

## FOR CHILDREN:

Take your glow stick necklace and give it a crack to activate the light (*use a gentle crack on the cross necklaces to prevent them breaking completely*). Now read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. When a person does not know about an event, we often say that person was “in the dark.” So, at first, you might think that because we do not know when Jesus will return that we are in the dark. But that is not what the apostle Paul tells us. He says those in Christ are children of light. They can live each day prepared for when Jesus returns. How do we do that? By “cracking open” our Bibles – our source of light! Our Bibles reveal to us God’s love and His design for our lives. And reading our Bibles helps us grow closer in relationship with God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit. But remember, like the glow stick, you have to crack it open to activate the light!

## Weekly Affirmation:

**WHAT DO I WANT JESUS TO FIND ME DOING WHEN HE RETURNS?**

## Weekly Memory Verse:

“God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit...”

2 Thessalonians 2:13

## FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. The Thessalonians were already children of light, children of the day. Through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, God had already broken through the darkness of the world. But many people in the world have “drawn closed their blackout curtains.” They do not want the light of God’s truth to confront their sin. They do not want to put in the work of submitting themselves to the sanctification of Holy Spirit. Spend time with God this week discussing what you find difficult about living as a child of light in a dark world.

Choosing to be a faithful disciple of Jesus is tough stuff. It takes strength, mental fortitude, and perseverance. I want to say to you, “Good job! Keep it up! You’re not alone!”

## AUGUST 2025 GROWTH GOALS

- ☐ Read 1 & 2 Thessalonians.
- ☐ Watch the Bible Project video on 1 & 2 Thessalonians (*available on the website*).
- ☐ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ☐ Listen to or sing a hymn or praise song as part of your daily devotion time each week

## FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read 2 Thess. 2:1-17. In the midst of all the problems of deceiving words and lawlessness that the Thessalonians had experienced, in 2:13-17 what does Paul want them to focus on about God? Think it through yourself before continuing.

God has chosen those in Christ for salvation. God has gifted Holy Spirit to sanctify those in Christ. God has called those in Christ to obtain glory. God has given those in Christ the “traditions” of the Gospel to hold on to. God loves those in Christ, gives comfort to those in Christ, and strengthens their hearts to continue in good works and to proclaim the good word!

We might suppose that if God’s in control all should be easy and we can relax in life. But while we may find great peace in the truth that God is in control, we cannot yet completely relax, for our eternal rest is yet to come. But how are you finding God faithful in your quest to stand firm in this life? How are you seeing His control displayed?