

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOW TO TREAT CHURCH FAMILY
Until He Comes | 1 Thessalonians — Week 11
1 Thessalonians 5:11-15

ICEBREAKER: What's your preference: plane, train, boat, automobile, horse, or camel?

OVERVIEW: The local church is God's chosen context for shepherding His sheep. As we participate in church, God comforts us, encourages us, teaches us, guides us, protects us, provides for us, and uses us. While we can be saved and go to heaven without participating in church, we cannot be healthy, productive Christians without active participation in church. This is why we must strive to maintain a healthy church. We must do our part to help the church flourish so that God can use it to take care of His people and to reach the world. In this discussion we will go deeper with how to foster right relationships in the church.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. How have you seen God working at Church Acadiana recently?
3. Has God ever used the church to help you during a difficult time? Explain.
4. Have you ever witnessed a church exercise church discipline? Explain.

5. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.

- a. Paul described a man in the church who was sinning. What was his sin?
- b. How did the Corinthian church improperly respond to this man's sin?
- c. How did Paul say the church should handle the situation?
- d. What does it mean to "hand that one over to Satan" (v. 5)?
- e. What was Paul communicating with the illustration of the leaven (v. 6)?
- f. When should a person be "removed" from the church?
- g. What is the difference between our relationship with unbelievers, and our relationship with unrepentant Christians?

6. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15.

- a. What are some ways that we can help the weak in our church?
- b. What are the three elements of forgiveness in this passage?

The Last Word: The church is not a hotel for saints, but a hospital for sinners.

