



are you a model?!

There are endless opportunities to model our faith to others in our local contexts. Everything is a point of contact in which to build a relationship - everything. From helping an older lady lift a bag of dog food into her car to talking to that person you sit next to in class, ministry is literally everywhere. Now, what do I mean by ministry? Ministry is doing something with the intent to show and share your faith in Jesus Christ - in other words, to model. That means you can actually do ministry anywhere, anytime, and any place. It is not only for those who go overseas, who have a degree, who work in a church, or who are super spiritual. Ministry is for anyone who follows Jesus' Great Commandment to love God and love others (Matt. 22:37).

These modeling opportunities look different depending on the person, situation, and need. You can serve, listen, pray, give, witness, love, share, and so much more. The unique thing about ministry is that it is not limited to a specific thing, place, or people group. Recognizing God's presence around us is that next step in our transition home. It means we've processed through our feelings of what it means to be home; we recognize God is still with us and working; and now, we recognize His presence in the people, places, and things around us. Don't get so caught up living in the past that you forget to live in the present.

read

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

reflect & journal

1. What did Paul recognize in the Thessalonians' faith? How did these things make them models for all the believers?
2. What three things in verse 5 empowered the Thessalonians to become "models" of faith? Knowing that we have those same things available to us, how can we become confident in our modeling of the faith to others?
3. Your actions are an example to other believers (v.7). How are you portraying, or not portraying, Christ in your daily life? What are your actions towards those who do not know Him in your local context? Would you consider yourself as a "model" (some translations use the word "example")?
4. Paul summarizes the testimony that he had heard about the Thessalonians' faith with three actions from verses 9-10. Turn, serve, and wait. Turning from our idols to the Lord (repent). Serving God by serving others because of what Christ has done in our lives. Waiting on His second coming when we will be with Him forever in eternity. What does it look like for you to turn, serve, and wait right where you are?

pray

- What does your life reflect/portray/communicate to others? And, what do you want others to remember you by?
- What are some possible serving opportunities in front of you? (Serving is not limited to just doing something for someone physically. It can be praying, listening, giving, etc.).