

Title: NEXT GENERATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Text: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-13

Teacher: MATT RUSTEN

I. We need to see a life of integrity (1 Thessalonians 2:3-7)

II. We need to experience shared life (1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9)

III. We need to hear a call to faithfulness (1 Thessalonians 2:10-12)

The Glue That Holds It All Together... (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

CONVERSATION STARTER

- What are some nuggets of wisdom that have stuck with you through the years? Who did you first hear these nuggets of wisdom from? Why do you think these have stuck with you?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10. What about the Thessalonians stuck with Paul? Who did the Thessalonians imitate? Why do you think Paul reminds them of this? Who became imitators of the Thessalonians? Why do you think the Thessalonians' faith rubbed off on others?
- Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-13. To what events does Paul point to underscore his authenticity in proclaiming the gospel? What do you think Paul means in being willing to share not just the Gospel, but his life with the Thessalonians? How does Paul use the metaphor of a family to help make his point? What was the power behind Paul's message?
- Read the excerpt below. Do you agree with Garber that living real life with real people is essential for our beliefs about life to become plausible? Why or why not? Why might it be the case that people can influence you more than ideas? How would you answer the question Garber poses: "What does it mean, when you're trying to think through new structures or new ways of learning, when you don't see models around you?"
- Since coming to Christ Community, what big ideas have stuck with you? Why? How can you help these big ideas stick with other people? In what ways can you intentionally rub off aspects of your life onto others?

EXCERPT FROM: *The Fabric of Faithfulness*

BY: Stephen Garber

What we believe about life and the world becomes plausible as we see it lived out all around us. This is not an abstraction, though. Its reality is seen in time and space, in the histories and circumstances of real people and living real life...As I have gotten involved in politics and business, I am more and more convinced that the people you choose to have around you have more to do with how you act upon what you believe than what you read or the ideas that influence you. The influence of ideas has to be there, but the application is something that's very hard to work out by yourself. You work it out in the context of friends – just as you work it out with your spouse, so you work it out with a group of friends. What does it mean, when you're trying to think through new structures or new ways of learning, when you don't see models around you?