

# SETTLE YOUR TRIALS - 4

## Contagious Christianity

"We sent him to strengthen and encourage you in your faith so none of you would be upset by these troubles."  
- 1 Thessalonians 3:3

"If God sends us on stony paths, He gives us strong shoes."

Anyone who wants to live all out for Jesus Christ is in for a lot of trouble; there's no getting around it. Christians not only have to deal with the everyday troubles of life, but when you become a Christian, you become a special target of Satan. Satan is going to do everything he can to unsettle your faith. And yet, God promises to provide the resources you need that will help you settle your trials. In the words of Corrie Ten Boom, "If God sends us on stony paths, He gives us strong shoes."

### Welcome

The highlight of the past week for me was...The lowlight was...?

### Worship

Use your own judgment about whether your time of worship should precede or follow your time in the word. Even though we are unsettled at times, God will never be unsettled in His love for us (Romans 8:38-39)! Possible songs: "I Am A Sheep" (533), "You Are My All In All" (484), "Safe In The Arms of Jesus" (473), "Standing On The Promises" (452), "It Is Well With My Soul" (490).

### Word

#### Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

1. What phrases does Paul use to express his love for the Thessalonians? What are the reasons for his concern? Share an occasion when you felt a similar love and concern for someone young in the faith.
2. If someone were to tell you that God promises a trouble-free live to those who are true Christians, how would you respond?
3. When was the last time you felt like giving up-- thinking, "This just isn't worth it?" Explain.
4. What insights or resources do you find in this passage that would encourage someone in the midst of difficulties? Of these, which encourages you most?
5. How do you most often express your love for others in the body? What have you learned from this passage that could help you become an even better "encourager" of those around you (3:12)?

### Works

We should affirm and encourage the people we love. What have you done in the last week to affirm those you love? What can you do in the coming week to continue to affirm them?