

Create



✔ Prepare in Advance

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Breath of God

Ask someone to read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: In today's lesson, Paul is writing to the community at Thessalonica about his ministry with them. Sometimes it may feel as if Paul is bragging about himself, but often he uses illustrations from his own life as examples of how they should be in community with one another. Paul talks about this community's motives being pure in sharing God's Good News.

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the Writing or Visual approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✔ Create- Writing

Our text speaks a lot about the honest sharing of God's Good News in spite of opposition and suffering. One might ponder if God's Good News is always "good" news to everyone... or if it is only "good" news to the poor, oppressed, marginalized, etc. Write your thoughts about what the Good News of the Gospel and of Jesus is. Then, write about what people might find this "good" news and what people might find this "challenging" or "difficult" news to swallow.

✔ Create- Visual

"Ministry within a shared community is not a one way street. When we live together as a community of faith, we are not called to only give, but to also receive. In a sense we are called to the vulnerable place of sharing ourselves with others and allowing them to share their selves with us. Each time we share something of ourselves with another person,

we make ourselves vulnerable and become dependent on that person to receive us with a loving and gentle spirit."

Using the art supplies provided, create:

A work of art titled, "Give and Receive." Or

A work of art in which you make yourself as the artist vulnerable- share something about yourself through your art that others might not know.

✔ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and their meaning.

✔ Close

Offer a prayer asking God for help in learning to be humble enough to receive, as well as give.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group's special gathering place).

By Carra Hughes Greer