessalonians, 1 Thessalonians 1:1, and the following note:

☐ 1:1

3 Given what we know about the city of Thessalonica, what problems might new Christians have had there?

4 What methods did Paul use to help the new Christians in Thessalonica get established in their faith?

5 What did Paul offer Thessalonica's new believers?

6 Why did Paul take responsibility for these new believers?

Because Paul had to leave Thessalonica suddenly, he had no opportunity to fully instruct the new Christians there. But he did assume responsibility for them, first sending Timothy to them and then writing to them twice. New Christians need instruction from those who are older. This letter reminds us that we can have an ongoing influence on those who come to Christ.



7 What kinds of support do new Christians need?

8 What kinds of help or support can older Christians offer?



9 What can mature Christians do to encourage new believers?

10 How have you been able to help a new believer in the past?

11 What does your church or group do to help new Christians grow in their faith?

12 What else might your church or group do to help or support new Christians?

13 Who are some of the newest believers in your church or among your circle of friends?

14 What could you do or say to encourage a new Christian within the next seven days?



A What is the best way to protect new Christians from misconceptions about Christ's return? about biblical doctrine in general? How can you be sure that you don't have misconceptions about Christ?

B What kind of reception did Paul and his associates get from the general population in Thessalonica (read Acts 17:1–9)? How did your non-Christian friends and acquaintances respond to you when they learned about your faith in Christ? What can you do to resolve or lessen the conflicts? What *can't* you do?

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