



## Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

*“Exceptional Faith, Hope, Love”*

### **Points from Sunday’s Message**

1. God remains on the throne and in control of all of the things that overwhelm me.
2. God will continue to make us exemplary among the saints.
3. God desires that we grow in faith, hope, and love.
4. The growth God desires requires our obedient effort.

### **Key Verse:**

*“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father.”*

— 1 Thessalonians 1:3

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### **1. Reflecting on a Fresh Start**

**Questions:** Pastor Miles emphasized that a new year is an opportunity to “number our days” and live intentionally before God. When you think about the start of this year, what do you most want God to renew or reshape in your life? What might be holding you back from stepping fully into a “fresh start”?

**Further Reading:** Psalm 90:12, Lamentations 3:22–23

#### **2. God Is Still on the Throne**

**Questions:** The message reminded us that God remains sovereign—even in a chaotic, unstable world. What current circumstances in your life tend to make you feel overwhelmed or anxious? How does remembering God’s sovereignty practically change how you respond to those situations?

**Further Reading:** Isaiah 9:6–7, Revelation 1:8, Psalm 46:1–2

### 3. Becoming “Exemplary Among the Saints”

**Questions:** Pastor Miles challenged the church to aim at becoming examples of authentic Christian living. What does it mean to you personally to be an example of faith to others? Who is watching your life right now—family, coworkers, friends—and what might they learn about following Jesus by observing you?

**Further Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 1:6–8, Philippians 3:17, Matthew 5:14–16

### 4. Faith, Hope, and Love as a Way of Life

**Questions:** The Thessalonian church was known for their work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope. Which of these three—faith, hope, or love—do you feel strongest in right now? Which feels weakest? What would it look like to intentionally grow in the one you struggle with most this year?

**Further Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 1:2–3, 1 Corinthians 13:13, Hebrews 11:1

### 5. Obedient Effort and Spiritual Growth

**Questions:** The message made clear that while God is at work in us, we are still called to respond with obedient effort. Which commands from 1 Thessalonians 5:12–22 stood out to you as especially challenging? What is one practical, specific step you could take this week to live that command out?

**Further Reading:** Philippians 2:12–13, 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

### 6. Pressing On Toward God’s Purpose

**Question:** Paul’s words about “pressing on” were used to frame the idea that none of us have fully arrived yet. What do you sense God inviting you to “press into” this year—spiritually, relationally, or missionally? How can this group support you in that pursuit over the next season?

**Further Reading:** Philippians 3:12–14, Romans 8:28, Hebrews 12:1–2

*Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.*