OPENDOOR CHURCH

Small Group Notes

Sunday 28th Feb. 1 Thessalonians: Faith Under Pressure - Dealing with Separation.

On Sunday we looked at a subject that has impacted us all hugley. - separation.

How are you dealing with this time of extended separation from those you love?

Read 1 Thes 2:17-20. - What do you make of the language used here to describe the connection and relationship there is between Paul and the church?

It's family. This is the model Paul gives us for church - family. Family relationships often need working on. Good communication, forgiveness and ultimately love for each other is required for family relationships to go the distance. Thinking of your church family, what do you need to invest in, to be in relationships that go the distance?

Read 1 Thes 3:1-5.
What is Paul's fear and distress over?
What does this tell us about the impact separation can have on church communities

Phil Moore says: "Make no mistake about it. The Devil is trying to rob you of friendships with other Christians in order to hinder God's work in your life." What do you think to this comment?

How many people do you know have fallen away, not because of theological understanding, not because of unrepented sin, but because they were hurt by other Christians.

Is there anything you need to do for yourself to ensure you don't drift away, or anything you can to to reach out to others who you are worried about in this situation?

What are some practical things we can do during this time of separation?

What did Paul do?
Wrote a personal, relational, encouraging letter. - Who do you know that would benefit from that? What will you do about it?

Paul did what he could - he sent Timothy (this would have cost Paul as Timothy was of value and great use to him). - What could you send to someone during this time to encourage them?

Read 1 Thes 3: 9-11. Paul prayed: **thankful, consistent and specific** prayers for his brothers and sisters he was separate from. How could you apply this to your life?

What will you do off the back of this message and discussion time?