

# Are You Positive

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

## Getting Started

Many groups will choose to answer only one of these questions)

1. Share with the group some of the most interesting, humorous, or unusual bumper stickers you've ever seen.
2. Tell your group about one of the "positive" influences in your life. This can be in your family, school, sports, church, etc.

## In the Word (1 Thes. 5:12 – 28)

Most groups will not have time to discuss all questions!

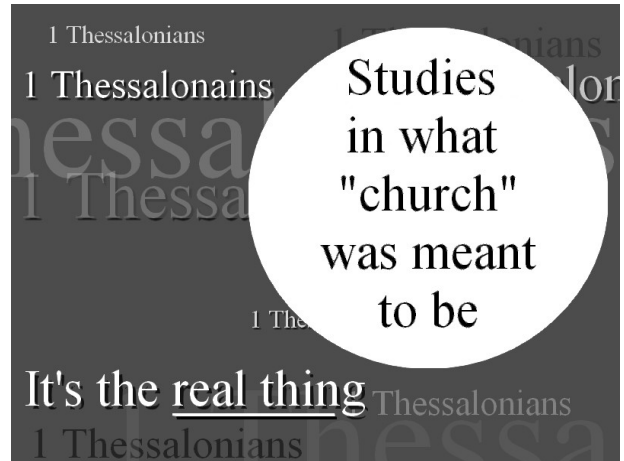
1. 1 Thessalonians 5:13b-15 seems to focus on relationships within the church. Which of the actions mentioned by Paul do you find most challenging? Which do you believe we need to emphasize more?
2. "Always," "continually," and "in all circumstances" are three phrases found in 5:16-18. Can you "always" be joyful? Pray "continually"? What is the meaning of these statements?
3. How can a church "put out the Spirit's fire"? What would motivate someone to do such a thing?
4. Thinking of our current effort to find additional Shepherds, how does 5:19-22 relate to the responsibilities of a Shepherd? Look at 21-22; how can this be done positively (testing, holding, and avoiding)?
5. Look at 5:23-28. How would you describe these instructions? Sum up Paul's directions in a single sentence.

## Application

1. As people who are seeking to follow God, we are to encourage one another in living for Christ. As Grand Central prepares for Friend Day begin now to pray for this day and the opportunities we have to help people find Jesus. Consider, as a group, setting some sort of goal for Friend Day—and then think of ways to "encourage" one another.
- 2.

## Prayer Time (note how often prayer is mentioned in 5:12-28)

1. Look again at 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. Please pray for those who currently serve as Shepherds. As a group, or as an individual, consider how you could express your high regard for them. Also, pray for the church as we seek additional leaders and servants.
2. Pray for Friend Day (March 16). Pray for (a) God to prepare your heart when opportunities come to share your faith, (b) God to prepare the hearts of your friends, and (c) the boldness to invite your friends.



2 prayers for 2 hearts +  
1 investment + 1 invitation  
= Greatest Gift!



***Please keep the church in your prayers as additional shepherds & servants are sought to serve the church***  
Nominations are to be received through March 9