

7. Why do you think we're tempted to stay in dualistic faith? What are the benefits of staying there? What are the dangers of staying there?
8. Why is it tempting to keep our teenagers there?
9. What are some of the questions teenagers might have that test their faith?
10. Why is it important to let them ask the questions? Why is it important to walk with them through the questions?
11. What opportunities do you have to walk with and encourage young people in the church or in your life?
12. Are there some struggles or questions about faith you've been afraid to talk to someone about? How have you handled it? (Do you pretend? Do you resort to simple answers or put off the questions?)

**For teenagers:**

1. What are the most common questions you have about God? Have you heard satisfying answers to them?
2. Do you feel you're able to talk to your parents about difficult topics or questions about faith? Why or why not?
3. Do you feel you're able to ask people in the church? Why or why not?
4. Who are the adults in your life that have been most encouraging to your faith? What has made them so influential?
5. How does it make you feel when someone encourages you or says they appreciate something about you?
6. Why is it important to have someone older and not just people your age to talk to?
7. Who will you find to talk to about your struggles and questions?



**Youth Gone Mild**

**Sermon Notes:**

**Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2**

**Background:**

The account of Paul starting the church in Thessalonica is in Acts 17.

- Thessalonica was founded in Alexander the Great's world. Alexander's goal was to unite the world under the Greek ideal. The area, including Thessalonica was a melting pot of ideas.

Paul was run out of Thessalonica in three \_\_\_\_\_.

- He still \_\_\_\_\_ with the church there.
- It was a time where the church was finding its \_\_\_\_\_.

Thessalonians is the letter he sent back to the church within weeks of having been run out.

The church in Thessalonica faced similar issues to teenagers today:

- Searching for their \_\_\_\_\_.
- Surrounded by different ideas and questions.
- Prone to \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul's approach to the church:

1. He is generous with his \_\_\_\_\_. (ch 1:2-3)
  - The people we remember are the ones who caused us \_\_\_\_\_ or the ones who made us feel \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He kept his \_\_\_\_\_ pure. (vss. 3-4, 8)
  - Sometimes we discipline when we are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Sometimes our motivation is they make us look \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. "It's not about \_\_\_\_\_!"
    - ii. Love does what is \_\_\_\_\_ for others.

Stages of Faith:

- \_\_\_\_\_ --Right or Wrong. We believe the authority.
- \_\_\_\_\_ --realizing there are other opinions and beliefs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ --some of those opinions are valid. Time of great confusion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ --they can't all be right. "I can't hang in mid-air."

Teenagers are generally in the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ stages.

- \_\_\_\_\_ can't handle real, deep faith.
  - Our goal is that our kids develop a heart for God at the core of their being.
3. Model deep faith while we walk with them through \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Our tendency is to shelter our kids.
    - Trust that \_\_\_\_\_ is walking with them, too.

#### Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. What do you remember about being a teenager? What are the biggest questions you had about faith?
2. Was there someone in your life you would say was influential in your spiritual growth? What made them so influential?

#### Review 1 Thessalonians 2

3. Why do you think it was important for Paul to express his love for the church in Thessalonica?
4. If you were part of that church and saw your teacher and leader run out of town, what do you think you would have been feeling? How would it feel to receive encouragement from him?
5. Why is it important for church members to encourage teenagers?
6. What were the four stages of faith Kory explained in his message?