



SCROLLING ALONE - DISCONNECTION AND REAL RELATIONSHIPS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Pastor | Tim Prince

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (Year 1, Week 37)

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

CONTACT INFO

fcchudson.com

faithcommunity@fcchudson.com

777 Carmichael Road | Hudson, WI 54016

715.386.4070



SERMON GUIDE

SCROLLING ALONE - DISCONNECTION AND REAL RELATIONSHIPS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

Pastor I Tim Prince

September 7, 2025

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- S**cripture that stands out to you while you read
- O**bservations about the verse or phrases that stood out to you
- A**pplication that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- P**rayer that invites God to participate in your life and provide power to follow him

Conversation Questions

Setting The Table: We live in a hyperconnected world where notifications, likes, and comments give us the illusion of community—but often leave us feeling more isolated than before. Technology promises closeness, yet studies show rising loneliness, anxiety, and disconnection. In 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul reminds the church that real relationship in Christ is never shallow or transactional. His love for the Thessalonians was embodied, sacrificial, and deeply personal. Paul's words invite us to consider: are we building the kinds of connections God designed us for in Christ?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

- S** What do you love most about what you just read? What verses, phrases, or words stand out to you as you read these scriptures? Is anything jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?
- O** What stands out to you about Paul's relationship with these Christians? What kinds of emotions does he express? What do the metaphors of mother, father, and siblings teach us about relationships in Christian community?
- O** In verses 7–8, Paul says that he shared not only the gospel but his very self with the Thessalonians. What do you think that means? What can we learn about the importance of being physically and emotionally present with people in relationships?
- O** In verses 17–18, Paul speaks of being "torn away" from the Thessalonians and his longing to see them "face to face." What can we learn from this about the limits of disembodied communication? What do we miss?
- A** If God had written these passages just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?
- A** Are you tempted to settle for digital connection over embodied, Christ-centered relationships? Could you articulate why? What is one step you could take this week to build real connection with others?
- P** Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction that you need.