



Word, Power, and Conviction

*Group Discussion Guide
Week of April 7, 2024*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CITIZENS BASICS

*Sunday, April 14 | 11am-11:45am
Dowd YMCA*

We offer Citizens Basics on the 2nd Sunday of every month for anyone who is new to the life of our church. This is a great chance to get more information about who we are as a church, as well as meet some of our pastors and leaders. Snacks and childcare is provided, but please register in advance.

WOMEN'S SUMMER HANGOUT

*Saturday, May 4 | 10am
The Ivy Place*

Join the women of Citizens Church at The Ivy Place for our summer hangout. We'll be cutting and making our own flower bouquets. There is no cost to join us, but bouquets cost \$15-\$25, so plan accordingly. Also, bring a picnic lunch for yourself, as we'll enjoy time eating together afterwards! Register online to let us know you're coming and be sure to mark if you need help finding a carpool!

FAMILY MEETING

*Saturday, June 1 | 4pm
Dowd YMCA (Calhoun Room)*

On Saturday, June 1st we will hold our semi-annual Family Meeting. This is a chance for us as a church to celebrate God's faithfulness, to commemorate what He is doing in our church, to worship together, and to look for what God might do in the months ahead.

This year, we are doing it church potluck style! Citizens will be providing pulled pork for dinner. If your last name starts with A-N bring a side, if O-Z bring a dessert to share!

We will worship and hear church-wide updates from 4:00pm-5:00pm then spend the rest of the evening eating and hanging out together. This meeting is open to any current Citizens Member. Childcare will be provided.

DISCUSSION

Before beginning discussion tonight, we would recommend taking 15 minutes to read through 1 Thessalonians together as a group. Have volunteers read one chapter or section at a time.

Read Acts 17:1-9 and 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3.

Paul and his friends Silas and Timothy, planted the church in Thessalonica amidst riots and upheaval in the city. After only a few months of ministry, they were driven out of the city for their own protection. Now, about a year later, Paul is writing to this church, and he starts by remembering what God did when He was with them. He starts by remembering their “work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

What do these phrases mean and what might they look like in the life of a Christian?

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10.

Paul goes on to describe why He knows God “chose them” -- that is, saved them with the good news of the gospel. He lists four evidences of their salvation:

- 1. Full conviction/assurance that Jesus is Lord. (1:4-5)*
- 2. Joy in the midst of their suffering. (1:5-7)*
- 3. A transformed life apart from idolatry. (1:8-9)*
- 4. Living in light of Christ’s Return. (1:10)*

Which of these do you find most comforting for your own assurance of salvation, and what evidence have you seen of it being present in your life?

Revisit the list of evidences of salvation above. Which of these do you find most convicting due to a lack of evidence of it in your life?

PRACTICE

We were encouraged towards two invitations during the sermon on Sunday. We should consider whether these evidences of salvation are present in our lives and...

First, if they are not, we should have an honest self-evaluation of whether we are truly following Christ. Second, If they are, we should respond in gratitude and thanksgiving to God for saving us, asking Him to help these things be true in an increasing measure.

**How do you need to respond right now in light of these two invitations?
Take some time now to pray and seek the Lord.**