

What If ??????????

What if your small group has decided to begin studying the book of I Thessalonians? As a small group leader you are excited and want to ensure that the study is practical and therefore you are determined to get the word of God into the lives of your group in a fresh way that enables people to change and grow like never before.

The week before you are to start the study of I Thessalonians you have done your homework. You've read all five chapters several times, you've read three different commentaries, you've looked up three key words in the Greek from chapter one and have worked hard to grasp their fundamental meaning and you know how and where they are used elsewhere in the New Testament. You've even prepared a handout with four critical questions for your group to answer during the discussion time. As the worship time at small group ends and you ask your people to turn to I Thessalonians you are beaming with excitement about the study you have prepared and you are ready to powerfully communicate the word of God to your group. After several weeks you have come to the conclusion that the group isn't very excited about this study. What should you do?

Hint: A biblical principle is a truth from scripture that when coupled with obedience produces a specific biblical result that makes us more like Christ.

You have 10 minutes to consider the following points.

- **What are some potential reasons why the study isn't going well?**

--

- **What things has the group leader in the example done well?**

--

- **Often times when we want our group to begin to grasp the power of a specific passage it is helpful to look for the specific changes (or results) that were produced in the lives of the people mentioned in the passage. Consider I Thessalonians 2:1-15 . What specific changes or results were produced?**

--

- **The next step in seeing the word of God impact lives of your group is to list the specific actions of obedience that are mentioned in the passage that led to the specific changes noted above. List these actions of obedience.**

- **Now go back and state in your own words the biblical principles found in the passage. See the definition in the example at the top of page 1.**

- **Finally have your group list specific actions of obedience that they are willing to have the whole group hold them accountable to do. Give one or two examples of a specific action of obedience.**