Beginning Bible study: 1st Thessalonians

January 12/23

- Check-in: How was your week?

- Opening Prayer

- **Read the passage: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10**

1. In v.1 Paul writes to a church that's **in a place** (Thessalonica) and also "**in God** the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." What does that tell you about the church? And how does this both encourage the church, and challenge us?

2. One ancient writer described 1:3 as "a brief definition of true Christianity." What do you think about that? Agree? Disagree?

3. Verse 4 says God "has chosen you." According to v.5, how does Paul know that God chose the Thessalonians? Do any of these characteristics resonate with you?

4. According to the end of v.5, how did Paul, Silas and Timothy communicate the Good News of Jesus in Thessalonica? How does this challenge the church in our witness to those who don't believe in Jesus?

5. How were the local people affected when they accepted the message about Jesus (v.6-7)? How did their new faith help them? What impact did their conversion have on those around them?

6. Paul talks about three "steps" in turning to Jesus (v.9-10): "…you **turned to God**… t**o serve**…**and to wait**…" Do you see this pattern in your own experience? *Notice how this is consistent with v.3: "your work produced by faith* **(turned to God)**…*your labour* **(serve)**…*your endurance* **(wait)**.

7. How do these 3 steps help us be witnesses and servants to those around us? What qualities do we need in order to serve and wait?

Any other questions or comments?

Next week: 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-12